

Evolution of Animal Behavior

11:216:269 (3 credits)

CONTACT INFORMATION:

Instructor(s): Dr. Suzanne Sukhdeo
Email: ssukhdeo@sebs.rutgers.edu

COURSE WEBSITE, RESOURCES AND MATERIALS:

- SAKAI
- Webpage: www.rci.rutgers.edu/~ssukhdeo

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 behaviors.
- 4) Think critically and solve problems using evidence-based reasoning.

Instructors:

The 1st half of the course will be given by Dr. Suzanne Sukhdeo and the 2nd half of the course will be given by Dr. Michael Sukhdeo.

Optional Textbook:

A textbook is **NOT** a requirement for this course. All tests will be based on lecture material only. However, for those students interested in animal behavior:

ASSIGNMENTS/RESPONSIBILITIES:**

Lecture Grading:

In-lecture quizzes	40*
Midterm1	150
Midterm 2	150
Final	150
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Total	490

***The number of quiz points are subject to change.**

Lecture Schedule Fall 2018*

DATE	LECT	LECTURER	TOPICS
9/5	1	SS	Evolution & Natural Selection
9/12	2	SS	General Behavior
9/19	3	SS	Behavior: Ultimate & Proximate Causation
9/26	4	SS	Sexual Selection
10/3	MIDTERM 1 (Lectures 1-4)		
10/10	5	SS	Mating Systems
10/17	6	SS	Evolution of Parental Care
10/24	7	MS	Adaptation, Behavior & Perception
10/31	8	MS	Clocks, Rhythms & Orientation
11/7	MIDTERM 2 (Lectures 5-8)		
11/14	9	MS	Dispersal & Habitat Selection
11/28	10	MS	Territoriality & Aggression
12/5	11	MS	Foraging Behavior & Cooperation
12/12	12	MS	Communication & Human Uniqueness
12/18	FINAL EXAM (Lectures 9-12) 9:00-10:30 AM		

* Lecture topics are subject to change.

SS – Dr. Suzanne Sukhdeo

MS – Dr. Michael Sukhdeo

ACCOMODATIONS FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

Please follow the procedures outlined at <https://ods.rutgers.edu/students/registration-form>. Full policies and procedures are at <https://ods.rutgers.edu/>

ABSENCE POLICY

Students are expected to attend all classes; if you expect to miss one or two classes, please use the University absence reporting website <https://sims.rutgers.edu/ssra/> to indicate the date and reason for your absence. An email is automatically sent to me.

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.

STUDENT WELLNESS SERVICES

Just In Case Web App <http://codu.co/cee05e>

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.

Counseling, ADAP & Psychiatric Services (CAPS)

(848) 932-7884 / 17 Senior Street, New Brunswick, NJ 08901/ www.rhscaps.rutgers.edu/

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.

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 web site at: <https://ods.rutgers.edu/students/registration-form>.

Scarlet Listeners

(732) 247-5555 / <http://www.scarletlisteners.com/>

Free and confidential peer counseling and referral hotline, providing a comforting and supportive safe space.