ASSIGNMENT 1 PARTICIPATE

Learning Goal ***(Graded Learning Activities)***	**Points**	
	WFSC422	**WFSC632**
1. Participate *Cumulative over entire semester; updated after each Part; max 48 pts (91 possible on grade form)* *Mix or match: chats (on-line or in-class), BLOG, Inquiry (in-class demo/field-trip), problem-solving*	48	48
% of total for course grade	16%	12%

Learning Goal

Objective 1. Participate regularly in dialogue to clarify knowledge and strengthen communication skills

Learning Activity

Learning is usually a very social process, providing motivation, feedback and rewards. Since each person varies in their learning goals, styles and constraints, we try to provide flexibility for you to choose to participate in a manner that works best for you. Use the Assignment Tool in elearning to submit the Participation Assignment during Week 1. The cumulative points you earn will be tallied on the grade form for the A1 Participation Assignment, at the end of each of the four parts of the course. A good target to pace yourself would be 12 points for each of the four parts of the course

TIP: you may over-achieve during one part and slack off during another part of the course.

STEP 1. Read the following options for earning participation points:

Throughout the semester, you may earn up to 48 points by mixing or matching the following options:

- chat *(up to 15 pts; 15 weeks @ 1 pt per week)*
  - online: use the elearning chat tool (choose between Mon. or Wed., 8-9 pm; see archived chats)
  - in-class: choose a study question for the week, post on BLOG, talk about it during class meeting
- BLOG *(up to 36 pts; 4 parts @ 9 pts per part)*
  - On the course website, use the BLOG link to go to the BLOG course page and read; open the [weekly topics] ; select the Question you want (use the search tool as needed); open the [comments]; read the dialogue; fill in the text boxes and submit your comment
  - Earn points for quality over quantity; all your comments will be assessed as one package
  - the grade form is based on the following criteria: 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, attachments)
- Inquiry Demo: in class (2 @ 5pts) and/or optional field trip *(1 @ 10 pts)*
  - students from all sections are invited to participate in the optional weekend field trip
    - we will observe and video rutting behavior of red deer at Fossil Rim Wildlife Center
    - this is the demo for one of the activities in Module 1 of the Deer Inquiry Assignment
    - use the elearning discussion tool to reserve a seat in the van, or make special arrangements
    - unexcused "no-shows" who reserved a seat and did not send a PS will lose 10 points.
    - See details at the end of this document and on the elearning discussion tool
  - in-class: use elearning discussion tool to coordinate with your Collaborative Learning Group
- shared PS message *(up to 8 pts; 2 PS @ 4 pts)*
  - Shared PS messages are those that are directly related to upgrades of course materials and procedures, so the benefits are "shared" by all participants in the class.
  - Up to four points will be awarded for each shared PS message that is communicated in this format
    1) problem,
    2) good aspects,
    3) options,
    4) preferred option

- *TIPS: For example,*
  - *<u>Personal PS</u> (no participation points) Chris's car breaks down on the way to the bus for the field trip. Chris calls the instructor's cell phone and leaves a personal PS message, requesting an excused absence to avoid subtraction of 10 participation points.*
  - *<u>Shared PS</u> (eligible for participation points) Kim notices a broken link on the website and uses the elearning email to send a shared PS message to the instructor, explaining exactly where the broken link is located and her preferred option for fixing it. Kim receives 2 rather than 4 participation points, because the message only included 2 of the 4 elements of positive problem solving*

STEP 2. Go to the elearning Assignment tool and open A1 Participation. In the assignment text box, answer this question:

> "What is your plan for earning participation points (on-line chat, in-class chat, BLOG, in-class inquiry demo, field-trip, PS-shared,)?"

TIP1: Decide what works best for your personal circumstances. For example,

- *Pat is a distance ed student who has an opportunity to travel abroad during the first part of the course. Pat plans to earn participation points with this mix: on-line chats (8), BLOGS (32), shared PS (8).*
- *Lou likes hands-on activities, but does not like to participate in public discussions on a BLOG or in class. Lou chooses to earn points with the following mix: field trip (10), demos (30), shared PS (8).*
- *Kim falls ill during the third part of the course and is not able to participate from the hospital. Kim sends a personal PS message asking to substitute the grizzly inquiry workbook for 20 participation points.*

TIP2: Explain your target number of points for each option, for example "on-line chat (12 pts) and BLOG (36 pts) for a total of 48 pts"

STEP 3. Save and submit this assignment.

- [Save a draft] will save what you have written, but your instructor will not be able to read it. The assignment window will close. When you open it again your draft will still be there.
- [Submit] will send the assignment to your instructor for grading. You will not be able to re-open this assignment until your instructor has completed the grading process.

STEP 4. Watch for the graded assignment and read the feedback comments. You will earn 1 point for this first assignment. Your participation points will be updated by the end of each part of the course, until the maximum possible of 48 pts have been earned.

- You have the option of publishing the controls to each assignment, so others may view your work as an example.
- Use the tabs on the elearning assignment tool to view feedback comments, the grade form, and to publish your assignment to share with others in collaborative learning.

FIELD TRIP TO FOSSIL RIM WILDLIFE CENTER

WHERE?

Fossil Rim Wildlife Center: (http://fossilrim.org) is a drive-through education site

- ungulates from all continents and special concern for Texas endangered species
- off HWY 67 west of Glen Rose between Austin and Fort Worth,
- about 1.5 hr SW from Dallas
- about 3.5 hours NW from College Station (Hwy 6 through Meridian and Walnut Springs)

WHEN?

Sunday, Oct 10, 2009: 7:00 a.m. to about 9:00 pm (return may be earlier if we don't stop for dinner)

- 6:45 am meet the van at Post Oak mall (NE corner of Harvey road and Hwy 6); first come, first choice; seats on van by reservation only
- OR 11:00 am self transport to meet at Front Gate of Fossil Rim Wildlife Center

ITINERARY

- 7:00 departure (will not wait for late arrivals; call 979-220-4115 to cancel reservation)
- 8:30 "pit stop" in Riesling; snacks at convenience store
- 10:30 arrive Fossil Rim main gate, register & pit stop
- 11:00 transfer to open air safari vans for intro tour
- 1:00 late lunch at Overlook
  - brownbag at picnic tables
  - buy your own lunch at Cafe (omnivorous options)
  - gift shop, petting pasture, nature trail
- 2:00 briefing at tour van for W3 demo activity
  - observations of red deer
  - video-tape red deer behavior
- 4:30 pit stop at main gate
- 5:00 load into TAMU van
- 6:00 pit stop in Riesling
- 6:30 travel to College Station
- between 8:00 and 9:00 pm return to College Station

HOW?

Inform Course Leader in response to email (elearning tool)

- to reserve a seat, send emergency contact info (name, phone, relationship)
- explain any other special considerations, or an excused absence
- transportation and tour fee paid from field trip fee collected at registration; not refundable
- "on your own" lunch and dinner: bring and/or buy; cooler and ice provided in van forstorage

Things to bring:

- Warm clothes or layers! Rain gear
- Ethogram Worksheet W3, pencils, clip board
- food/drink (or enough $ to purchase)

· OPTIONAL

- camera, binoculars, rainproof bags,
- pillow, earplugs for nap in van
- stories, tapes, songs for entertainment during travel

WHO?

All registered class participants (including off-campus section), plus Course Leader/assistants

- due to the large class size, we will not be able to offer seats to significant others
- our driver at Fossil Rim will be an experienced staff or docent

WHY?

- Guided hands-on experience applying the basic concepts (CDEF) to analysis of behavior of real animals;
    - observations for Ethogram Workbook
    - opportunity to get to know course participants and leader
- a time to reconnect with nature, place academics in perspective, and talk about the question "Why study behavior?" in a zoo/park setting

FAQ's

Q.What if I cannot participate in the Field Trip?

A: There are several options, to consider and propose in a personal PS message.

- OPTION A: You may earn 5 points by participating in each in-class demo activity (join a Collaborative Learning Group and dialogue about this by elearning email).
- OPTION B: You may ask to substitute one of the optional workbooks (Sealion or Grizzly@20 pts)
- OPTION C: You may view the Fossil Rim videos from previous years linked to the Deer Inquiry website
- OPTION D: You may propose an alternative site at a location closer to you and upload your video to YouTube (send a personal PS message to instructor)

Q: Can I bring a friend?

A: Your friend may drive through the Wildlife Center tour route separately as a self-guided tour. Due to limited seating in the Tour Bus we are not able to accommodate persons not registered for this course.

Q: Can I change my mind about going after reserving a seat?

A: For an excused absence, you MUST communicate by voice or email. Failure to communicate will result in subtraction of 10 points from your A1 participation score.

Q: If I go, can I do my Ethogram on a different species?

A: Yes, you must submit a PS message in writing, and receive approval in writing prior to the field trip.

Q: When is the Ethogram Workbook due?

A: It is due the last day of class.