

**Introduction to Animal Behavior**  
(Psych 131, Biol, BBB 231)

David J. White  
Office: D21 Solomon Laboratories  
[whitedj@psych.upenn.edu](mailto:whitedj@psych.upenn.edu)  
phone: 898-7866  
Office Hours: Tuesdays 10:30-12:30 or by appt.

Lectures: Tuesdays & Thursdays 9:00 am – 10:30am. Leidy Labs 10  
Discussion Sessions: to be announced in class.

Texts: **Alcock. Animal Behavior: An Evolutionary Approach**, 8<sup>th</sup> Ed. 2005  
**Sherman and Alcock. Exploring Animal Behavior** 4<sup>th</sup> Edition. 2005  
Additional readings will appear on Blackboard.

**Syllabus**

This course will provide an introduction to the major areas of the study of animal behavior with attention to evolution and ecology. We will study the diversity of behavior across animals of many taxa and give special focus to social interactions, mating, and communication.

Lectures will be based on PowerPoint presentations. Slides will be available on Blackboard prior to the lecture.

Attendance at discussion sessions is not mandatory. Readings however are mandatory.

Evaluation:

There will be **no final exam** in this course.

3 in-class non-cumulative midterms: each worth 25%  
Best 3 out of 4 quizzes: 25%

University policies regarding Academic Integrity must be followed. This includes no cheating, no plagiarism and reporting any knowledge thereof. Please consult the Student Handbook or the web-page: [www.college.upenn.edu/responsibilities/integrity.html](http://www.college.upenn.edu/responsibilities/integrity.html)

## **General Schedule**

Evolution and Natural Selection

Proximate and Ultimate Causes of Behaviour

Adaptation & Co-Evolution

Habitat selection

Foraging

**Midterm #1: Thursday Oct 10**

Sexual Selection

Reproduction

Mating Systems

Parental Care

**Midterm #2: Thursday Nov 2**

Communication

Social Behaviour

Cognition

**Midterm #3: Thursday Dec 7**