

Animal Behavior Lab – SCHEDULE 2009

Lab start and end times may vary – schedule changes below and in class as we decide.

SHOW UP ON TIME. We won't wait and you are accountable for missed trips.

- 9 Jan organization & campus animal survey
- 16 Jan Everglades Natl. Park - Shark Valley
meet 08:15 in parking lot behind OE
depart 08:20, return by 13:00 (van reserved)
- 23 Jan Everglades Natl. Park – Homestead (**all day**)
meet 08:00 in parking lot behind OE
depart 08:05, return ~18:00. (van reserved)
- 30 Jan class research project
- 6 Feb class research project
- 13 Feb class research project
- 20 Feb class research project
- 27 Feb class research project
- 6 Mar class research project
- 13 Mar class research project
- 20 Mar *spring break – no class*
- 27 Mar class research project [Phil in Uruguay]
- 3 Apr class research project, plan Archbold trip
- 9-12 Apr Archbold Biological Station
leave FIU, 3:30 pm. (?)
return to FIU Sunday, ~5 pm.
<http://www.archbold-station.org/abs/index.htm>

Students registered for the lab must also be registered for the class or have already taken the class. No exceptions.

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Read these books at the start of the term:

Martin & Bateson *Measuring Behaviour*, chapters 1-8.

Pechenik *A Short Guide to Writing About Biology*, chapters 1-6 & 9.

Lab Notebook:

Buy a bound notebook, the kind with the hard black and white marbled cover.

Write your name and phone number inside the cover.

Your lab notebook should contain a written record of everything you see in your weekly observations and the lab sessions. The notebook will be graded in the end. Look at what other people are writing and strive to include as much detail in your notebook as the most assiduous note-taker in your class.

Every page must be numbered. First page of each day's notes must bear the date. Dates should be listed in the order day-month-year. Alpha months further eliminates ambiguity, e.g., 10-Feb-98. Time should be reported on a 24 hour clock, i.e. no a.m. or p.m. Every time you go out, note the time and weather (temp., wind, sky cover, light). Temperatures in degrees Celsius. All measures should be metric.

At the beginning of each lab session, write the date on a new page.

At the end of the lab session, have the instructor or TA write the time and their signature on last page you have written on this day.

If you don't do this, you won't get credit for that day's attendance or notes.

Lab Project:

We shall design, research, and carry out a project of our own devising. When I say "we", I really mean YOU. I serve as project advisor (and occasionally as benevolent dictator as when I vetoed a students' project on the behavior of disturbed nests of fire ants). If we finish the project in a timely manner, we shall either do a second project in smaller groups of your own choosing. You will work collectively on the project, but each of you will individually write up the project in publication format as specified by the instructions to authors in the back of the journal *Animal Behaviour*. Read Pechenik Chapters 1-5 and 8.

Notes on field observation:

Most diurnal animals have excellent color vision. If you wear subdued colors, you are less conspicuous to animals and they will approach closer, unless one of your classmates wears something bright. Avoid red, yellow, orange, and pink clothes! Lots of animals are good sniffers – skip the perfume and aftershave.

You can approach animals closer if you don't look at them. Pretend you are a cow contemplating the grass.

And just so you know in advance, four things have made me lose my temper in previous semesters:

- 1) having to raise my voice to be heard.
- 2) students chatting about subjects irrelevant to the lab at the expense of attention.
- 3) tobacco smoke – I will pour water on and around burning materials.
- 4) use of telephones during class. Turn it off before class, except by special permission.

Lab Grade (scheme subject to change upon with class approval)

Attendance (evidenced by your lab notebook)	33%
Quality of notes in notebook	33%
Project write-up (individual)	33%

Stuff to bring on field trips:

- **Food and drink** to last the duration. Cookies are good for group morale.
- **Notebook & pen.**
- **Sneakers** or boots that you can **get wet** or muddy.
- **Plastic bag(s)** for wet stuff.
- **Clothes** for temperatures colder than you expect because:
 1. The air often cools down towards evening or when clouds move in.
 2. It is hard to thermoregulate while standing stock still to observe animals.A change of clothes is often welcome if you've gotten wet.
- **Daypack** for the extra layers.
- **Raincoat** if the weather is dubious. Students tell me that holding an umbrella makes it hard to take notes unless you have three hands or strong jaws.
- **Binoculars** (if you have them).
- **Field identification guides.**
- **Flashlight** if we're going out for evening observation.
- **Insect repellent** - but don't put it on unless you REALLY need it, especially if we are watching insects. If you do need it, use the new Off, Cutters, or Avon formulations with **Picaridin**. It doesn't stink, it's not toxic, and it doesn't melt plastics.

SHOW UP ON TIME. We will leave 5 minutes after the meeting time with or without you. You are accountable for missed trips.