

OVERVIEW OF BEHAVIOR PROGRAM

Are you looking for a behavior course that is suited to your knowledge level and time constraints? This overview will help you pick the appropriate knowledge level and will explain the options available at each level to best match your preferred learning style and personal constraints.

Novice Level

Undergraduate and graduate students who are interested in an introduction to behavior of animals in natural settings are encouraged to choose the basic course "Ethology" (WFSC 422/632). This course provides an overview of the most familiar examples of behavioral research, typically discussed in informal settings (i.e. zoo education programs) as well as formal curricula (i.e. secondary and college level courses). When you have completed this course, you will have a mental map that helps to organize basic concepts such as the cause, development, evolution and function of behavioral traits. Transferable skills prepare students for communication with the public.

This course will be taught in Fall 2014 for the last time by Dr. Packard, who will retire in Aug. 2015.

Intermediate Level

Behavioral Ecology (WFSC 622) focuses on the ecology and evolution of behavior, providing more details into how animals relate to the distribution of resources in the environment and what is unique about each species. The transferable skills learned in this course prepare students for scholarly writing, as needed to synthesize information for preparing proposals, writing theses and essays (as in concept papers and PhD preliminary examinations).

This course will be taught in Spring 2015 for the last time by Dr. Packard, who will retire Aug. 2015.

Advanced Level

When you are ready to design your own behavioral research, this is the course designed for you. This course was taught by Dr. Packard for the last time in Summer 2014.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q1. I am an undergraduate student, which course is right for me?

A1. *The novice level course, WFSC 422, is recommended for the Applied Behavior Management emphasis for the Wildlife Ecology option.*

Q2. I am a graduate student from outside WFSC, which course would be a suitable elective?

A2. *If you have not previously had a course in behavior, it would be best to start with WFSC 632. It is offered in a blended format, so graduate students may attend the on-campus section with the undergraduates and/or complete the course on-line with graduate students in the Distance Education program. If you have previous experience with behavior, WFSC 622 would be suitable.*

Q3. I am a graduate student conducting field research during spring semester, would Behavioral Ecology be a good match?

A3. *Behavioral Ecology is taught in a modular approach to accommodate the flexible scheduling needs of off-campus students. The course is "blended", with sections on- and off-campus.*