

**CBH 4024: Comparative Animal Behavior
Summer 2008, Term 1**

Instructor

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Course Meeting Time and Location

Thursday, 1:15-4:25pm, Davie campus, ES 104

Course Description

This course provides an introduction to the evolution and adaptive significance of animal behavior. Topics include traditional and modern ethological concepts; sensory function; orientation, migration, and communication; territoriality and animal social behavior; sexual and reproductive behavior.

Required Texts

1. Dawkins, Richard (1996). *The blind watchmaker: Why the evidence of evolution reveals a universe without design*. New York: Norton. [paperback, ISBN: 0-393-31570-3]
2. Birkhead, Tim (2000). *Promiscuity: An evolutionary history of sperm competition*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press. [paperback, ISBN: 0-674-00666-6]

Group Presentation

Groups of 3-4 students will lead a review and discussion of material presented in one of the weekly assigned readings.

Weekly Discussion Questions

Students are expected to read the assigned material before arriving to class on the day the material is to be discussed. Students will hand in at the end of each class 4-5 typed discussion questions about the reading assigned for that class prepared prior to arriving to class.

Brief Reaction Papers

Several times during the semester, I will require students to bring to the following class reactions to material presented and discussed in class. These brief reaction papers will be due at the beginning of the next class, and should be about two, double-spaced typed pages.

Take-Home Exam

There will be one take-home exam. I will distribute the exam on the date indicated below, and you will have one week to complete the exam. Your completed exam will be due at the beginning (first 5 minutes) of the indicated class period. I encourage you to discuss the exam questions with your fellow students, but each of you will be responsible for turning in your own, independently written exam. The exam will consist of short essay questions.

Grading

Grades will be assigned according to the following weighted criteria:

Group presentation	25%
Weekly discussion questions	25%
Brief reaction papers	25%
Take-home exam	25%

Class Schedule

<u>Date</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Readings</u>
May 15	Introduction to Course, Group Assignments	None
May 22	Explaining the Very Improbable; Good Design	Dawkins, ch. 1 & 2
May 29	Accumulating Small Change; Making Tracks Through Animal Space	Dawkins, ch. 3 & 4
June 5	No class	None
June 12	The Power & the Archives; Origins & Miracles	Dawkins, ch. 5 & 6
June 19	Constructive Evolution; Explosions & Spirals	Dawkins, ch. 7 & 8
June 26	Puncturing Punctuationism; The One True Tree of Life	Dawkins, ch. 9 & 10
July 3	Doomed Rivals; Competition, Choice, & Sexual Conflict	Dawkins, ch. 11; Birkhead, ch. 1
July 10	Paternity & Protection; Genitalia	Birkhead, ch. 2 & 3
July 17	Sperm, Ejaculates, & Ova; Copulation, Insemination, & Fertilization	Birkhead, ch. 4 & 5
July 24	Mechanisms of Sperm Competition & Sperm Choice; The Benefits of Polyandry *Distribute take-home exam	Birkhead, ch. 6 & 7
July 31	Grandiose Conclusions *Take-home exam due at beginning of class	None