9.20 Animal Behavior

Term Evaluated: Fall 2010  
Response Rate: 6 responses out of 41 students  

Recommended Pre-requisites: Most agreed that none were necessary  

Motivation for taking the course: Many took it as a major requirement and because it fit into their schedule. Some students were also particularly interested in animals or interested in becoming vets. One liked that it both counted for course 9 and was a HASS.

Everyone agreed that the material was very interesting, but some felt that the way it was presented in this course was not as engaging as it could be. One person complained that Prof. Schneider’s voice was too monotone, and another that it wasn’t taught at a high enough level. One student said it provided a really useful framework for analyzing behaviors and their evolutionary roots.

Students agreed that if you do the readings and go to lecture, you will be able to do well. Pop quizzes mean that you have to keep up with the class, but grades on the exams and end-of-term presentation can be bolstered with extra credit assignments.

Best things about the course:
- The content is really interesting  
- Prof. Schneider is really passionate about the material and willing to stay after class to answer questions  
- Videos during lecture

Worst things about the course:
- The lectures could be boring and difficult to hear  
- The material was presented too slowly and often just reiterated material from the readings
**The Readings:** Most agreed that they were necessary and most enjoyed doing them

**Grading:** Everyone agreed that the grading was fair

He speaks in a monotone voice and very quietly, but is really passionate about the material – just ask him about his hamsters. His lectures were well-organized, but one student felt that he wasn't very good at answering questions.

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**What future students should know about this course:**
- It’s unlike any other class in course 9, which is refreshing
- Doing the readings are a must
- Definitely take it if you’re interested in animals, and still consider it if you’re not
- Prof. Schneider’s lecturing style might be a stumbling block, but the material is well worth it