To understand biology, you need to ask questions, think, and analyze the material we give you. We suggest you read ahead in the textbook. We will be lecturing daily on what we feel is important, but having an awareness of the topics before lecture is extremely helpful. Also, reviewing your notes before class will also be very helpful. We are here to help you succeed. Do not hesitate to ask about topics you don’t understand.

Our names are Mark Cooper and Tim Revell and we will be co-instructors for this course. Your study of Animal Behavior will be an exciting and rewarding experience. This course is designed for non-majors and will be taught at that level. Our teaching philosophy is to make the class entertaining and fun. However, do not make the mistake of taking your studying in this course too lightly. This is actually a science introductory course and it is not easy. This class is usually a combination of science majors and people just interested in animal behavior. Even if you are a major, many of the topics discussed in this class is not taught in other biology courses or at other schools for that matter. Tim and I are both behavior ecologists with Tim’s experience in Desert Iguanas and mine in bird training. Studying behavior can be difficult because behavior has many components to it (neurology, genetics, environment, etc.). We will do our best to lead you through this course. For you to succeed in this course, you must attend class regularly, study often and effectively, and live a life that is conducive to learning (for example, you need to sleep, eat, work, etc. within your means!). Failure to meet these basic requirements will make success difficult for most. Again, this is an exciting but challenging class. DO NOT just memorize your notes. We expect you to understand biology.

Course Description

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Lecture Schedule

1) Feb 24th - Ch. 1 & Ch. 10 - History / Proximate & Ultimate Causes
2) March 3rd - Ch. 11 - The Development of Behavior
3) March 10th - Ch. 12 Neurobiology
4) March 17th - Ch. 13 Neurons and Hormones
5) March 24th - Exam 1
6) March 31st - Ch. 4 Communication
7) April 7th - Ch. 7-8 Sex/Mating
8) April 14th - Ch. 9 Parental Care
9) April 21st - Exam 2
10) April 24th - Field Trip - San Diego Zoo Safari Park
11) April 28th - Ch. 6 Feeding/Habitat
12) May 5th - Ch. 5 - Antipredator/Survival
13) May 12th - Ch. 2 - 3 - Sociobiology
14) May 19th - Ch. 14 - Human Behavior
15) May 26th - Ch. Exam 3
16) June 2nd - Extra Credit/Review
17) June 9th - Lecture Final (4:30-7:00)

Attitude and Success

This is a college level biology course and it is a challenging course. The study of biology, even at a general level, is very complex. We teach this class at a college level and we expect that you will study and prepare at a college level. We will not lower our standards just to make the class easier for you. If you have the attitude that this class (or the professors) are "not fair" or it is "too hard" then your negative attitude will probably prevent you from passing this class. We also believe, if you always work hard, show up every day, come to our office hours if you need help, etc., you will pass this class without much of a problem. Remember, if nobody is passing the class, then it is probably our fault. But if YOU are not passing (but a lot of other people are) then it is probably your fault!

"We all learn best in our own ways. Some people do better studying one subject at a time, while some do better studying three things at once. Some people do best studying in structured, linear way, while others do best jumping around, "surrounding" a subject rather than traversing it. Some people prefer to learn by manipulating models, and others by reading.

Bill Gates
Important Dates

Test Dates
March 24th—Exam 1
April 21st—Exam 2
May 26th—Exam 3
June 9th—Lecture
Final (4:30-7:00)

Field Trip

Field Trip
April 24th - San Diego Zoo Safari Park
The field trip is a mandatory all day affair leaving from the school in front of the Performing Arts Building at 7:00 am. We will travel by bus and arrive at the park around 9:00 am. The cost of the trip is at a discounted price of $12 (estimated) which will be collected on that day. (Please bring exact change). We will provide a worksheet to be completed that day. We will have several class activities that we will do as a class and other self guided activities you will need to complete on your own throughout the day. We will be leaving the park around 4:30 pm to return back to the college around 7:00 pm. We suggest you bring a lunch or money for buying a lunch at the park. The trip is mandatory and you will receive points for completing the worksheet and their will be exam questions on things learned on the trip. For insurance purposes, you must travel on the bus with the class to be included on the trip. If you travel on your own, you will have to pay the full price and will not be considered part of the trip.

Lecture Assignments, Class Quizzes and Exams

LECTURE ASSIGNMENTS
- Each week you will be required to turn in a lecture assignment. Lecture assignments are assigned by week. Each assignment is due the following week. For example, during the first week of school you should be learning and completing the assignment for week one and you will turn in this assignment at the beginning of week 2. Late work will be accepted but points will be lost.

IN CLASS QUIZZES – Each week you will take a quiz based on the material in the book, reading material given in class, or topics discussed in class. Quizzes will be worth 15 points each and may consist of true/false, multiple choice, matching and short essay style questions. No make up quizzes will be given. All quizzes will be given in the first 10 minutes of class only. If you are late, you will not be allowed to take the quiz.

MIDTERMS AND THE FINAL EXAM - The midterms and the final exam will be in the same format as the regular class quizzes. The lecture midterms only cover material for each section. The final exam will be cumulative and will therefore cover information from the entire semester. The final exam will be worth 150 points and there will be no make up exams for the final or midterm! Do not miss the final exam or midterms!!!

Education is what survives when what has been learned has been forgotten.
B. F. Skinner

I had a wonderful teacher about animal behavior - my dog Rusty. He taught me that animals have personalities, minds, and feelings.
Jane Goodall
Policy on Attendance

Since many of the questions on the quizzes and tests come directly from the lecture material, it is critical that you attend all class meetings. We will have quizzes or assignments due everyday and you will lose points if you are late or absent. All assignments are due at the beginning of the class and points will be taken off for late work. (See last page) If you must miss a class, it is your responsibility to get the notes from a fellow student. If your number of absences exceeds the number of hours the class meets in 3 days, you will be dropped from the class. Poor attendance in lecture or lab will lower your grade. After May 8th, you cannot officially be dropped from the class. Poor attendance in lecture or lab will lower your grade. After May 8th, you cannot officially be dropped from the class. If you must miss a class, it is your responsibility to get the notes from a fellow student. If your number of absences exceeds the number of hours the class meets in 3 days, you will be dropped from the class. Poor attendance in lecture or lab will lower your grade. After May 8th, you cannot officially be dropped from the class.

Policy on Academic Integrity

Cheating and Plagiarism are violations of the college’s policy and are considered serious offenses. The Department of Biological Sciences takes all incidences of academic dishonesty seriously and acts accordingly. I reserve the right to give an "F" for the assignment, test and/or class and the matter will be brought up to the Director of Student Affairs as stated in the school’s current College Catalog. This policy states:

1. No dictionaries, reference materials, or notes, may be used during any exam or quiz unless authorized by the professor.
2. No electronic devices of any type, may be used during any exam or quiz unless authorized by the professor.
3. No talking, signaling, sharing of note cards, calculators or other materials is allowed during any exam or quiz, unless authorized by the professor.
4. Only the materials required or authorized for an exam or quiz should be out. All other materials should be put away as instructed.
5. Students may not leave the classroom during an exam or quiz unless authorized by the professor. If a student leaves the room without permission, the test or quiz will be forfeited at that time.

Biology Cheating Policy

WHAT IS CHEATING?
Some examples of cheating include, but are not limited to:

a. Plagiarism, which is the use of materials authored by another person or obtained from a commercial source or the use of passages without proper acknowledgment.

b. Having or using unauthorized materials during any exam or quiz

c. Notes concealed in or written on clothing, hats, or skin (as examples).

d. Looking at another student’s work during any exam or quiz.

e. Changing answers on a returned exam in order to claim there had been a grading error.

f. Sharing any content of exams or quizzes with individuals who have not yet taken it.

g. Removing an exam or quiz from the classroom without the professor’s approval.

h. Taking photos of exams, quizzes, completed ScanTrons®, or exam keys.

i. Turning in work that was generated by other individuals or by the same individual but in a prior semester, including but not limited to: lab report data, lab report or homework questions, homework assignments, and extra credit assignments.
Policy on Cell Phone Use

Cell phones and cell phone etiquette has become a problem in the last several years. We are aware of different policies by different professors at this college, but we are informing you now that this is one policy in class we are adamant about. Ringing or vibrating cell phones in class have become a major distraction to your fellow students and to us. Texting or using apps in class is also a distraction and shows a lack of respect for us and your fellow students. We are now imposing a policy where if your cell phone goes off, you are found texting, or using apps during class, you will be asked to leave the room and will not be allowed to return until the next class break. If you must leave it on for emergency situations, you need to inform us before class. We will give you breaks during class. You may use your phone at that time. We expect your cell phones to be in your pocket, purse, or backpack at all other times. You are not allowed to have your cell phone out on the desk especially during a test.

You must put it in your backpack, purse, or on my front desk. If we see you with a cell phone during a test you will receive an F on that test.

TURN OFF YOUR PHONE!

PHONES!!!!

Grading

Final Grades:

A = 90-100%
B = 80-89%
C = 70-79%
D = 60-69%
F = 0-59%

Grades will be determined by a straight percentage of your final score.

Grading: The semester grade will be determined by several factors: Midterm exams, quizzes, homework, research papers and a comprehensive final exam. There will be one grade for both lecture and laboratory.

THERE WILL BE NO MAKE-UP QUIZZES OR EXAMS! Students who miss an exam will have that exam score replaced by the score on the final. Students who fail to take two exams will be dropped from the course.

Point Values

Lecture Portion

- 3 Exams = 300 pts (100 pts each)
- 1 Final Exam. = 150 pts
- Lecture Quizzes = 90 pts (15 pts each)
- Homework = 40 pts
- Field Trip = 50 pts

*Class Total Points = 630 pts

#The total is approximate and can be changed if necessary.

You will be taking 3 lecture exams. The lowest exam can be replaced by the final. If you miss an exam that will be the grade replaced. The final is a comprehensive final and must be taken. We will drop the two lowest quiz scores. Any missed quizzes will be among the dropped scores.

“In school, you’re taught a lesson and then given a test. In life, you’re given a test that teaches you a lesson.” Tom Bodett

“Education seems to be in America the only commodity of which the customer tries to get as little as he can for his money” Max Forman

“The only thing that interferes with my learning is my education.” Albert Einstein
IMPORTANT DROP DATES AND HOLIDAYS

- March 6th - Last day to add
- March 6th—Last day to drop with a refund
- March 8th—Last day to drop without a W
- March 30th - Cesar Chavez Day
- May 1st—Last day to drop with a W
- May 25th—Memorial Day

SLO Information

- http://www.mtsac.edu/instruction/outcomes/sloinfo.html

Accommodations

If you feel that you have a disability that may prevent you from succeeding in this class please contact the DSP&S office. The office is located in the Student Services Building (9B).

http://www.mtsac.edu/dsps/

Late Assignments

We have been having an issue with students coming to class late and students turning in late work. We have found a need to develop a policy that is consistent and fair to all my students including those that get to class on time and those who turn in their work on time. A nonfunctioning printer is not an excuse. Work on your assignment early enough so if problems arise, you have time to deal with them. See the table to the right for our policy on assignments that are turned in after the beginning of the class the assignment is due.

On Time: Turned in at the beginning of class
100% - any missed questions

Turned in 5 minutes after class starts 80% - any missed questions

Turned in the day due but after class ends 70% - any missed questions

Turned in next class meeting 50% - any missed questions