I. **TITLE:**
Behavior Modification Techniques for Domestic Animals

II. **CATALOG DESCRIPTION:**
This course is designed to introduce students to techniques of behavior modification and the importance of behavior problem prevention in domestic animals. Basic understanding of normal behavior, principles of learning, and application of various behavior modification techniques will be explored.

Prerequisite: AGR 310

III. **PURPOSE:**
To familiarize students with behavior modification techniques so they can apply this knowledge in the veterinary field.

IV. **COURSE OBJECTIVES:**
A. To develop an understanding of animal learning processes
B. To recognize normal and abnormal behavior in various species
C. To prepare students to use behavior modification techniques in their approach to behavior problems in the veterinary field
D. To instill an awareness of behavior problem prevention techniques
E. To impart the confidence and necessary skill sets to effectively employ various training methods

V. **CONTENT OUTLINE:**
A. Normal Behavior Patterns in Domestic Animals
B. Principles of Animal Learning
C. Various Training Techniques
D. Clicker Training Exercises
E. Introduction to Behavior Modification
F. Preventing Behavior Problems
G. Importance of Pet Selection Counseling and Human-Animal Bond

VI. **INSTRUCTIONAL ACTIVITIES:**
This course is designed mainly as a lecture course. However, demonstrations and group learning projects using live animals will be employed when necessary so students can see how various training techniques work.
VII. **FIELD, CLINICAL, AND/OR LABORATORY EXPERIENCES:**

None

VII. **RESOURCES:**

Lecture notes can be found on Blackboard. Students will be responsible for printing and bringing the appropriate material before each lecture class. Students will also be responsible for buying a clicker and bringing it to class.

IX. **GRADING PROCEDURES:**

Grading procedures will be based on 2 exams, a midterm and final, 2 projects, and homework assignments.

A. **Exams**
   1. Midterm – 30%
   2. Final – 30%

B. **Projects**
   1. Project # 1 – 15%
   2. Project # 2 – 15%

C. **Homework Assignments** – 10%

Grading Scale:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Score Range</th>
<th>Grade</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>90 – 100</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>80 – 89</td>
<td>B</td>
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<tr>
<td>70 – 79</td>
<td>C</td>
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<tr>
<td>60 – 69</td>
<td>D</td>
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<tr>
<td>Below 60</td>
<td>E</td>
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X. **ATTENDANCE POLICY:**

Please refer to the most current copy of the *Murray State University’s Undergraduate Bulletin.*

Any student missing more than 3 classes total, whether excused or unexcused, during the semester that this course meets will lose one letter grade from his/her overall cumulative grade. A student missing more than 4 or 5 classes will lose 2 or 3 letter grades respectively from his/her final grade. Anyone missing more than 6 classes in the semester will automatically be awarded an E or failing grade.

* There will be absolutely no make-ups for exams and projects missed during absences without a physician’s statement. If an absence is known in advance, students may be able to make arrangements to complete the work ahead of time. Attendance is expected and a schedule of exams/projects will be located on Blackboard. If a student misses class, he or she is solely responsible for obtaining any information missed for exam purposes.
XI. **ACADEMIC HONESTY POLICY:**
(Adopted by the MSU Board of Regents)
Cheating, plagiarism (submitting another person’s material as one’s own), or doing work for another person which will receive academic credit are all impermissible. This includes the use of unauthorized books, notebooks, or other sources in order to secure or give help during an examination, the unauthorized copying of examinations, assignments, reports, term papers, or the presentation on unacknowledged material as if it were the student’s own work. Disciplinary action may be taken beyond the academic discipline administered by the faculty member who teaches the course in which the cheating took place.

NOTE: The School of Agriculture Faculty have adopted and implemented an Academic Honesty Policy (that can be found on-line at [http://www.murraystate.edu/agr/](http://www.murraystate.edu/agr/)) in addition to the University Honesty Policy, which can be found in the current *University Undergraduate Bulletin*. The policy sets guidelines regarding acts of dishonesty and the procedure to follow should an event occur. It is each Agriculture student’s responsibility to obtain and read a copy of this document. The School’s Academic Honesty Policy can be obtained by asking for a copy from any Agriculture Faculty member or the Secretary.

XII. **TEXT AND REFERENCES:**


XIII. **PREREQUISITES:**

AGR 310

XIV. **STATEMENT OF AFFIRMATIVE ACTION AND EQUAL OPPORTUNITY:**

Murray State University endorses the intent of all federal and state laws created to prohibit discrimination. Murray State University does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, religion, age, veteran status, or disability in employment, admissions, or the provision of services and provides, upon request, reasonable accommodation including auxiliary aids and services necessary to afford individuals with disabilities equal access to participate in all programs and activities. For more information, contact Sabrina Y. Dial, Director of Equal Opportunity, Murray State University, 103 Wells Hall, Murray, KY 42071-3318. Telephone: 270-809-3155 (voice), 270-809-3361 (TDD).
XV. **MSU SCHOOL OF AGRICULTURE CELL PHONE POLICY**

The School of Agriculture recognizes that in today’s world cell phones are a familiar and often necessary form of communication for students.

It shall be the policy of the School that no cell phone usage shall be allowed in class and/or labs without the prior consent of the course instructor. This shall include verbal calling, incoming calls, email, text messaging, and use of cell phone calculators on tests and quizzes.

Cell phones must be kept on vibrate and out of sight and use (i.e. secured to a person’s belt or kept in a bag or purse away from desks and lab counters).

Should a student’s cell phone be visible, ring, or other form of unauthorized usage that is interruptive to the class or lab, the student may be asked to leave class and not return for that class/lab period.

Upon prior consent of the instructor, a student may obtain permission to use their phone in case of an emergency or in critical family situations.

This policy also includes pagers and other electronic equipment such as blackberries and/or computers/laptops.