

COURSE NAME; NUMBER; SEMESTER; MEETING DAYS, TIMES, AND PLACE.

Domestic Animal Behavior and Welfare

11:067:310 Spring 2024

MR 10:20-11:40 AM

Food Science 101

CONTACT INFORMATION:

Instructor(s): Dr. Taylor Ross

Office Location: Bartlett 118

Phone: (848) 932-8354 Email: t.ross@rutgers.edu

Office Hours: By appointment

COURSE WEBSITE, RESOURCES AND MATERIALS:

- There is no required textbook for this course. All materials needed will be provided in class or via Canvas.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Animal welfare is becoming an increasing concern, as consumers and the public, are requiring a higher level of accountability for animals to be ethically treated. This class will provide a forum for discussion of current topics concerning animal scientists, veterinarians, and livestock producers. Normal and stereotypical behaviors will be discussed, along with behavior modification techniques. Students will learn to evaluate animal welfare in a real-world setting using scientific techniques. Training techniques allowing them to work safely around animals will also be covered.

LEARNING GOALS:

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Compare normal animal behavior to abnormal or stereotypical behavior (PLG 7)
Assessment: Quizzes and UTAB
2. Define animal welfare, evaluate scientific welfare assessment methods and demonstrate the use of scientifically proven management techniques to improve animal welfare (PLG 7)
Assessment: Quizzes, Evaluations, and Informational Sheet
3. Evaluate an animal welfare scenario and communicate the evaluation in a written paper (PLG 6)
Assessment: Evaluations

ASSIGNMENTS/RESPONSIBILITIES, GRADING & ASSESSMENT:

Quizzes: There will be 7 quizzes worth 30 points each, with the lowest quiz scored dropped, during the semester (due dates on schedule at the end of this document) administered on Canvas, which will open Thursday immediately following class and close at 11:59 pm on Friday.

Welfare Informational Sheet: You will choose a controversial welfare topic and design a one-page sheet with information about the topic and if it is/is not a welfare concern. More details will be discussed in class and a grading rubric will be uploaded to Canvas. You must submit the sheet to Canvas by Sunday, April 21st at 11:59 pm.

Understanding This Animal's Behavior (UTAB) Project: You and a partner will be assigned an animal behavior, research the behavior, and do a presentation for your classmates to help them

understand the behavior. Additionally, you will write 2 quiz questions related to the behavior that the instructor will utilize in the quizzes. A full rubric will be uploaded to Canvas. You will upload your presentation and quiz questions to Canvas by class time the day you present.

Welfare Evaluations: There will be three Welfare Evaluations at 30 points each. You will be given a welfare scenario involving two groups of animals. You will determine which group of animals has better welfare and explain your rationale. These evaluations will open Thursday immediately following class and will close at 11:59 pm on Friday.

Attendance and Participation: You are expected to attend live classes. The live classes will include interactive discussions. To encourage participation, I will expect all students to participate in the discussions and answer questions in class. Additionally, there will sometimes be unannounced in-class activities or small assignments in which the student will earn credit. These points cannot be made-up unless you have talked to me *prior to missing class* or has contacted the Dean of Students (deanofstudents@echo.rutgers.edu) to document the absence if you were absent due to illness or other emergency. Once a Dean's Letter is sent to me, we will discuss how to proceed.

Final Course Grade:

Grades in this course are weighted according to the table below.

Activity or Major Assignment	Due Date	Points or Grade %
Quizzes - 7 quizzes (30 pts each, drop lowest)	See course schedule	180
UTAB	See UTAB schedule	50
Welfare Evaluations (30 pts each)	See course schedule	90
Welfare Informational Sheet	Apr 21	100
Attendance and Participation	In class	30
Total		450

Grading Scale:

Grades will be calculated as follows:

Grade	Range
A	100 - 90
B+	85 - 89
B	80 - 84
C+	75 - 79
C	70 - 74
D	60 - 69
F	59 and Below

ACCOMODATIONS FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

Please follow the procedures outlined at <https://ods.rutgers.edu/students/getting-registered>. Full policies and procedures are at <https://ods.rutgers.edu/>

COURSE SCHEDULE:

See last page.

FINAL EXAM/PAPER DATE AND TIME

Online Final exam Schedule: <http://finalexams.rutgers.edu/>

There will be no final exam for this course.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

The university's policy on Academic Integrity is available at

<https://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/sites/default/files/pdfs/current.pdf>. The principles of academic integrity require that a student:

- properly acknowledge and cite all use of the ideas, results, or words of others.
- properly acknowledge all contributors to a given piece of work.
- make sure that all work submitted as his or her own in a course or other academic activity is produced without the aid of impermissible materials or impermissible collaboration.
- obtain all data or results by ethical means and report them accurately without suppressing any results inconsistent with his or her interpretation or conclusions.
- treat all other students in an ethical manner, respecting their integrity and right to pursue their educational goals without interference. This requires that a student neither facilitate academic dishonesty by others nor obstruct their academic progress.
- uphold the canons of the ethical or professional code of the profession for which he or she is preparing.

Adherence to these principles is necessary in order to ensure that

- everyone is given proper credit for his or her ideas, words, results, and other scholarly accomplishments.
- all student work is fairly evaluated, and no student has an inappropriate advantage over others.
- the academic and ethical development of all students is fostered.
- the reputation of the University for integrity in its teaching, research, and scholarship is maintained and enhanced.

Failure to uphold these principles of academic integrity threatens both the reputation of the University and the value of the degrees awarded to its students. Every member of the University community therefore bears a responsibility for ensuring that the highest standards of academic integrity are upheld.

SEBS DEI STATEMENT

It is our intention that students of all backgrounds will be well served by this course. We will work to create an environment of inclusion which respects and affirms the inherent dignity, value, and uniqueness of all individuals, communities and perspectives. We are lucky to have a diverse university. Diverse voices and life experiences enhance the learning process and we welcome students to share their personal experiences. We will not tolerate disrespectful language or behavior against any individual or group. If you feel as though you have been disrespected or treated unfairly by the instructors or any other individual please let us know. You may speak with the instructors in person, over email or report anonymously via the Office of Academic Programs. In addition, you may also report bias to the Rutgers Diversity and Inclusion initiative using this link: <http://inclusion.rutgers.edu/report-bias-incident/>.

STUDENT WELLNESS SERVICES

Counseling, ADAP & Psychiatric Services (CAPS)

(848) 932-7884 / 17 Senior Street, New Brunswick, NJ 08901/ www.rhscaps.rutgers.edu/

CAPS is a University mental health support service that includes counseling, alcohol and other drug assistance, and psychiatric services staffed by a team of professional within Rutgers Health services to support students' efforts to succeed at Rutgers University. CAPS offers a variety of services that include individual therapy, group therapy and workshops, crisis intervention, referral to specialists in the community and consultation and collaboration with campus partners.

Violence Prevention & Victim Assistance (VPVA)

(848) 932-1181 / 3 Bartlett Street, New Brunswick, NJ 08901 / www.vpva.rutgers.edu/

The Office for Violence Prevention and Victim Assistance provides confidential crisis intervention, counseling and advocacy for victims of sexual and relationship violence and stalking to students, staff and faculty. To reach staff during office hours when the university is open or to reach an advocate after hours, call 848-932-1181.

Disability Services

(848) 445-6800 / Lucy Stone Hall, Suite A145, Livingston Campus, 54 Joyce Kilmer Avenue, Piscataway, NJ 08854 / <https://ods.rutgers.edu/>

Rutgers University welcomes students with disabilities into all of the University's educational programs. In order to receive consideration for reasonable accommodations, a student with a disability must contact the appropriate disability services office at the campus where you are officially enrolled, participate in an intake interview, and provide documentation: <https://ods.rutgers.edu/students/documentation-guidelines>. If the documentation supports your request for reasonable accommodations, your campus's disability services office will provide you with a Letter of Accommodations. Please share this letter with your instructors and discuss the accommodations with them as early in your courses as possible. To begin this process, please complete the Registration form on the ODS web site at: <https://webapps.rutgers.edu/student-ods/forms/registration>.

DoSomething button through Rutgers Dean of Students office:

<http://health.rutgers.edu/do-something-to-help/>

Wellness Coaching through Rutgers HOPE:

<http://health.rutgers.edu/education/hope/wellness-coaching/>

Self-Help Apps found on the Rutgers Student Health website:

<http://health.rutgers.edu/education/self-help/self-help-apps/>

NJ Hopeline - (1-855-654-6735) | **National Suicide Hotline** - (1-800-273-8255)

BASIC NEEDS RESOURCES

Any student who has difficulty affording groceries or accessing sufficient food, or who lacks a safe and stable place to live, is urged to contact the Rutgers Student Food Pantry and/or the Dean of Students (details below). Furthermore, please notify the professor if you are comfortable doing so, as they may be able to provide additional support.

Rutgers Student Food Pantry

848-932-5500 / College Ave Student Center, Room 115 (126 College Ave) /

<http://ruoffcampus.rutgers.edu/food/>

Check their website for hours and additional locations. The Rutgers Student Food Pantry is dedicated to helping all Rutgers students in need of food, no questions asked. Students will be provided with groceries that typically last about one week.

Dean of Students Office

848-932-2300 / 88 College Avenue, New Brunswick, NJ 08901 / <https://deanofstudents.rutgers.edu/>

Mon-Fri, 8:30am-5:00pm

The Dean of Students Office at Rutgers University-New Brunswick provides solutions, services, and support to help students navigate Rutgers University. The Office serves as a student support network by providing advocacy, problem resolution, and critical incident intervention for those times when additional assistance is needed. Please call to schedule an appointment to meet with a representative from the Dean's office.

COURSE SCHEDULE

DATE	TOPIC	DUE BY 11:59 PM
R 1/18	Introduction	
M 1/22	Defining Animal Welfare	
R 1/25	Animal Welfare Auditing and Basics of Ethology	
M 1/29	History of Behavior	
R 2/1	Proximate/Ulimate Causes of Behavior	
F 2/2	-	Quiz 1
M 2/5	Selection and Domestication	
R 2/8	Dog Behavior	
F 2/9	-	Evaluation 1
M 2/12	Ethics and Animals	
R 2/15	Cattle Behavior	
F 2/16	-	Quiz 2
M 2/19	Immune System and Sickness Behavior	
R 2/22	Pain and Lameness	
M 2/26	Pig Behavior	
R 2/29	**Farm – Pig Welfare Assessment	
F 3/1	-	Quiz 3
M 3/4	Social Behavior	
R 3/7	Learning and Cognition	
F 3/8	-	Evaluation 2
M 3/11	No Class – Spring Break	
R 3/14	No Class – Spring Break	
M 3/18	Training	
R 3/21	Sensation and Perception	
F 3/22	-	Quiz 4
M 3/25	Neurobiology	
R 3/28	Stress Physiology	
M 4/1	Human Animal Interaction	
R 4/4	Calf Processing	
F 4/5	-	Quiz 5
M 4/8	Horse Behavior	
R 4/11	Feeding Behavior	
F 4/12	-	Evaluation 3
M 4/15	Motivation and Preference	
R 4/18	Measuring Motivation	
F 4/19	-	Quiz 6
Su 4/21	-	Welfare Info Sheet
M 4/22	Cat Behavior	
R 4/25	Poultry Behavior	
F 4/26	-	Quiz 7
M 4/29	Wrap-up	

**This schedule is subject to change