

## Experimental Approaches to Behavior (Biology 3100:695:007) Fall 2005

**Instructor:** Dr. Todd Blackledge

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Office hours – drop in or make an appointment

**Time & Location (3 credit hours)** M & W 8:30-9:45, room 186

**Course Objectives and Layout:** This class is designed to provide in depth discussion on topics that are directly related to your own research. Our initial meetings will be designed for students to introduce their research topics to the class. We will then select critical ideas from each presentation for further exploration. Throughout the semester we will use the primary literature to explore issues such as hot new hypotheses, experimental techniques, and the foundational studies for a variety of topics in animal behavior that have been selected by you and your peers. These discussions will culminate in the writing of review papers, in manuscript style. As a class, we will peer review these manuscripts. In addition to providing an in depth background on your topics and helpful start to your thesis, these manuscripts may also provide the basis for submissions to peer reviewed journals in the future.

### Texts

PDFs of primary literature will be emailed to participants throughout the semester.

### Approximate grading scale

Your grade will be based upon participation in discussions, and the review manuscript that you write. A tentative grading scale is given below, although it may change to meet the needs of the class.

<u>Work</u>	<u>Points</u>
Discussion participation	Total 30%
General attendance	10%
Quality of discussion	10%
Quality of peer review	10%
Review manuscript	Total 70%
Draft 1	25%
Final draft	45%

### Academic integrity

You are expected to abide by University of Akron's code for academic conduct. As graduate students, you should be aware that plagiarism includes copying not just someone else's words but also their *ideas*. Giving credit where credit is due and properly citing the literature are fundamental to communication in the sciences. So don't just change a few words from someone else's work in the belief that it is now your "own".

**Tentative Schedule** (*May change to accommodate guest presenters & student needs*)

<b>Week</b>	<b>Topic</b>
Aug 29	Introduction
Aug 31	<b>**20 min research presentations – Brian, Chiara, Chris &amp; Jacki,</b>
Sep 5	NO CLASS
Sep 7	Readings and discussion – Chiara, topic selection Chiara & Jacki
Sep 12	Readings and discussion – Chiara, topic selection Joe & Melissa
Sep 14	Readings and discussion – Jacki, topic selection Ben
Sep 19	Readings and discussion – Jacki, topic selection Aaron, Brian & Chris
Sep 21	Readings and discussion – Joe
Sep 26	NO CLASS
Sep 28	NO CLASS
Oct 3	Readings and discussion – Joe
Oct 5	Readings and discussion – Melissa
Oct 10	Readings and discussion – Melissa <b>**Draft of manuscripts are due – Chiara &amp; Jacki</b>
Oct 12	Readings and discussion – Ben
Oct 17	<b>**Peer review sessions for Chiara &amp; Jacki</b>
Oct 19	Readings and discussion – Ben
Oct 24	Readings and discussion – Aaron
Oct 26	Readings and discussion – Aaron <b>**Draft of manuscripts are due – Joe &amp; Melissa</b>
Oct 31	Readings and discussion – Brian
Nov 2	Readings and discussion – Brian
Nov 7	<b>**Peer review sessions for Joe &amp; Melissa</b>
Nov 9	Follow up discussion - Chiara <b>**Draft of manuscripts are due – Aaron &amp; Ben</b>
Nov 14	<b>**Peer review sessions for Aaron &amp; Ben</b>
Nov 16	Follow up discussion - Jacki
Nov 21	Follow up discussion - Joe
Nov 23	NO CLASS
Nov 28	Follow up discussion –Melissa
Nov 30	Follow up discussion – Ben
Dec 5	Follow up discussion - Aaron
Dec 7	<b>**Final review manuscript due for all students</b>

Note: “Topic selection” means that you know the specific concept/hypothesis that you’ll be investigating for your review manuscript. It does not mean that you have to have papers selected for your discussions. *Everyone should see me two weeks in advance of your discussion days* with a selection of some potential papers. I’ll help you decide if they are appropriate.