



COURSE SYLLABUS

Fall 2023

ANIMAL ASSISTED THERAPY

11:067:395

THOMPSON HALL 206

MR 10:20 – 11:40 AM

Classes begin **Tuesday, September 5, 2023**, and end on **Friday, December 22, 2023**. The last day to drop this course without a “W” grade is Thursday, September 14, 2023.

Academic Calendar Directory: <https://academicaffairs.rutgers.edu/academic-calendar-directory>

You are advised to retain a copy of this syllabus in your personal files for use when applying for future degrees, certifications, or transfer of credit.

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor: Taylor Ross, PhD

Email: t.ross@rutgers.edu

Office Location: Bartlett 118

Office Hours: By appointment

Communication:

Throughout the semester, I will communicate with you via either **Canvas Announcements** or your **Rutgers email account**. Please review the following link for [Accessing Rutgers Email](#):

<https://canvas.rutgers.edu/documentation/general/accessing-rutgers-email/>

GENERAL COURSE DESCRIPTION

Course Description:

This course will introduce students to the human-animal bond and its relevance in animal-assisted activities and therapies. Information regarding the history and evolution of the human-animal bond, the benefits of this relationship, common uses of animals in therapeutic settings, as well as ethical concerns when working with animals will be covered.

Prerequisites: General Biology 01:119:115-116

Course Modality:

This course is delivered **fully on-campus, with class resources and assignments found online via Canvas**. To access the companion Canvas course site, please visit [Rutgers Canvas](https://canvas.rutgers.edu/) at <https://canvas.rutgers.edu/> and log in using your NetID. For more information about course access and support contact [Canvas Help](#) at <https://canvas.rutgers.edu/canvas-help/>, via email at help@canvas.rutgers.edu, or call 877-361-1134.

MATERIALS**Required Texts:**

None

Additional Course Resources:

A variety of printed and digital content may be provided during the course. Digital content will be found within the **Canvas course site**. There may be additional reading assignments as student interests dictate.

Technology Requirements:

This course may require that you access online resources in the University's Canvas site. Please review the following link for [Canvas Student Resources](#) for assistance on getting started in Canvas:

<https://canvas.rutgers.edu/students/>

Additional Technical Requirements:

Review Rutgers' [Tech Guides](#) at: <https://it.rutgers.edu/technology-guide/>

STUDENT LEARNING OBJECTIVES

By fully participating in this course, you should be able to:

1. Develop an understanding of the human-animal bond, the benefits of a variety of animal-assisted activities, and the procedures utilized for selecting and training an animal for animal-assisted therapy. (PLG 3)
2. Identify and address safety, ethical, and legal concerns of working with animals, as well as discuss the necessary precautions that need to be taken to ensure safety of all those involved. (PLG 3)
3. Demonstrate an understanding of the current research in the field of animal-assisted therapy and the implications for the future of animal-assisted therapy. (PLG 6)

GRADING

Quizzes: There will be 11 quizzes worth 10 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 on Friday.

Final Project: You will have the choice of two project options, developing an AAT research project or visiting an AAT facility and writing about the therapy that happens there. You will write a paper, including pictures or figures, fully describing your project choice and pertinent background from the literature to understand your project that will be due on Canvas by 11:59 pm on December 14th, 2022. A grading rubric and more details will be provided in class and via Canvas.

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 - 11 quizzes (10 pts each, drop lowest)	See course schedule	100
Project	Dec 7	100
Attendance and Participation	In class	100
Total		300

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+	65 - 69
D	60 - 64
F	59 and Below

ACADEMIC POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Attendance Policy:

You are responsible for material covered in any class that you do not attend. If you miss a class, you must contact a classmate or me for the missed information. If you have a situation that might cause you to miss an entire week of class, discuss it with me *as soon as possible*.

Submission Policy:

All work will be submitted on Canvas, unless otherwise discussed in class.

Late Work:

You are expected to turn work in by the due date unless you have made previous arrangements with the instructor. However, I do recognize that life happens sometimes. Late work will be accepted but points

will be deducted. 20% of points will be deducted from the grade for each day (24 hr) past the original due date.

Coursework Difficulties:

Please discuss any issues that you are having in completing the coursework on time with me. I am available to talk this over with you by appointment.

Incomplete Policy:

If you are unable to complete the coursework during the semester due to some catastrophic issue, you must contact me immediately to discuss your alternatives.

Academic Honesty and Plagiarism:

Our purpose in the classroom is to seek the truth; this work requires trust and honesty between teacher and student. If we are not honest about what we know and do not know, our learning will always be impaired. Because our teaching and learning depends on this honest communication, we expect all students to understand what plagiarism is and why it is unacceptable.

Any student considering plagiarism should recognize the consequences and consider alternatives. Students uncertain about what constitutes plagiarism may request help from faculty or from appropriate University services. For information on using sources in writing, see the Identifying and Avoiding Academic Dishonesty section of the Rutgers Academic Integrity web site:

<http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/resources-for-students/>

STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT

Students are required to adhere to the University Student Code of Conduct delineated in the Rutgers Student Affairs website Student Conduct page:

<http://studentconduct.rutgers.edu/student-conduct-processes/university-code-of-student-conduct/#1495568095620-2f5ce77d-17dd>

ACCOMMODATIONS

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 (<https://webapps.rutgers.edu/student-ods/forms/registration>).

STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES

Academic Services:

- For academic support visit Rutgers Academics Student Support at <https://www.rutgers.edu/academics/student-support>
- Any student can obtain tutoring and other help at the Learning Centers on each campus. Check the website at <https://rlc.rutgers.edu/>

- For coaching help with writing skills and assignments visit the Writing Coaching webpage at <https://rlc.rutgers.edu/student-services/writing-coaching>
- Many library resources are available online. Assistance is available through phone, email, and chat. For information, check the Rutgers Libraries website at <https://www.libraries.rutgers.edu/>

Rutgers Student Health Services:

Rutgers Student Health Services is dedicated to health for the whole student body, mind and spirit. It accomplishes this through a staff of qualified clinicians and support staff. Services are available at several locations throughout the New Brunswick-Piscataway area. For more information visit: <http://health.rutgers.edu/>

Veteran Services:

Rutgers is proud to support veterans. If you are a veteran of the armed forces, please visit the Office of Veteran and Military Programs and Services website for more information: <https://veterans.rutgers.edu/>

Student Wellness Services:

Just In Case Web App <http://codu.co/cee05e>

Access helpful mental health information and resources for yourself or a friend in a mental health crisis on your smartphone or tablet and easily contact CAPS or RUPD.

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.

Scarlet Listeners

(732) 247-5555 / <https://rutgers.campuslabs.com/engage/organization/scarletlisteners>

Free and confidential peer counseling and referral hotline, providing a comforting and supportive safe space.

Rutgers Student Health uses NJ Hopeline (1.855.654.6735) and National Suicide Hotline (1.800.273.8255) in addition to CAPS. Just In Case is also not operating.

Other resources that could be helpful:

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/>

TOPICS SCHEDULE

DATE	TOPIC	DUE BY 11:59 PM
R 9/7	Introduction	
F 9/8	-	Quiz 1
M 9/11	Human-Animal Bond	
R 9/14	History of AAT	
F 9/15	-	Quiz 2
M 9/18	Benefits of Working with Animals	
R 9/21	Kids and Animals	
F 9/22	-	Quiz 3
M 9/25	Animals Used in AAT	
R 9/28	**Service Animals – Rebecca Bittner	
M 10/2	Welfare of Animals Used in AAT	
R 10/5	Equine Assisted Activities	
F 10/6	-	Quiz 4
M 10/9	Service Animals	
R 10/12	Selecting Animals to Use in AAT	
F 10/13	-	Quiz 5
M 10/16	Training an AAT Animal	
R 10/19	**Service Dog Organizations visit	
F 10/20	-	Quiz 6
M 10/23	Jobs, Volunteering, & Opportunities to Work in AAT	
R 10/26	**Training for and Working in AAT – Edye Bevington	
M 10/30		
R 11/2	Effects of AAT **Ellen Rankins**	
F 11/3	-	Quiz 7
M 11/6	Working with Veterans	
R 11/9	AAT with Aging Population	
F 11/10	-	Quiz 8
M 11/13	AAT in Palliative Care	
R 11/16	AAT for Psychological Disorders	
F 11/17	-	Quiz 9
M 11/20	Safety, Legal, and Ethical Concerns in AAT	
R 11/23	No Class – Thanksgiving break	
M 11/27	Research in AAT	
R 11/30	Research in AAT	
F 12/1	-	Quiz 10
M 12/4	Final Project Workshop	
R 12/7	Other topics in AAT	Final Project
F 12/8	-	Quiz 11
M 12/11	Wrap-up Day	

schedule is subject to change

Reminder

Be sure to bring a device that can access the internet and Canvas to class each day (computer, tablet, phone, etc.) as in-class activities worth participation points will often not be announced ahead of time.