

hand out lecture notes, nor do I post them to the web.

Deadlines are strictly adhered to. It is not fair to students that complete work on time for other students to have extra time to do the same work. Plan ahead and schedule your time. Most importantly, don't leave things to the last minute; you don't need that kind of stress!

Email policy:

This course does not use SacCT. However, we do make regular use of email. On occasion, I may send important messages to your Saclink account. As a Sac State student, you are responsible for regularly checking your Saclink email account (i.e., daily). Failing to do an assignment because you did not check your Saclink email account is your problem. Furthermore, when corresponding with me about this course, you **MUST** use your Saclink email account, not a gmail, yahoo or any other email account. This is an official University policy.

Field Trip:

There is a mandatory field trip (Sunday, Feb 5) to Ano Nuevo to see the elephant seals. If you cannot go this Sunday, you are required to go another day and to show me the receipt. Because Ano Nuevo is about 3 hours away, this is an all-day trip.

Textbook:

Krebs, J.R. & N.B. Davies. 2012. An Introduction to Behavioural Ecology. Fourth Edition. Blackwell, London. **REQUIRED.**

Dawkins, R. 1976. The Selfish Gene. Second Edition. Oxford. ISBN 0-19-286092-5 **REQUIRED.**

Exams:

There will be two midterms and a final for the lecture portion of the course. There will be a midterm and a final in the lab, both held during lab time. Midterms are held during the lecture period and will be a mixture of fill-in the blank, short-answer and essay questions. I do not believe in multiple choice questions and do not use them.

Exams will be comprehensive, i.e., anything in the whole course up to that point in time is fair game. My previous students comment on two aspects of my exams: I am a hard grader and I am a fair grader. You can expect long exams that test your knowledge, but they will be exams without tricks. My goal is to have you tell me what you know and understand. You will have to work very quickly.

Grading:

This course is worth 3 units.

The number of points/questions on a particular exam is irrelevant to the exam's worth -- it is merely a tool for grading. What matters are the following percentages.

Your lecture grade will be calculated according to the following scheme:

Midterm I	20
Midterm II	25
Final Exam	35
Term Paper	20

	100%

Your lab grade will be calculated according to the following scheme:

Midterm	20
Final	20
Project	30
Other Labs	30

	100%

NOTE: You must retain in some orderly fashion all assignments and graded materials until after the

end of the semester (i.e., June). You may be asked to produce these at the end of the semester. Failure to produce an assignment will result in a grade of 0 for that assignment.

Your course grade will be a combination of your lecture and lab grades as follows:

Lecture	2/3	Lab	1/3
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Your letter grade will be calculated according to the following table:

A = 93 to 100%	C+ = 77 to 79.9%
A- = 90 to 92.9%	C = 73 to 76.9%
B+ = 87 to 89.9%	C- = 70 to 72.9%
B = 84 to 86.9%	D+ = 67 to 69.9%
B- = 80 to 83.9%	D = 60 to 66.9%
	F = 0 to 59.9%

I generally do not adjust or curve or scale grades; If you want an "A", work for it and make it happen!

I do not hesitate to correct any errors I make in grading (e.g., incorrect addition or if I missed grading an answer), but keep in mind that I am looking for clear, succinct answers, not answers that sort-of-show-you-possibly-might-know-what-you-mean. If you feel that your answer deserves a better grade, please return it to me promptly.

I do not use "extra credit" assignments.

Health and Safety:

Read and sign the separate Safety sheets.

Honor Code:

Please don't cheat. Besides the fact that we will be forced to take strong measures if we catch you -- including recommending your dismissal from the class and from the university -- I will be profoundly disappointed in you.

Don't even think about doing any of the following:

- giving or receiving information from another student during an examination
- using unauthorized sources for answers during an exam such as writing answers on hats, clothing or limbs
- illegally obtaining the questions before an exam
- altering the answers on an already-graded exam
- any and all forms of plagiarism
- destruction and/or confiscation of school and/or personal property

Feedback:

I appreciate your feedback on this course. It is most useful to tell me things while the course is in progress, rather than waiting until the end of the course. If there is something that needs changing, LET ME KNOW and I will see what I can do about it. This course is a collaboration between you and me. I really enjoy teaching this class and I want you to have a great time as well.

Week	Date	Lecture	Lab	Ch .
1	Jan 22 Jan 24	Introduction to Class Intro to Animal Behavior	Survey of skills; Examine/present journal articles from <i>Behavioral Ecology</i>	1
2	Jan 29 Jan 31	Natural Selection Natural Selection, Group Selection	Experimental Design (regression, t-test, Chi-square); "Jewel of the Rift" video and exercise	2
	Feb 4		FIELD TRIP TO Ano Nuevo for elephant seals	
3	Feb 5 Feb 7	Directions of Selection Economic Decision Making	Discuss field trip to Ano Nuevo for Elephant Seals; Elephant Seal video; Discuss "Decision Rules.." paper	3
4	Feb 12 Feb 14	Foraging Foraging	Marginal Value Theorem experiment	
5	Feb 19 Feb 21	Feb 19: Lecture Midterm 1 Prey choice Feb 21: Term paper proposal due	Microsoft Excel for Behavior Biologists Microsoft Excel for Constructing Graphs	
6	Feb 26 Feb 28	Risk; Optimality Predator vs Prey	Using Powerpoint; Discuss individual projects	4
7	Mar 5 Mar 7	Evolutionary Arms Races Competing for Resources	Sample Powerpoint Presentations; Excel Data Analysis tools (t-test, regression)	5
8	Mar 12 Mar 14	Optimal Group Size Fighting & Assessment; Term paper Part I due	Mar 12: Lab Midterm	6
9	Mar 19 Mar 21	<i>Spring Break – no classes</i>		
10	Mar 26 Mar 28	Fighting & Assessment	TBA	
11	Apr 2 Apr 4	Apr 2: Lecture Midterm 2 Game Theory	Game Theory	
12	Apr 9 Apr 11	Field Trip Apr 9: Term paper due; Sexual Selection	Field trip to Sacramento Zoo (during class)	8
13	Apr 16 Apr 18	Sexual Selection Sexual Selection	Project presentations	
14	Apr 23 Apr 25	Parental Care	Project presentations	9
15	Apr 30 May 2	Alternative Strategies Altruism & Cooperation	Project presentations	10, 11
16	May 7 May 9	TBA	Lab Final and Poster Session	
17	May 14	Final Exam Mon May 14 12:45-2:45		