

PSY/BIO 394

Dog Behavior

Fall B 2021

Professor:

Clive D. L. Wynne, Ph.D., etc.
Phone: 480 727-2714
Email: DogBehavior@asu.edu

Teaching Assistant

Joshua Van Bourg
Email: DogBehavior@asu.edu



This class will convert you to a new way of looking at dogs: Not just “Man’s best friend,” but also vermin, coworkers, and even – in certain parts of the world – what’s for dinner. Some say dogs are the secret to the success of Homo sapiens; certainly they have been our beloved companions for over 15,000 years. We will explore the origins of dogs, their diverse roles in human society in the past and today, their perception of the world, and how much of it they understand. We will also consider the problems dogs face and how modern behavioral science can help them.

cognition?

- Do dogs have unique skills in understanding humans?
- How dogs perceive the world around them—including their amazing noses
- Social processes in the life of the dog: including play, guilt and imitation
- How dogs communicate: including body postures, barking and their comprehension of human language
- Taking care of dogs: stress and temperament testing

Course Overview

In this course, we will consider:

- The origins of dogs: How did some wolves become dogs?
- How to study dog behavior and the lives of free-living dogs
- Behavioral approaches to dog behavioral problems
- What is special about dog

Learning Outcomes

- Outline how behavior evolves
- Explain domestication
- Describe Belyaev's fox breeding experiment
- Explain ontogeny
- Identify critical periods in dog development
- List the steps critical to producing an ethogram

- Outline the four forms of reinforcement
- Explain how to perform a functional analysis of behavior
- Critically evaluate different methods of training dogs
- Critically evaluate the controversies surrounding the origin of dogs' sensitivity to human attention
- Assess the evidence that individual experience influences performance on social-cognitive tasks
- Appraise dogs' abilities in physical cognition.
- Critically evaluate the claims made for dogs' olfactory sensitivity
- Assess theories of how and why dogs play
- Critically evaluate the evidence that dogs experience guilt
- Appraise studies reporting dogs' ability to imitate
- Describe dogs' communicative body postures
- Critically evaluate theories of the function of barking
- Explore the limits of dogs' comprehension of human language
- Critically evaluate the diverse approaches to temperament testing

Course Venue & Materials

This class takes place entirely within the online *Canvas* environment. In there you will find video lectures, video and audio interviews with experts, texts, and instructions for practical exercises for you to perform on dogs. You can access *Canvas* at my.asu.edu and myasucourses.asu.edu.

Texts

All required readings are included in the *Canvas* system. There is no textbook.

Assessment & Grading

Discussion Posts

For each module, we will post a set of questions or prompts in the Discussion board. You must contribute at least three original, cogent posts to each module's discussion forum. You do not need to write more than a sentence or two in a post, but you must include original information that is directly relevant to the course material. Posts that simply repeat what another student has written or just endorse a previous statement will not receive credit. Each of your first three constructive contributions to the weekly discussion forum is worth one point. Thus, you may receive up to 21 points for discussion posts (3 points per module * 7 modules).

Midterm and Final Exam

Your mastery of the material we cover will be assessed in a midterm and a final exam. Each exam will be available for 10 days but you will only be permitted one attempt. You must complete the entire exam in one sitting. Once you start, the clock will not stop for any reason.

All questions will be multiple-choice. Each *fully* correct response is worth one point. The Midterm exam will open at 12:01 am Weds Oct 27 and close at 11:59 pm Fri Nov 5. It contains 35 questions for a maximum of 35 points and once you start you have 70 minutes to complete it.

The Final exam will open at 12:01 am Weds Nov 24 and close at 11:59 pm Fri Dec 3. It contains 45 questions for a maximum of 45 points and once you start you have 90 minutes to complete it.

Exams are open book and open note, however, do not attempt an exam until you

are confident you can answer the questions without having to consult any materials. You will have only two minutes to answer each question, which will require you to think critically and may combine concepts from multiple modules. In short, you will NOT have time to consult materials for most questions.

RPNOW Policies

You are required to record videos of yourself and your screen during both exams using the software *RPNOW*. These videos will be reviewed by RPNOW technicians and me.

Before you take either the midterm or the final exam, you must review the materials on the [RPNOW Information page](#) and earn full marks (100%) on the [RPNOW Practice/Guidelines Quiz](#) in Module 0.

The following are prohibited during exams and will result in a zero score:

- Using your phone, tablet, another computer, headphones, or any additional electronic device. If you take notes on a computer/tablet, you will need to transfer them to paper for the exam.
- Moving your computer or removing your face from the monitor.
- Speaking to or working with another person.
- Writing anything. You are *not* permitted to record notes during the exam.

Exam materials are copyrighted, and any attempt to copy test questions or distribute testing materials is a violation of ASU's academic integrity policy, a violation of copyright law and will result in a zero grade for this class as well as other penalties.

No report on the exercises is required. Your mastery of the concepts embedded in the exercises is assessed in the quizzes

and your discussion contributions.

Each correct response on a quiz and every one of your first three constructive contributions to the Discussion board is worth one point. Thus the total assessment for this class adds up to 101 pts (35 + 45 + 7 * 3). ***There will be no extra credit. This is a complete description of all the assessed material in this class.***

Practice Quizzes

To prepare for exams, you should complete the optional practice quiz for each module. To stay on schedule, plan to complete these weekly practice quizzes by Monday night (i.e., try to keep pace with your discussion posts).

Making Contact

If you have a question about this class, please check the syllabus, other announcements, and Community Forum in *Canvas* first. If your answer is not there, and the question is not of a personal nature, then please post it in the Community Forum. Feel free to respond to your classmates' questions in the Community Forum.

Questions of a personal nature should be emailed to DogBehavior@asu.edu. We will get back to you within two business days.

ASU email is our official means of communication. You are expected to read and act upon ASU email promptly. You need to check your ASU email regularly as you bear the responsibility for any missed messages.

All instructor correspondence will be sent to your ASU email account (even if you send from a different account – to ensure confidentiality).

Students with Special Needs

If you have a documented disability please make contact as soon as possible.

Grading

Your grade is determined by your total point score. We strive to post grades within two business days of the closing date of each test.

Grade	Points
A+	97-100
A	94-96
A-	90-93
B+	87-89
B	84-86
B-	80-83
C+	76-79
C	70-75
D	60-69
E/F	Below 60

apply. See also the section, “Student Conduct and Academic Integrity” below.

Deadlines & Extensions

The due dates in the table below are the *last possible days* for you to complete the exams and make your discussion contributions for that module. You are free to complete assignments early. Some of these dates may fall on religious or other holidays, but since you are always free to complete work early, no foreseeable event can be grounds for a deadline extension.

In the case of unforeseeable events please make contact by email to dogbehavior@asu.edu and we will help as best we can.

Special Note on Cheating

Any student who cheats, or helps another cheat (which includes sharing exam questions online or in any other manner), in this class will receive a failing grade, and other sanctions may

COURSE SCHEDULE		Points	Discussion posts Due (11:59 pm)
Module 1	The origins of dogs	3	Weds Oct 20
Module 2	How to study dog behavior & the behavior of free-living dogs	3	weds Oct 27
Module 3	Behavioral approaches to dog behavioral problems	3	Weds Nov 3
Exam 1	<u>Midterm Exam (opens Weds Oct 27)</u>	<u>35</u>	<u>Fri Nov 5</u>
Module 4	What is unique about dog cognition?	3	Weds Nov 10
Module 5	How do dogs perceive the world?	3	Weds Nov 17
Module 6	Social processes dog behavior	3	Weds Nov 24
Module 7	Communication & temperament testing	3	Weds Dec 1
Exam 2	<u>Final Exam (opens Weds Nov 24)</u>	<u>45</u>	<u>Fri Dec 3</u>

Course Time Commitment

This three-credit course requires approximately 135 hours of work. Please expect to spend around 23 hours each week preparing for and actively participating in this course.

Late or Missed Assignments

Notify the instructor **BEFORE** an assignment is due if an urgent situation arises and the assignment will not be submitted on time. Published assignment due dates (Arizona Mountain Standard time) are firm. Please follow the appropriate University policies to request an [accommodation for religious practices](#) or to accommodate a missed assignment [due to University-sanctioned activities](#).

Submitting Assignments

All assignments, unless otherwise announced, **MUST** be submitted to the designated area of Blackboard. Do not submit an assignment via email.

Drop and Add Dates/Withdrawals

This course adheres to a compressed schedule and may be part of a sequenced program, therefore, there is a limited timeline to [drop or add the course](#). Consult with your advisor and notify your instructor to add or drop this course. If you are considering a withdrawal, review the following ASU policies: [Withdrawal from Classes](#), [Medical/ Compassionate Withdrawal](#), and a [Grade of Incomplete](#).

Grade Appeals

Grade disputes must first be addressed by discussing the situation with the instructor. If the dispute is not resolved with the instructor, the student may appeal to the department chair per the [University Policy for Student Appeal Procedures on Grades](#).

Student Conduct and Academic Integrity

Academic honesty is expected of all students in all examinations, papers, laboratory work, academic transactions and records. The possible sanctions include, but are not limited to, appropriate grade penalties, course failure (indicated on the transcript as a grade of E), course failure due to academic dishonesty (indicated on the transcript as a grade of XE), loss of registration privileges, disqualification and dismissal. For more information, see <http://provost.asu.edu/academicintegrity>. Additionally, required behavior standards are listed in the [Student Code of Conduct and Student Disciplinary](#)

[Procedures, Computer, Internet, and Electronic Communications policy](#), and outlined by the [Office of Student Rights &](#)

[Responsibilities](#). Anyone in violation of these policies is subject to sanctions.

[Students are entitled to receive instruction free from interference](#) by other members of the class. An instructor may withdraw a student from the course when the student's behavior disrupts the educational process per [Instructor Withdrawal of a Student for Disruptive Classroom Behavior](#).

Appropriate online behavior (also known as netiquette) is defined by the instructor and includes keeping course discussion posts focused on the assigned topics. Students must maintain a cordial atmosphere and use tact in expressing differences of opinion. Inappropriate discussion board posts may be deleted by the instructor.

The Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities accepts [incident reports](#) from students, faculty, staff, or other persons who believe that a student or a student organization may have violated the Student Code of Conduct.

Prohibition of Commercial Note Taking Services

In accordance with [ACD 304-06 Commercial Note Taking Services](#), written permission must be secured from the official instructor of the class in order to sell the instructor's oral communication in the form of notes. Notes must have the notetaker's name as well as the instructor's name, the course number, and the date.

Course Evaluation

Students are expected to complete the course evaluation. The feedback provides valuable information to the instructor and the college and is used to improve student learning. Students are notified when the online evaluation form is available.

Syllabus Disclaimer

The syllabus is a statement of intent and serves as an implicit agreement between the instructor and the student. Every effort will be made to avoid changing the course schedule but the possibility exists that unforeseen events will make syllabus changes necessary. Please remember to check your ASU email and the course site often.

Accessibility Statement

In compliance with the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Section 504, and the

Americans with Disabilities Act as amended (ADAAA) of 2008, professional disability specialists and support staff at the Disability Resource Center (DRC) facilitate a comprehensive range of academic support services and accommodations for qualified students with disabilities.

Qualified students with disabilities may be eligible to receive academic support services and accommodations. Eligibility is based on qualifying disability documentation and assessment of individual need. Students who believe they have a current and essential need for disability accommodations are responsible for requesting accommodations and providing qualifying documentation to the DRC. Every effort is made to provide reasonable accommodations for qualified students with disabilities.

Qualified students who wish to request an accommodation for a disability should contact the DRC by going to <https://eoss.asu.edu/drc>, calling (480) 965-1234 or emailing DRC@asu.edu. To speak with a specific office, please use the following information:

ASU Online and Downtown Phoenix Campus Polytechnic Campus

University Center Building, Suite 160 [602-496-4321](tel:6024964321) (Voice)

[480-727-1165](tel:4807271165) (Voice)

Tempe Campus

University Center Building (UCB), Room 130

[602-543-8145](tel:6025438145) (Voice)

Computer Requirements

[480-965-1234](tel:4809651234) (Voice)

This course requires a computer with Internet access and the following:

- Web browsers ([Chrome](#), [Internet Explorer](#), [Mozilla Firefox](#), or [Safari](#))
- [Adobe Acrobat Reader](#) (free)
- [Adobe Flash Player](#) (free)
- Microphone (optional) and speaker

Technical Support

For technical support, use the Help icon in the black global navigation menu in Canvas or call the ASU Help Desk at 1+(855) 278-5080. Unlike your instructor (who knows no more about the technical side of how Canvas works

than you do), the technical support folks are available to assist you 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

To monitor the status of campus networks and services, visit the System Health Portal at <http://syshealth.asu.edu/>.

Student Success

This is an online course. To be successful:

- check the course dailyread announcements
- read and respond to course email messages as needed
- complete assignments by the due dates specified
- communicate regularly with your instructor and peers
- create a study and/or assignment schedule to stay on track

Title IX Statement

Title IX is a federal law that provides that no person be excluded on the basis of sex from participation in, be denied benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity. Both Title IX and university policy make clear that sexual violence and harassment based on sex is prohibited. An individual who believes they have been subjected to sexual violence or harassed on the basis of sex can seek support, including counseling and academic support, from the university. If you or someone you know has been harassed on the basis of sex or sexually assaulted, you can find information and resources at <https://sexualviolenceprevention.asu.edu/faqs>.

As a mandated reporter, I am obligated to report any information I become aware of regarding alleged acts of sexual discrimination, including sexual violence and dating violence. ASU Counseling Services, <https://eoss.asu.edu/counseling> is available if you wish to discuss any concerns confidentially and privately. ASU online students may access 360 Life Services, <https://goto.asuonline.asu.edu/success/online-resources.html>.