



ANSC*4010 Animal Welfare Judging and Evaluation

Fall 2021

Section(s): C01

Department of Animal Biosciences

Credit Weight: 0.50

Version 1.00 - September 07, 2021

1 Course Details

1.1 Calendar Description

This course provides senior level students with a structured opportunity to practice assessing animal welfare using scientific evidence. Students learn to present their evaluations in a logical and persuasive manner. They learn general criteria and approaches used to assess welfare and then apply that knowledge for assessment of four different species in practical settings.

Pre-Requisites: 15.00 credits including ANSC*1210, ANSC*3080
Co-Requisites: ANSC*3090 or ANSC*4090

1.2 Course Description

This course provides senior-level students a structured opportunity to practice assessing animal welfare using scientific evidence. Students learn to present their evaluations in a logical and persuasive manner. They learn general criteria and approaches used to assess welfare and then apply that knowledge for assessment of four different species in practical settings.

The Fall 2021 offering of this course will primarily focus on assessing the welfare of the following animals / scenarios: Breeding sows and boars facility, Psittacines as pets, Cats in a research setting.

1.3 Timetable

The class meets weekly on Wednesday evenings from 17:30 to 20:20 h. To try and keep everyone safe, given the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic some or all teaching may be moved on-line and be virtual and may include prerecorded materials.

Location: Room 1715 Lifetime Learning Centre

COVID-19 Disclaimer: please be aware that the information on course delivery, accessibility and examinations presented in this outline were developed based on current University guidelines. However, due to the continuously evolving situation and resulting changes in public health recommendations, the format and delivery of this course may be revised with limited notice.

1.4 Final Exam

There is no final exam scheduled for this course.

2 Instructional Support

2.1 Instructional Support Team

Instructor: Dr. Tina Widowski, PhD
Email: twidowsk@uoguelph.ca
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Office: Room 246, Animal Biosciences & Nutrition Building
Office Hours: By appointment.

Instructor: Dr. Derek Haley, PhD
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Instructor: Dr. Ian Duncan, PhD
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Office Hours: By appointment.

3 Learning Resources

3.1 Required Resources

Required readings for the Quiz are posted on Courselink. (Article)

3.2 Recommended Resources

Highly recommended resources (Other)

- **Animal Welfare, 3rd Edition**, 2017. Edited by Michael Appleby & Anna Olsson.

Published by Centre for Agriculture and Biosciences International (CABI), 402 pages: <https://www.cabi.org/openresources/90202/>. Previous editions of the same text are also acceptable.

- The generally accepted practices for the care and handling of animal agricultural animals in Canada are published in the form of species-specific **Codes of Practice**, available through the National Farm Animal Care Council (NFACC): <http://www.nfacc.ca/codes-of-practice>
- Scientific research studies about animal welfare are published in **the journal Applied Animal Behaviour Science**: (<https://www.sciencedirect.com/journal/applied-animal-behaviour-science>), and **the journal Animal Welfare** (<http://www.ingentaconnect.com/content/ufaw/aw>).

Other sector-specific journals also have sections dedicated to animal care and welfare research including, but not limited to, Journal of Animal Science, Journal of Dairy Science, and Journal of Poultry Science.

4 Learning Outcomes

4.1 Course Learning Outcomes

By the end of this course, you should be able to:

1. Increase the breadth and depth of your knowledge of animal welfare science
 2. Develop skills needed to assess the welfare of a variety of different animals kept in a variety of different settings
 3. Practice ethical reasoning
 4. Practice working with others, as a team
 5. Apply objective assessment of animal welfare on the basis of scientific theory and data
 6. Exercise critical thinking
 7. Master your oral communication skills
 8. Practice writing reasons arising from your assessments, in a clear and concise manner
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5 Teaching and Learning Activities

5.1 Lecture

Wed, Sep 15

Topics:

Class 1:

- Introduction to the course; overview of activities, assessments, and requirements
- What is animal welfare and how do we measure it?
- Practice scenarios with an emphasis on relevancy of content

Wed, Sep 22

Topics:

Class 2:

- Measuring animal welfare (continued)
- Human-animal interactions and animal responses
- Conceptual frameworks for judging animal welfare
- Practice scenarios with an emphasis on blending science and ethics

Wed, Sep 29

Topics:

Class 3:

- **Quiz (in-class)**
- Developing an argument (reasons) that is logical and easy to follow, using language tailored to your audience
- Practice scenarios with an emphasis on organization and terminology

Wed, Oct 6

Topics:

Class 4:

- Making sure your argument is based on "true facts"!
- How to back up your points using data
- Practice scenarios with an emphasis on accuracy and use of references

Test Scenario 1 handed out at the end of class**Wed, Oct 13****Topics:**

Class 5:

- **ORAL REASONS FOR TEST SCENARIO 1 (Presented individually to instructors in class)**
- **WRITTEN REASONS for TEST SCENARIO 1 (due in class)**

Wed, Oct 20**Topics:**

Class 6:

- Refining your reasons using a balance of information
- Identifying and acknowledging the "good points" and "bad points" in every scenario
- Practice scenarios with an emphasis on grants and presentation style

Wed, Oct 27**Topics:**

Class 7:

- **Group presentations:** welfare issues and indicators for individual species (breeding sows and boars,

psittacines, laboratory cats)

Wed, Nov 3

Topics:

Class 8:

- It's all in the timing - preparation and delivery ***under pressure***
- Practice scenarios using timed exercises and with an emphasis on presentation timing

Team assessments (group visits to the on-campus abattoir) will be scheduled during this week

Wed, Nov 10

Topics:

Class 9:

- **Team assessment: presentations**

Wed, Nov 17

Topics:

Class 10:

- Animal welfare audits and assessments for assurance and certification

Wed, Nov 24

Topics:

Class 11:

- **ORAL REASONS FOR TEST SCENARIO 2 (scenario will be viewed in class)**

Wed, Dec 1

Topics:

Class 12:

- **WRITTEN REASONS FOR TEST SCENARIO 2 - DUE IN CLASS**
- **Experiential learning exercise**
- Course wrap-up

5.2 Field trips

If the University of Guelph guidelines regarding COVID-19 permit, there will be field trips arranged to visit facilities housing animals relevant to the course content. Any cost of these trips will be minimal, if any. Where possible, we will also arrange for a limited number of guest speakers with specific experience and expertise, to present to the class.

6 Assessments

6.1 Assessment Details

Quiz on course material presented to date (5%)

Due: Wed, Sep 29

Learning Outcome: 1, 2

Multiple choice, True/false, short-answer questions.

Written reasons for test scenario 1 (based on a take-home scenario) (10%)

Due: Wed, Oct 13

Learning Outcome: 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 8

A referenced report based on the evaluation of a scenario provided to students for assessment on their own, at home. Two-page maximum for the text with an additional page allowed for scientific references. Further details about the assignment will be provided in class.

Oral reasons for test scenario 1 (based on a take-home scenario) (10%)

Due: Wed, Oct 13

Learning Outcome: 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7

A 3-minute spoken presentation by each individual student to the course instructors providing reasons for their assessment of a scenario provided to them ahead of time, and assessed on their own, at home. Further details about the assignment will be provided in class.

Group presentation - Key welfare issues of the focus species / scenarios (20%)

Due: Wed, Oct 27

Learning Outcome: 1, 2, 4, 6, 7

A 30-minute (maximum) spoken group presentation given to the whole class based on the key welfare issues and related science and standards of the focus species (1 species/group). All group members must present and please use PowerPoint slides and other visual aids to improve the effectiveness of your presentation. Further details about the assignment will be provided in class.

Group presentation - Team assessment of live animals and facilities (20%)**Due:** Wed, Nov 10**Learning Outcome:** 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7

A 10-minute (maximum) spoken group presentation given to the instructors based on a live animal and facility assessment completed during the week prior to the due date. Further details about the assignment will be provided in class.

Oral reasons for test scenario 2 (in class) (15%)**Date:** Wed, Nov 24**Learning Outcome:** 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7

A 3-minute spoken presentation by each individual student to the course instructors providing reasons for their assessment of a scenario provided to them and assessed in class. Further details about the assignment will be provided in class.

Written reasons for test scenario 2 (in class) (15%)**Due:** Wed, Dec 1**Learning Outcome:** 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 8

A referenced report based on the evaluation of a scenario provided to students for assessment on their own, in class. Two-page maximum for the text with an additional page allowed for scientific references. Similar to test scenario 1, however, further details about the assignment will be provided in class.

Experiential learning exercise (5%)**Due:** Wed, Dec 1**Learning Outcome:** 3, 6

Self-assessment

7 Course Statements

7.1 Course Policy on Group Work:

Teams of 3, 4 or 5 students will present oral reasons for the boar stud facility assessment. Every student in a team must contribute something to the presentation but not necessarily an equal amount. All students in a team will receive the same grade for this presentation.

7.2 Grading Policies:

All oral presentations will be graded by at least two of the three course Instructors.

7.3 Course Policy regarding use of electronic devices and recording of lectures:

Electronic devices may be used to record all lectures and recordings may be shared amongst class members.

7.4 Compliance with Covid-19 Safety Protocols

Please note that pandemic restrictions in place at the time of each lecture / lab must be followed by everyone according to the guidelines provided by the University and the local

public health unit. The pandemic is a community problem and we all need to actively participate in a community solution. Restrictions may include but not be limited to a vaccination requirement, proper use of appropriate PPE, hand sanitation, social distancing and other measures. Failure to comply with restrictions that are in place at the time of the lecture / lab could result in the immediate cancelation of that lecture / lab. Students would still be responsible for learning the material that was to be covered in that lecture / lab regardless of the cancelation.

8 University Statements

8.1 Email Communication

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

8.2 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. The grounds for Academic Consideration are detailed in the Undergraduate and Graduate Calendars.

Undergraduate Calendar - Academic Consideration and Appeals

<https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/undergraduate/current/c08/c08-ac.shtml>

Graduate Calendar - Grounds for Academic Consideration

<https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/graduate/current/genreg/index.shtml>

Associate Diploma Calendar - Academic Consideration, Appeals and Petitions

<https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/diploma/current/index.shtml>

8.3 Drop Date

Students will have until the last day of classes to drop courses without academic penalty. The deadline to drop two-semester courses will be the last day of classes in the second semester. This applies to all students (undergraduate, graduate and diploma) except for Doctor of Veterinary Medicine and Associate Diploma in Veterinary Technology (conventional and alternative delivery) students. The regulations and procedures for course registration are available in their respective Academic Calendars.

Undergraduate Calendar - Dropping Courses

<https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/undergraduate/current/c08/c08-drop.shtml>

Graduate Calendar - Registration Changes

<https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/graduate/current/genreg/genreg-reg-regchg.shtml>

Associate Diploma Calendar - Dropping Courses

<https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/diploma/current/c08/c08-drop.shtml>

8.4 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.

8.5 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.

Accommodations are available for both permanent and temporary disabilities. It should be noted that common illnesses such as a cold or the flu do not constitute a disability.

Use of the SAS Exam Centre requires students to book their exams at least 7 days in advance and not later than the 40th Class Day.

For Guelph students, information can be found on the SAS website
<https://www.uoguelph.ca/sas>

For Ridgetown students, information can be found on the Ridgetown SAS website
<https://www.ridgetownc.com/services/accessibilityservices.cfm>

8.6 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 encourages academic integrity. 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.

Undergraduate Calendar - Academic Misconduct
<https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/undergraduate/current/c08/c08-amisconduct.shtml>

Graduate Calendar - Academic Misconduct

<https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/graduate/current/genreg/index.shtml>

8.7 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.

8.8 Resources

The Academic Calendars are the source of information about the University of Guelph's procedures, policies, and regulations that apply to undergraduate, graduate, and diploma programs.

Academic Calendars

<https://www.uoguelph.ca/academics/calendars>

8.9 Disclaimer

Please note that the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic may necessitate a revision of the format of course offerings, changes in classroom protocols, and academic schedules. Any such changes will be announced via CourseLink and/or class email.

This includes on-campus scheduling during the semester, mid-terms and final examination schedules. All University-wide decisions will be posted on the COVID-19 website (<https://news.uoguelph.ca/2019-novel-coronavirus-information/>) and circulated by email.

8.10 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).

8.11 Covid-19 Safety Protocols

For information on current safety protocols, follow these links:

- <https://news.uoguelph.ca/return-to-campus/how-u-of-g-is-preparing-for-your-safe-return/>
- <https://news.uoguelph.ca/return-to-campus/spaces/#ClassroomSpaces>

Please note, these guidelines may be updated as required in response to evolving University, Public Health or government directives.
