EVALUATION CRITERIA

CONTENTS

1. Course Grade
2. Assignment 1 Participation
3. Quizzes
4. Assignment 2 & 3 Directed Inquiry
5. Assignment 4 Open Inquiry(grads only)
6. Final Exam

---

1. COURSE GRADE (undergrads: 300 pts; grads: 400 pts)

In the academic discipline of behavioral biology, the work of each scholar is judged "excellent" when it integrates **concepts** and **examples**. This standard is reflected in the calculation of final grades in this course. Basically, if you do well on both concepts and examples, your total score is likely to be in the category of an "**A**" (excellent: 90-100%). Strength in either concepts or examples, but not both, fits in the category of a "**B**" (good: 75-89%). Weakness in both concepts and examples, fits the category of "**C**" (needs improvement: 60-74%). Insufficient effort to complete the learning activities fits the category of "**D**" (45-60%). At least 45% of points are needed to pass the course. These same general criteria are reflected in specific criteria for evaluation of each of the following learning activities.

2. ASSIGNMENT 1 PARTICIPATION (48 pts)

Performance indicators	Pending	Needs improvement	Meets expectations	Very good	Exceptional
Chat	**1pt** : *Submitted A1*	**4pts**: *1-4 chats*	**7pts**: *5-7 chats*	**10pts**: *8-10 chats*	**15pts**: *>10 chats*
PS shared	**0**: *baseline; not yet started*	**2**: *partial PS message*	**4**: *1 PS message*	**6**: *1.5 PS messages*	**8**: *2 PS messages*
Inquiry (demo/trip)	**0**: *same as above*	**5**: 1 in-class *demo*	**10**: *field trip demo*	**15**: *trip & 1 demo*	**20**: trip & *2 demos*
BLOG 1	**0**: *same as above*	**3**: *meets 3 of 9 criteria*	**6**: *meets 6 of 9 criteria*	**9**: *meets 9 of 9 criteria*	**12**: *exceeds expectations*
BLOG 2	**0**: *same as above*	**3**: *same as above*	**6**: *same as above*	**9:** *same as above*	**12:** *same as above*
BLOG 3	**0**: *same as above*	**3**: *same as above*	**6**: *same as above*	**9:** *same as above*	**12:** *same as above*
BLOG 4	**0**: *same as above*	**3**: *same as above*	**6**: *same as above*	**9:** *same as above*	**12:** *same as above*

Points tally here throughout the semester, capped at 48 total. Pace yourself for about 12 pts for each of the 4 parts of the course. Mix or match: chat, BLOG, Inquiry (demo/trip), PS messages.

Rewards for participating in the on-line chats, PS and inquiry are based on effort. Quality is rewarded for the in-class chats and BLOG comments. The criteria mirror the standards of scholarly communication, with an emphasis on critical thinking and concise statements (quality over quantity).

- Chat criteria
  - On-line: within 1-hr student posted at least 3 comments (1 pt per chat; 1 chat per week)
  - In-class: within 2 min, student included concept, example & source re. a study guide question (3 pt)
- shared PS message: 1 pt for each of the 4 items in the message
  - problem
  - good aspects
  - options
  - preferred option
- inquiry field trip/ demo criteria are based on effort
  - participate in an in-class demo (5 pt) of one inquiry module (see collaborative learning groups)
  - participate in optional field trip (10 pt) with observations and video of red deer (Prey Module 1)
  - **unexcused no-shows: lose 10 points if you reserved a seat, no show and did not send a PS.**
- BLOG criteria; cumulative over all comments for each BLOG part; quality based on # of criteria below
  - originality (NO PLAGIARISM),
  - dialogue (not monologue),
  - concepts,
  - examples,
  - integration of concepts and examples,
  - scientific sources (includes citations and/or referring to pages in the textbook),
  - critical thinking,
  - positive communication skills,
  - correct spelling/grammar

3. QUIZZES (10 quizzes @10 pts; each quiz has 10 questions @ 1 pt)

- Multiple choice answers; only one correct answer per question
- If you disagree with the automatic scoring; send a PS message how the question should be improved
- Two lowest quiz grades dropped in calculation of total for course grade
- Two retake attempts allowed; the highest score is recorded

4. **ASSIGNMENT 2 & 3 DIRECTED INQUIRY** (2 @ 40 = 80pts)

Scoring for each worksheet	**Observe**	**Question**	**Measure**	**Answer**	**sum**
Module 1 (4 worksheets)	3	3	3	3	12
Module 2 (same)	3	3	3	3	12
Module 3 (same)	3	3	3	3	12
subtotals	9	9	9	9	36
				on time:	4
				total:	40

- Code for the
  1. Worksheet was started; not completed

2. "in the right ballpark"; major problems with accuracy or miscommunication
3. Writing indicates good understanding and application of concepts and/or observations

- On time: 1 pt for each draft module uploaded weekly for feedback; subtract 1 point for each day late past due date (see dates on elearning Assignment tool)

5. **ASSIGNMENT 4 OPEN INQUIRY**(GRADS ONLY) (100 pts)

- Content (20 pts each)
  - Concepts (explicit and accurate; relates to hypotheses about proximate and/or ultimate)
  - Examples (explicit and accurate; relevant to course material)
  - integration of concepts and examples; originality (NO PLAGIARISM)
- Style (10 pts each)
  - formatting matches the designated audience (i.e. journal; textbook; poster for conference)
  - correct spelling/grammar, attachments)
  - peer-reviewed scientific sources cited in written text
  - List of references cited (1-5); list of sources that are not peer-reviewed (e.g. websites)

6. **FINAL EXAM** (24 questions @ 3 = 72 pts)

- Criteria for each question
  - Concept stated accurately and explicitly
  - Example stated accurately and explicitly
  - Scientific source (author: date : page) TIP: cite the author of chapter in Halliday (1993)
  - Lose 1 point for inaccuracy
  - Lose 1 point for Folk Psychology that is not explicitly marked ("use quotes for FP")
  - No points for plagiarism (same as another students answer; direct quote from lecture notes or web without using quotation marks and citing the source page)
- Proctor must verify no evidence of cheating on exam (all students may us open book and original personal notes; no shared notes); 0 score if behavior inconsistent with the Aggie Code of Honor is documented
- No cut and paste from electronic files (to be fair to those who take hard-copy exam