

Syllabus

Spring, 2015

**ANIMAL SCIENCE 310
BEHAVIOR AND MANAGEMENT OF
DOMESTIC ANIMALS**

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Ted Friend, 241 B Kleberg, 845-5265, t-friend@tamu.edu

TEACHING ASSISTANTS: Jade Haberman, 245 Kleberg, 845-0998

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

1. Develop an understanding of basic ethological principles pertinent to domestic farm animals.
2. Learn to apply ethological principles and species behavioral traits to the handling, housing and management of domestic farm species.
3. Gain proficiency in expressing ideas in writing and orally.
4. Develop observational skills and learn how to report behavioral observations.
5. Become proficient with some of the methods used in ethological research, current problems involving farm animal behavior, and major journals and references dealing with farm animal behavior.
6. Learn to accept responsibility for one's actions, learn to follow directions, and improve time management skills.

TOPIC OUTLINE:

Part I. General Topics - Some History, Basic Components of Behavior, The Physiology of Behavior, Sensation and Perception, Behavior and Domestication, Learning, Temperature and Behavior, Nutritional Wisdom, Stress, Handling and Welfare, etc.

Part II. Species Specific Behavior - Cattle, Sheep & Goats, Horses, and Pigs. The exact order of species will vary each semester, depending on availability of animals, breeding schedules, etc.

WRITING COMPONENT:

Gaining proficiency in expressing your ideas in writing is an important component of this course. There will be several writing assignments, most of which will help students prepare for the major writing assignment, the term project. Always keep a copy of all

written assignments that you turn in in case you are asked to submit it a second time after your revise it.

1. Written description of the behavior of a live animal. This assignment occurs early in the semester during a laboratory. After being shown and discussing examples of good writing, students will be taken to one of the livestock centers to carry out the assignment using a suitable group of animals. The assignment will be graded, and returned to the student for possible revision. Students will be encouraged to revise and turn in the assignment again to improve their grade, however, the additional points received on the regarding will be docked by 25% to be fair to students who make the effort to do a good job the first time.

2. Graphic (plot) description of the distribution of animals in a pasture. This assignment will follow the same basic procedure as the written description (No. 1, above) and will occur during the same trip to the livestock centers.

3. Beef cattle handling facility assignment. Students will be given a detailed set of instructions at the start of the laboratory. Briefly, the assignment will involve visiting three cattle handling facilities, drawing the floor plan of each facility, writing a description of the existing facility, and then providing an improved floor plan and written justification for the improvements (or lack of improvements). The key factor in this assignment is the student's ability to justify or rationalize in writing any changes (or lack of changes) the student recommends. A week of class time and part of an earlier laboratory will be spent going over principles of designing animal handling facilities. Students will also be shown examples of well-written assignments in class from prior semesters before having to write their assignment. Students will be given the opportunity to revise and submit their assignment for regarding to improve their grade, however, in order to encourage students to do their maximum effort for their first draft, the additional points received on the regarding will be docked by 25%.

4. Term Project. The term project is on a behavior related topic of the student's own choosing. A detailed term project guide will be distributed in class and will be available on the course's web site, but a summary of the major components follow.

Planning Guide: Students will be given a planning guide form by the 4th week of class that will guide them in describing their plans for the term project – due Feb 19th. Students will previously be shown examples of well written term projects. Students will also include a list of citations or references that will be used when writing their final paper. Dr. Friend and TA's will go over each proposal, assign it a grade, and provide written suggestions to each student. If a student's planning guide is not well written or the student's idea is not practical, the student will go through the planning procedure again.

Oral Report: The oral report will be given near the end of the semester in the regularly scheduled laboratory session, April 21 and 22nd, though the week is subject to change. All students are required to prepare a PowerPoint presentation of their project.

Detailed instructions will be distributed in class and will be available on the course's web site.

Final Written Report: The final written report will be due two days after the oral presentation. Reports from students registered and presented in the Tuesday lab will be due on Thursday by 5 pm and reports given in the Wednesday lab will be due on Friday by 5 pm. The two-day delay is to allow students to benefit from observing their colleagues' oral presentations, review from peers, and to have more opportunity to ask the instructors questions. Writing quality (spelling, grammar, clear and understandable presentation, correct citing and integration of references) will constitute at least 33% of the final grade. Dr. Friend and one or two graduate students will evaluate and correct all term projects. Students who receive low grades are encouraged to correct their term project and resubmit it for re-grading. However, in order to encourage students to do their maximum effort for their first draft, the additional points received on the regarding will be docked by 25%.

Students have found the University Writing Center to be very useful.

The University Writing Center (UWC), located in Evans Library 1.214, offers help to writers at any stage of the writing process including brainstorming, researching, drafting, documenting, revising, and more; no writing concern is too large or too small. These consultations are highly recommended but are not required. While the UWC consultants will not proofread or edit your papers, they will help you improve your proofreading and editing skills. If you visit the UWC, take a copy of your writing assignment, a hard copy of your draft or any notes you may have, as well as any material you need help with. To find out more about UWC services or to schedule an appointment, call 458-1455, visit the web page at uwc.tamu.edu, or stop by in person.

Early Evaluation of Written Report: Students are encouraged to turn in a draft of their written report one to two weeks prior to the due date for preliminary evaluation. This option is especially useful for students who have poor writing skills or who need to maximize their grade in the course. The draft will be returned to the student within a few days of receipt with corrections and suggestions for improvement.

EXAMS:

There will be two one-hour in-class exams and a final. Exam dates will be announced in class and the actual number of points of each exam will vary depending on the amount of material covered by an exam. A portion of each exam will involve short essays on which English will be graded. The final will be at the time and date assigned by TAMU for this class (May 8th). The final will be similar to a regular exam in construction, with approximately 100 points on material covered since the last exam and 30 points comprehensive (mostly from questions are at:
<http://animalscience.tamu.edu/academics/courses-310.htm>

University Policy states: the student must notify his or her instructor in writing (acknowledged e-mail message is acceptable) prior to the date of absence if such notification is feasible. In

cases where advance notification is not feasible (e.g., accident, or emergency) the student must provide notification by the end of the second working day after the absence. This notification should include an explanation of why notice could not be sent prior to the class.

The University requires that a student present an approved excuse before students can be given a make-up exam. It is the **student's responsibility** to arrange for a make-up exam. If Dr. Friend does not hear from a student who missed an exam by the end of the second working day after that exam, the student will be given a grade of zero for that exam.

QUIZZES: There will be several 5 to 25-minute quizzes given in lab and class over specific material. Only one quiz will be announced ahead of time. The amount of weight assigned each quiz will depend on the amount of material it covers. The announced quiz will be on the book KING SOLOMON'S RING, worth a possible 30 - 40 points, and will be given **Thursday, January 29th, at the beginning of class.**

GRADING: We will be using a point system to indicate the relative weight of exams, quizzes, etc. The final grades at the end of the semester will not be curved.

Grades will be assigned on a basis of A = 90 - 100% of total possible points, B = 80 - 89%, etc. The following table is an approximate distribution of the possible points from an "average" semester. This does not include unannounced quizzes.

| | Writing intensive <u>Assignments</u> | <u>Non writing</u> |
|--------------------------------------|---|--------------------|
| Anatomy/function brain | | 6 |
| Drawing | 8 | |
| Description of animal | 10 | |
| Lorenz book | 2 | 31 |
| Term project plan | 15 | |
| Exam 1 | 5 | 102 |
| Exam 2 | 5 | 100 |
| Description of farrowing pigs | 5 (15) | |
| Handling facility assignment | 35 | |
| Term project | 100 | |
| Peer evaluation of oral presentation | 5 | |
| Final | <u>5</u> | <u>128</u> |
| | 195 | 367 |

Note: $195 / 562 = 34.7\%$ of grade based on writing intensive assignments.

LABORATORIES: Permission to attend laboratory sections other than the one for which you are registered must be obtained from the instructor. In many of the laboratories you will be required to take notes or collect data and write a short summary. Please come prepared to do so. These will be collected and graded as a quiz. Also, you will be working directly with animals during some of the laboratories under a variety of conditions - not just

looking at them - so dress appropriately. You will also be required to work around livestock in wet conditions, walk through alleys that may contain manure or livestock, and walk into pastures that may contain stickers, burrs and live animals who can be unpredictable and injure students. The equipment that will be used in laboratories is also potentially dangerous so always be very careful and let the instructor know if something looks dangerous. Handling animals and equipment during class and labs is optional, so if you feel there is any risk, step back and don't do it.

The laboratories are an integral part of the course. If you miss more than 33% (three) labs regardless of your excuse, you have not participated in enough of the course and will not receive credit for taking the course.

TEXTS:

ANIMAL SCIENCE 310 NOTES - available at Texas Aggieland Bookstore, adjacent to Copy Corner, 2307 Tx Ave South, across Texas Ave from Target & Outback Steak House. Also comes with a digital version this semester.

LIVESTOCK BEHAVIOUR – also available only at Texas Aggieland Bookstore/ Copy Corner (at 15% of the original cost). Also comes with a digital version this semester.

KING SOLOMON'S RING – Available as a free download from the TAMU library and for a price at ebooks on the web. Type in the name of the book's title and "ebooks" on Google. Or, you can get hard copies at local bookstores (call them first). Some students get a copy from ebay, but you must allow time for shipping. If you can't possibly find your own copy, Dr. Friend will help you. If you want a hard copy, get it right away, there are plenty around town!!

This course's web site: <http://animalscience.tamu.edu/academics/courses-310.htm> Or, you can get to it by going to Dept. of Animal Science main web site - <http://animalscience.tamu.edu> and then click on "academics" then "courses" then "Animal Science undergraduate courses" then "ANSC 310"

Do not forget to read and accept the Laboratory Safety Acknowledgement form via Howdy. These are important safety and health issues because the labs involve directly handling animals.

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Policy Statement

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact the Department of

Student Life, Services for Students with Disabilities, in Room 126 of the Koldus Building or call 845-1637. For additional information visit <http://disability.tamu.edu>.

Academic Integrity Statement

“An Aggie does not lie, cheat, or steal or tolerate those who do.”

The Aggie Honor System was recently revised. It now requires that a report of scholastic dishonesty will be submitted by the faculty member to the Aggie Honors Council for handling and checking for repeat offenders. In the past instructors could handle it themselves by, for example, giving a student an F in the class. But now, reports bypass both the department and college, and all reports will be taken care of in a “consistent” manner. Which means it is entered on the student’s record.

Because of consequences for the student, knowledge of the Aggie Honor Code, from definitions of academic misconduct to the process and sanctions that may result, is important. All aspects are described on the Aggie Honor System website www.tamu.edu/aggiehonor/.

From [TAMU Student Rules](#)

Student Rule 2.15: Plagiarism is the intentional use of ideas, words or data of another person without giving appropriate credit.

Student Rule 20.1: Commission of the following acts shall constitute scholastic dishonesty.

20.1.3: Plagiarism: Failing to credit sources used in a work product in an attempt to pass off the work as one's own. Attempting to receive credit for work performed by another, including papers obtained in whole or in part from individuals or other sources.

20.1.4: Conspiracy: Agreeing with one or more persons to commit any act of scholastic dishonesty.

“The usual penalty for a first plagiarism violation is an F in the class and an honor violation probation. That means the student loses certain rights, including the right to represent the university off campus, hold office in a campus organization, or receive an Aggie ring. Students can remove those restrictions (but not the F) by successfully completing a remediation course.” (from the Writing Center)