BIOLOGY 478 – ANIMAL BEHAVIOR  
Spring 2017

I  Instructor:  John Byers

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III  Office Hours  
John Byers: TH 3:00 – 4:00 PM, or by appointment. Office: 345  
Life Science South

IV  Course Description and Objectives:  
Behavior is defined broadly as the observable output of an animal’s nervous system. Animal behaviorists want to know: 1) how the nervous system produces behavior, and 2) how behavior evolves. The goal of this course is to show you the answers, as they currently are understood, to these questions. In addition, this course offers some of the training needed to read and critically evaluate the behavior literature, and to conduct research in behavior. The schedule of lecture topics appears separately.

V  Course Prerequisite:  
The prerequisites for this course are Biology 114 and 115. Topics from these courses that are especially important in Animal Behavior are: animal taxonomy, the endocrine and nervous systems, reproduction, and evolution. Knowledge of simple algebra is assumed. Some background in statistics is useful, but is not required.

VI  The assigned textbook is: Animal Behavior A Beginner’s Guide. I will also assign papers to read and will put PDF copies of these on the course BbLearn page. Come to class prepared to offer critical questions and thoughtful comments. You may find it helpful to write questions or comments before you come to class. On many class days, I will ask an individual student to summarize one of the assigned papers.
VII Semester Project

A semester project is required. Your project must be a summary of the research contributions of a biologist whose name I shall assign to you. Further instructions will be posted on the course web site. At the end of the semester you must give an oral presentation of your review to the class.

VIII How grades are assigned:

Your grade will be based upon your point total for the course.

4 Quizzes 400
Presentation 300
Total 800

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IX Academic Honesty

Academic dishonesty, including plagiarism, is unacceptable. The consequence of any offense will be an F in the course, letters to your Department Chair and College Dean, and a formal complaint lodged with the Dean of Students.