

UNIV*6030 - Seminars and Analysis in Animal Behaviour and Welfare

Fall 2024 Course Outline

Section: 01

Credits: 0.50

Land Acknowledgement: Guelph

The University of Guelph resides on the ancestral lands of the Attawandaron people and the treaty lands and territory of the Mississaugas of the Credit. We recognize the significance of the Dish with One Spoon Covenant to this land and offer respect to our Anishinaabe, Haudenosaunee and Métis neighbours. Today, this gathering place is home to many First Nations, Inuit, and Métis peoples and acknowledging them reminds us of our important connection to this land where we work and learn.

Calendar Description

This seminar-based course offers an interdisciplinary forum for the discussion of broad topics in animal welfare and human-animal relationships. Students analyze topics presented by visiting guest lecturers using perspectives from various disciplines such as animal science, philosophy, history, psychology, ethics, and biology.

Department(s): Department of Animal Biosciences

Course Description

This course will allow students the opportunity to engage in interactive discussions with researchers who work either directly or indirectly on animal welfare issues. Students are required to attend six seminars, open to the university community (advertised through the Campbell Centre for the Study of Animal Welfare, CCSAW) in the months of Sept, Oct, Nov/Dec, Jan, Feb, Mar. Following each seminar, students will meet with the speaker to discuss the information presented, as well as other research in the general area. One week prior to each seminar, the class will meet to discuss the seminar topic – this will include reading related research papers in advance, and then discussing them as a group to prepare related comments and questions for the speaker.

This is a two-term course so students must be registered and attend during both F24 and W25 to complete the course requirements. Some seminar speakers will be joining remotely, so interactive course components for these sessions will be completed using remote, synchronous delivery via Zoom or Teams. The remaining sessions will be in-person. If a student is unable to attend an in-person component due to illness they will be given the opportunity to join and participate remotely. Due to the interactive nature of this course, class discussions will NOT be recorded for later viewing and students are expected to attend all sessions or to make alternate arrangements with the instructors.

Lecture Schedule

Wed 2:30pm-4:20pm in MCKN*059 (9/5 to 12/13)

Instructor Information

Courtney Graham

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Learning Resources

Required Resources

Course link (Website) (<https://courselink.uoguelph.ca/>) The UNIV*6030 CourseLink site may be reached via the University website.

Research articles, reviews and book chapters will be assigned by the seminar speakers, and provided to students by the course instructor via CourseLink.

Course Resources

When necessary video-conferencing will take place via Zoom or Teams, and additional communication will take place via CourseLink.

For further information on downloading and using Zoom please check the OpenEd resources - <https://support.opened.uoguelph.ca/students/courselink/tools/content/zoom>

For further information on downloading and using Teams please see - <https://uoguelphca.sharepoint.com/sites/ccs/SitePages/services/office365teams.aspx>

Also, check your system requirements to ensure you will be able to participate: <https://opened.uoguelph.ca/student-resources/system-and-software-requirements>

Campus Resources

If you are concerned about any aspect of your academic program: Make an appointment with a Program Counsellor (<https://www.uoguelph.ca/uaic/programcounsellors/>) in your degree program. If you are struggling to succeed academically: There are numerous academic resources offered by the Learning Commons (<https://www.lib.uoguelph.ca/using-library/spaces/learning-commons/>) including, Supported Learning Groups for a variety of courses, workshops related to time management, taking multiple choice exams, and general study skills.

Course Learning Outcomes

1. Critically evaluate a variety of different approaches to the study of animal behaviour and welfare.
2. Facilitate and actively engage in academic discussions on topics related to animal behaviour and welfare.
3. Apply concepts learned during seminars and discussions to develop novel perspectives on animal welfare.

Schedule of Topics and Assignments

Week of	Topic	Activities	Due
9/11	Introduction	Review Course Outline Discussion on critical analysis of research articles	Review Course Outline before class
9/18	September Seminar Prep	Assess assigned readings and submit critical analysis prior to discussion	Critical Analysis #1 due Sept 18 by 2:30pm
9/25	September Seminar & Speaker Discussion	Dr. Carolina Maciel "Dissecting Animal Law: Identifying Differences and Key Features" 12:30-1:30pm September 25th	Speaker questions due Sept 23 by noon
10/2	September Seminar Paper due		Paper #1 due Oct 2 by 11:59pm
10/16	October Seminar prep	Assess assigned readings and submit critical analysis prior to discussion	Critical Analysis #2 due Oct 16 by 2:30pm
10/23	October Seminar and Speaker Discussion	Dr. Emily Miller-Cushon "Considering social behavior to improve dairy calf welfare" 12:30-1:30pm October 23rd	Speaker questions due Oct 21 by noon
10/30	October Seminar Paper due		Paper #2 due Oct 30th by 11:59pm
11/20	November Seminar Prep	Assess assigned readings and submit critical analysis prior to discussion	Critical Analysis #3 due Nov 20 by 2:30pm
11/27	November Seminar & Speaker Discussion	Dr. Jamie Dallaire "Building a rugged pig: determinants of robustness with respect to animal welfare". 12:30-1:30pm November 27th	Speaker questions due Nov 25 by noon
12/4	November Seminar Paper due		Paper #3 due Dec 4 by 11:59pm
12/11	**	The schedule for W25 is TBD and will be provided once available	**

Teaching and Learning Activities

Monthly Activities

Seminar: Students will attend one seminar each month for September, October, November, January, February, and March. Seminars will be held on a Wednesday from 12:30-1:20pm as per the timetable provided in this outline.

Seminar Preparation Meetings: In the week prior to each seminar students will meet on Wednesdays from 2:30-4:20 to discuss the upcoming topic and develop a list of areas for discussion with the speaker. Students will be provided with 3-4 related background articles to read in advance, and are expected to come to class prepared to actively participate and share their perspectives on the material.

Speaker Discussions: Students will be responsible for leading the discussions with the speaker on Wednesdays from 2:30-4:20 on the afternoon of the seminar. During these sessions, one student will act as the facilitator, and the others will focus on leading different aspects of the discussion, with specific roles depending on the topic of the session.

Assessment Breakdown

Description	Weighting (%)	Due Date
Research article critiques (6 total)	12% (2% each)	Before the start of each seminar preparation meeting
Seminar papers (5 total)	50% (10% each)	1 week after the seminar
Contribution to seminar questions	8%	Questions finalized for review by noon on the Monday before seminar
Participation in seminar prep meetings	20%	N/A
Participation in speaker discussions	10%	N/A

Assessment Details

Assignment

Research Article Critiques

12%

In preparation for each Seminar, students will complete a written critique of one of the original research papers related to the speaker's topic. The critique should include a summary of the main components of the article (objectives, hypotheses, methods, main findings conclusions), and an assessment of the main strengths and the weaknesses of article (in terms of the significance of the work, the novelty and soundness of the approach that was used, acknowledgement of significant limitations, the authors conclusions about the work, etc.). The aim of this assignment is to ensure that students are prepared for in-class discussions, so it must be handed in prior to the beginning of the relevant class and late submissions will not be accepted. You will be graded on the quality of your ideas rather than your writing style, so point form is fine as long as we can understand what your main points are. Further information on expectations for this assessment will be provided in class.

Course Learning Outcomes Assessed: 1

Seminar Papers

50%

Students will prepare short written papers for five of the speakers that highlight key areas of interest from the seminars. Each paper should be approximately 2-3 pages long (1.5 spacing, 12-point font, Times New Roman). If appropriate, please back up your ideas for #3 and 4 with references from the literature and/or figures/tables detailing your design etc. References, figures and tables are not included in the 2-3 page limit.

Topics to be included in each paper include:

1. Summarize the rationale and main objectives for the research, and the key findings and take-home messages of the seminar.
2. Highlight one approach or finding that you found particularly interesting, and explain why it is interesting to you personally and of importance more broadly to the field of animal welfare science or to society.
3. Highlight one aspect of the research that you feel is flawed or could have been done better. Clearly explain the issue, and how it might have influenced the results.

4. Propose an alternative experimental approach to address the issue identified in #3. Clearly explain how your changes are likely to improve the results, and highlight any other issues that this change might introduce (e.g., thinking about practicality, new confounds, etc). No experiment is perfect, and quite often it is a matter of balancing different issues for the best possible outcome.

Course Learning Outcomes Assessed: 1, 3

Seminar Questions

8%

In preparation for each post-seminar meeting with the speaker, students will develop a set of questions that will act as a guide for discussion. Students will contribute to development, review, and editing of the questions on a OneDrive file, finalizing their contributions by the following Monday at noon. The instructor will review the questions and provide comments and suggestions by 5pm on Tuesday and students will further refine the questions for the discussion on Wednesday. Individual contributions will be assessed by the instructor from tracking in the OneDrive files.

Course Learning Outcomes Assessed: 1, 2

Discussion

Seminar Prep Sessions

20%

Students are expected to read the assigned papers in advance and actively contribute to preparation discussions aimed at understanding the general ideas and the research approaches and findings described.

Course Learning Outcomes Assessed: 1, 2

Speaker Discussions

10%

Students are expected to actively contribute to discussions either as a facilitator or a discussion participant. The facilitator will invite the speaker and the participants to introduce themselves and guide the discussion through a series of previously developed topics. The discussion participants will use the question guide to start conversations on the various topics, and will also develop relevant follow-up questions based on the seminar and on the discussion with the speaker. Further guidance on expectations will be discussed in class.

Course Learning Outcomes Assessed: 1, 2

Last Day to Drop Course

The final day to drop Fall 2024 courses without academic penalty is the last day of classes: November 29

After this date, a mark will be recorded, whether course work is completed or not (a zero is assigned for missed tests/assignments). This mark will show on the student's transcript and will be calculated into their average.

Course Grading Policies

Submission of Assignments

Research article critiques and Seminar papers are to be submitted via Dropbox on CourseLink.

Seminar questions will be added to shared course document on OneDrive to be provided by the instructor.

Late Assignment

Research article critiques will not be accepted after the deadline since they are intended to ensure students are prepared for the discussion session.

Seminar questions will be graded based on materials produced prior to the relevant speaker discussion. Questions provided after the discussion will not be considered.

If an extension on a Seminar paper is required please reach out to the instructor to discuss alternative arrangements. Unless special permission has been provided, all outstanding Seminar papers are due by December 15 at 11:59pm for F24 seminars, and by April 6th at 11:59pm for W25 seminars. Papers submitted after this extended deadline will not be graded.

Course Standard Statements

Course Policies

Attendance Requirements: Students are expected to attend all of the monthly seminars and actively participate in each of the associated seminar prep and speaker discussion sessions. If participation for a particular session cannot be completed due to extenuating medical, psychological or compassionate circumstances please contact the instructor to make alternate arrangements (e.g., re-weighting the value of course assignments, an alternate assignment, remote participation via Zoom or Teams).

Use of Generative AI tools: Use of ChatGPT and other Generative AI tools for completion of course requirements is prohibited unless explicitly approved by the instructor. Students who use ChatGPT and similar tools without permission, or who use them in improper ways, are violating the academic integrity rules of the University.

Standard Statements for Graduate Courses

Academic Integrity

The University of Guelph is committed to upholding the highest standards of academic integrity and it is the responsibility of all members of the University community – faculty, staff, and students – to be aware of what constitutes academic misconduct and to do as much as possible to prevent academic offences from occurring. University of Guelph students have the responsibility of abiding by the University's policy on academic misconduct regardless of their location of study; faculty, staff and students have the responsibility of supporting an environment that discourages misconduct. Students need to remain aware that instructors have access to and the right to use electronic and other means of detection.

Please note: Whether or not a student intended to commit academic misconduct is not relevant for a finding of guilt. Hurried or careless submission of assignments does not excuse students from responsibility for verifying the academic integrity of their work before submitting it. Students who are in any doubt as to whether an action on their part could be construed as an academic offence should consult with a faculty member or faculty advisor.

The Academic Misconduct Policy (<https://calendar.uoguelph.ca/graduate-calendar/general-regulations/academic-misconduct/>) is outlined in the Graduate Calendar.

Accessibility

The University promotes the full participation of students who experience disabilities in their academic programs. To that end, the provision of academic accommodation is a shared responsibility between the University and the student.

When accommodations are needed, the student is required to first register with Student Accessibility Services (SAS). Documentation to substantiate the existence of a disability is required; however, interim accommodations may be possible while that process is underway.

Use of the SAS Exam Centre requires students to make a booking at least 10 business days in advance, and no later than the first business day in November, March or July as appropriate for the semester. Similarly, new or changed accommodations for online quizzes, tests and exams must be approved at least a week ahead of time. For students at the Guelph campus, information can be found on the SAS website. (<https://www.uoguelph.ca/sas/>)

Accommodation of Religious Obligations

If you are unable to meet an in-course requirement due to religious obligations, please email the course instructor within two weeks of the start of the semester to make alternate arrangements.

See the Academic calendar for information on regulations and procedures for Academic Accommodation of Religious Obligations (<https://calendar.uoguelph.ca/graduate-calendar/general-regulations/academic-accommodation-religious-obligations/>)

Copies of Out-of-class Assignments

Keep paper and/or other reliable back-up copies of all out-of-class assignments: you may be asked to resubmit work at any time.

Drop Date

Courses that are one semester long must be dropped by the end of the last day of classes; two-semester courses must be dropped by the last day of classes in the second semester. The regulations and procedures for Dropping Courses (<https://calendar.uoguelph.ca/graduate-calendar/general-regulations/registration/>) dropping courses are available in the Graduate Calendar (<https://calendar.uoguelph.ca/graduate-calendar/general-regulations/registration/>).

Email Communication

As per university regulations, all students are required to check their <uoguelph.ca> e-mail account regularly. e-mail is the official route of communication between the University and its students.

Health and Wellbeing

The University of Guelph provides a wide range of health and wellbeing services at the Vaccarino Centre for Student Wellness (<https://wellness.uoguelph.ca/>). If you are concerned about your mental health and not sure where to start, connect with a Student Wellness Navigator (<https://wellness.uoguelph.ca/navigators/>) who can help develop a plan to manage and support your mental health or check out our mental wellbeing resources. (<https://wellness.uoguelph.ca/shine-this-year/>) The Student Wellness team are here to help and welcome the opportunity to connect with you.

Illness

Medical notes will not normally be required for singular instances of academic consideration, although students may be required to provide supporting documentation for multiple missed assessments or when involving a large part of a course (e.g., final exam or major assignment).

Recording of Materials

Presentations that are made in relation to course work—including lectures—cannot be recorded or copied without the permission of the presenter, whether the instructor, a student, or guest lecturer. Material recorded with permission is restricted to use for that course unless further permission is granted.

Resources

The Academic Calendars (<http://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/?index>) are the source of information about the University of Guelph's procedures, policies and regulations which apply to undergraduate, graduate and diploma programs.

When You Cannot Meet a Course Requirement

When you find yourself unable to meet an in-course requirement because of illness or compassionate reasons, please advise the course instructor (or designated person, such as a teaching assistant) in writing, with your name, id#, and e-mail contact. See the Graduate Calendar for information on regulations and procedures for Academic Consideration (<https://calendar.uoguelph.ca/graduate-calendar/general-regulations/grounds-academic-consideration/>).