

Evolution of Animal Behavior
11:216:269 (3 credits)
Fall 2024

CONTACT INFORMATION:

Instructor: Dr. Suzanne Sukhdeo
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COURSE WEBSITE:

- CANVAS

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course is a broad exposure to evolutionary theory and natural selection using examples from animal behavior. Not intended to be comprehensive in either evolutionary theory or in animal behavior, but rather to engender understanding of the principles of evolution, the basic terms and concepts in animal behavior, and the evolutionary and ecological processes that shape it. Examples of animal behavior range from nematodes to primates.

LEARNING GOALS:

- 1) Describe the evolutionary origins, processes and patterns over geologic time.
- 2) Evaluate ecological and evolutionary concepts in terms of animal behavior.
- 3) Critically understand the evolutionary history and mechanisms that lead to development of specific animal behavior.
- 4) Think critically and solve problems using evidence-based reasoning.

DEPT. EENR LEARNING GOALS

- Goal 1: Explain basic population, community ecology, and ecosystem-level concepts.
- Goal 2: Describe the evolutionary origins, processes and patterns over geologic time.
- Goal 6: Communicate effectively orally and through written text and graphics.

Textbook:

A textbook is **NOT** a requirement for this course. All tests will be based on lecture material only.

ASSIGNMENTS/RESPONSIBILITIES:

Lecture Grading:

Quizzes (10)	~120*
Midterm 1	150
Midterm 2	150
Final (not cumulative)	150
Total	~570* [†]

*The number of points and the number of quizzes are subject to change.

[†] NO EXTRA CREDITS

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

The university's policy on Academic Integrity is available at (<http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/academic-integrity-policy>). The principles of academic integrity require that a student:

- properly acknowledge and cite all use of the ideas, results, or words of others.
- properly acknowledge all contributors to a given piece of work.
- make sure that all work submitted as his or her own in a course or other academic activity is produced without the aid of impermissible materials or impermissible collaboration.
- obtain all data or results by ethical means and report them accurately without suppressing any results inconsistent with his or her interpretation or conclusions.
- treat all other students in an ethical manner, respecting their integrity and right to pursue their educational goals without interference. This requires that a student neither facilitate academic dishonesty by others nor obstruct their academic progress.
- uphold the canons of the ethical or professional code of the profession for which he or she is preparing.

Adherence to these principles is necessary in order to ensure that

- everyone is given proper credit for his or her ideas, words, results, and other scholarly accomplishments.
- all student work is fairly evaluated, and no student has an inappropriate advantage over others.
- the academic and ethical development of all students is fostered.
- the reputation of the University for integrity in its teaching, research, and scholarship is maintained and enhanced.

Failure to uphold these principles of academic integrity threatens both the reputation of the University and the value of the degrees awarded to its students. Every member of the University community therefore bears a responsibility for ensuring that the highest standards of academic integrity are upheld.

CHEATING AND PLAGIARISM

(From Spring 2010 Andy Egan 01:730:252 Eating Right): "Cheating on tests or plagiarizing

materials in your papers deprives you of the educational benefits of preparing these materials appropriately. It is personally dishonest to cheat on a test or to hand in a paper based on unacknowledged words or ideas that someone else originated. It is also unfair, since it gives you an undeserved advantage over your fellow students who are graded on the basis of their own work. In this class we will take cheating very seriously”.

Turnitin will be used to assess students’ submissions and all suspected cases of cheating and plagiarism will be automatically referred to the Rutgers Academic Integrity office.

Rutgers Dean of Students <http://deanofstudents.rutgers.edu/>

DO NOT GO TO DEAN OF STUDENTS FOR ONE OR TWO DAYS OF ABSENCES.

The University does recognize that temporary conditions and injuries can be problematic and may adversely affect a student’s ability to fully participate in class.

Absences or making up work: <https://temporaryconditions.rutgers.edu/>

The Dean of Students Office at Rutgers University-New Brunswick provides solutions, services, and support to help students navigate Rutgers University. By focusing on students’ educational, social, and personal development, staff in the Office promote academic success and student retention. The Office serves as a student support network by providing advocacy, problem resolution, and critical incident intervention for those times when additional assistance is needed.

- **Self-Reporting Absences:** For absences in class or labs less than a week that are not confidential in nature, students need to inform faculty directly by using the Absence Reporting System (ARS) (<https://sims.rutgers.edu/ssra/>).
- **Longer Periods of Absence:** If you anticipate missing more than one week of classes for serious illness, confidential, or sensitive personal reasons, you should also consult with a New Brunswick Dean of Students who will help to verify your extended absences from classes.
- **Absences due to illnesses:** If your absence is due to illness, visit New Brunswick Health Services for information about campus health services, including information about how to make an appointment, self-care advice for colds/flu, mental health and counseling options.

Access helpful mental health information and resources for yourself or a friend in a mental health crisis on your smartphone or tablet and easily contact CAPS or RUPD.

ACCOMMODATIONS FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

Please follow the procedures outlined at Registration Form | Office of Disability Services ([rutgers.edu](https://ods.rutgers.edu/)). Full policies and procedures are at <https://ods.rutgers.edu/>

Disability Services: (848) 445-6800 / Lucy Stone Hall, Suite A145, Livingston Campus, 54 Joyce Kilmer Avenue, Piscataway, NJ 08854 / <https://ods.rutgers.edu/>

Rutgers University welcomes students with disabilities into all of the University's educational programs. In order to receive consideration for reasonable accommodations, a student with a disability must contact the appropriate disability services office at the campus where you are officially enrolled, participate in an intake interview, and provide documentation:

<https://ods.rutgers.edu/students/documentation-guidelines>. If the documentation supports your request for reasonable accommodations, your campus's disability services office will provide you with a Letter of Accommodations. Please share this letter with your instructors and discuss the accommodations with them as early in your courses as possible. To begin this process, please complete the Registration form on the ODS site: Registration Form | Office of Disability Services (rutgers.edu).

COUNSELING, ADAP & PSYCHIATRIC SERVICES (CAPS) (848) 932-7884

17 Senior Street, New Brunswick, NJ 08901/ Student Health – Rutgers University | Division of Student Affairs – New Brunswick

CAPS is a University mental health support service that includes counseling, alcohol and other drug assistance, and psychiatric services staffed by a team of professional within Rutgers Health services to support students' efforts to succeed at Rutgers University. CAPS offers a variety of services that include: individual therapy, group therapy and workshops, crisis intervention, referral to specialists in the community and consultation and collaboration with campus partners.

VIOLENCE PREVENTION & VICTIM ASSISTANCE (VPVA)

(848) 932-1181 / 3 Bartlett Street, New Brunswick, NJ 08901 / www.vpva.rutgers.edu/. The Office for Violence Prevention and Victim Assistance provides confidential crisis intervention, counseling and advocacy for victims of sexual and relationship violence and stalking to students, staff and faculty. To reach staff during office hours when the university is open or to reach an advocate after hours, call 848-932- 1181.

SEBS DEI STATEMENT

It is my intention that students of all backgrounds will be well served by this course. I will work to create an environment of inclusion which respects and affirms the inherent dignity, value, and uniqueness of all individuals, communities and perspectives. We are lucky to have a diverse university. Diverse voices and life experiences enhance the learning process and we welcome students to share their personal experiences. We will not tolerate disrespectful language or behavior against any individual or group. If you feel as though you have been disrespected or treated unfairly by me or any other individual please let me know. You may speak with the me in person, over email or report anonymously via the Office of Academic Programs. In addition, you may also report bias to the Rutgers Diversity and Inclusion initiative using this link:

<http://inclusion.rutgers.edu/report-bias-incident/>.

DoSomething button through Rutgers Dean of Students office:

<http://health.rutgers.edu/do-something-to-help/>

WELLNESS COACHING THROUGH RUTGERS HOPE

<http://health.rutgers.edu/education/hope/wellness-coaching/>. Self-Help Apps found on the Rutgers Student Health website:

<http://health.rutgers.edu/education/self-help/self-help-apps/>

NJ Hopeline- (1-855-654-6735) National Suicide Hotline - (1-800-273-8255)

BASIC NEEDS RESOURCES

Any student who has difficulty affording groceries or accessing sufficient food, or who lacks a safe and stable place to live, is urged to contact the Rutgers Student Food Pantry and/or the Dean of Students (details below). Furthermore, please notify the professor if you are comfortable doing so, as they may be able to provide additional support.

RUTGERS STUDENT FOOD PANTRY

848-932-5500 / College Ave Student Center, Room 115 (126 College Ave)

<http://ruoffcampus.rutgers.edu/food/>. Check their website for hours and additional locations. The Rutgers Student Food Pantry is dedicated to helping all Rutgers students in need of food, no questions asked. Students will be provided with groceries that typically last about one week.

Evolution of Animal Behavior
Lecture Schedule – Fall 2024

DATE	LEC	TOPICS*	ASSESSMENT
9/4	1	What is behavior? What is evolution?	Quiz 1
9/11	2	Behavior: Ultimate & Proximate Causation	Quiz 2 (Lec 1)
9/18	3	Sexual Selection I	Quiz 3 (Lec 2)
9/25	4	Sexual Selection II	Quiz 4 (Lec 3)
10/2	MIDTERM 1 (Lectures 1-4)		
10/9	5	Mating Systems I	
10/16	6	Mating Systems II	Quiz 5 (Lec 5)
10/23	7	Cheating/Parental Care	Quiz 6 (Lec 6)
10/30	8	Biological Clocks/Circadian Rhythms	Quiz 7 (Lec 7)
11/6	MIDTERM 2 (Lectures 5-8)		
11/13	9	Orientation & Migration	
11/20	10	Dispersal	Quiz 8 (Lec 9)
12/4	11	Habitat Selection & Feeding Behavior	Quiz 9 (Lec 10)
12/11	12	TBA	Quiz 10 (Lec 11)
12/??	FINAL (Lectures 9-12) (TBA)		

*Lecture topics are subject to change