

## Biol 484: Animal Behaviour

### Professor

Dr. Russell Wyeth  
867-3886, [rwyth@stfx.ca](mailto:rwyth@stfx.ca)

Lectures: K block, JBB 305  
Labs: Wed, 2:15 – 5:05, JBB335M

### Website

<http://moodle.stfx.ca>  
Userid/Password = WebFX userid/password  
i.e. same as your email id & password!

### Textbook

Alcock. *Animal Behavior*, 9<sup>th</sup> or 10<sup>th</sup> ed.

### Course Goals

- Have fun (with biology)
- Learn to think critically
- Understand the proximate and ultimate causes of animal behaviours
- Communicate about animal behaviours
- Appreciate the diversity of adaptive animal behaviours
- Learn behavioural observation and analysis techniques

### Exams

Final lecture and lab exams are cumulative, but emphasize post-midterm material.

### Laboratories and Field Trips

Laboratories will be split between the scheduled lab time and both class and independent field trips that may or may not occur at the scheduled lab time. Field trips are mandatory and their schedule depends on populations of animals which are not entirely predictable.

### Missed Exams & Quizzes; Late Assignments and Reports

Receive **zero** unless a valid medical excuse with signed doctor's certificate is provided, OR arrangements are made **at least 2 weeks in advance**.

### Participation

Participation marks (for both lecture and lab) depend on your contributions to discussions, activities, field trips and any online activities posted on the website.

### Group Work

Group work is part of this course, and group discussion and study is encouraged. However, all exams, quizzes, assignments and reports must be **your own work unless otherwise specified**.

### Office Hours

JBB 222  
by appointment or drop in:  
Tues 11:15 – 12:05  
Wed 9:15 – 11:05  
Thurs 9:15-11:05

### No Lab Manual

Lab and field info will be posted exclusively on the website.

### Questions or Need Help?

**Talk** to Dr. Wyeth

### Assessment and Evaluation

#### Lecture

Midterm	15%
Final	35%

#### Lab

Beaver Project	5%
QHT Project	5%
Duck Project	7.5%
Crow Project	12.5%
Exam	15%
Participation	5%

### Absences

You are expected to attend all lectures, all labs, and complete all assignments and exams. Unexcused absentees from labs will be reported to the Dean.

### Students with Disabilities

In addition to working with the Program for Students with Disabilities, please identify yourself to both Dr. Wyeth and your Lab Instructor within the first week of class.

For more information: [http://sites.stfx.ca/accessible\\_learning/](http://sites.stfx.ca/accessible_learning/)

### Classroom Equity

This course must be a safe learning environment for all students. Accordingly, no one shall be discriminated against or harassed. If at any point you feel you are the subject of either discrimination or harassment, please notify your professor or contact the StFX Human Rights and Equity Advisor. <http://sites.stfx.ca/equity/>

### Cheating and Plagiarism

You must adhere to academic integrity standards.

Cheating, data fabrication or plagiarism will be punished as per official policy.

[http://sites.stfx.ca/registrars\\_office/academic\\_integrity](http://sites.stfx.ca/registrars_office/academic_integrity)

*Plagiarism is the misrepresentation of another's ideas, words, or other work as one's own, plagiarism, and is a form of theft. Types of plagiarism may include: paraphrasing or re-arranging another's words without proper acknowledgement, or using material from the Internet, a database, a book, a journal, or any other source without attribution.*

### Grading Policy

All grades are based on the items in the syllabus. Student must **check** the grades recorded in Moodle are accurate. Special consideration will be made for deaths in the family, illness, or severe personal circumstances that affect your performance on specific items, if **documentation** is provided. Several accommodations are possible, including (but not limited to) deferred exams or papers, heavier weighting of other course items, etc.

Otherwise, grades on specific items can only be changed by a regrade of the item (i.e. your mark may go up or it may go down). You must request a regrade of any item within a week of the grade being made available to you. Anyone receiving a final course grade of 48 or 49% will **automatically** have their final exam regraded.

Visit the course website [<http://moodle.stfx.ca>] for:

- Course announcements
- Important dates
- Lecture guides  
(download before lecture!)
- Lecture slides
- Grades
- Lab Information
- Assignment instructions
- Study tips
- i.e. EVERYTHING