

 **Sample Course Syllabus**

Oregon State University
Introduction to Animal Assisted Activities/Therapy
Syllabus - Fall 2010
PSY 499 (ecampus) 4 credits

Instructor

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Course Textbooks

Delta Society. (1996). *Animal Assisted Therapy: Therapeutic Interventions*. Author.
Delta Society. (2006). *Standards of Practice for Animal Assisted Activities/Therapy*.
Author.

Additional article(s) may be required.

Course Description

This course provides an introduction to animal assisted activities/therapy (aaa/t). The history of the field will be discussed, continuing into current standards and practices. The therapeutic application of aaa/t will be reviewed with different species, populations, and settings including therapeutic interventions.

Course Purpose

This course will assist students in developing their knowledge and understanding of major concepts and guidelines related to animal assisted activities/therapy (aaa/t). Topics considered include understanding aaa/t and why it is important in the field of psychology and becoming familiar with the empirical literature on the subject. The application of the field will be discussed, including current trends, and the use of different animal species within a variety of populations.

Course Objectives

The student will:

1. Define and explain the nature and purpose of animal assisted activities/therapy (aaa/t).
2. Be familiar with a variety of terminologies found in the field of aaa/t, including the difference between animal assisted activities and animal assisted therapy.
3. Be knowledgeable about the use of aaa/t therapeutic interventions.
4. Discuss the history of aaa/t continuing to current guidelines and standards of practice.
5. Discuss the use of different animal species in aaa/t.
6. Display knowledge of the use of aaa/t with different populations and locations.
7. Appraise the strengths and weaknesses of aaa/t.
8. Summarize the literature related to a selected topic within aaa/t.

9. Demonstrate his or her knowledge and understanding of aaa/t through participation of online discussion board posts and responses.
10. Be familiar with the operations of aaa/t programs.

Assignments

1. Mid term #1: The online quiz will only be available during a certain time period and for a specific amount of time. If you have a time discrepancy, please contact the instructor immediately to make arrangements for this. This takes place at the end of Week 5.
2. Mid term #2: Animal Assisted Therapy: Therapeutic Interventions. This is accessed online and covers only this manual. The online quiz will only be available during a certain time period and for a specific amount of time. If you have a time discrepancy, please contact the instructor immediately to make arrangements for this. This takes place at the beginning of Week 11.
3. Participation: Students will receive participation points for engaging in online discussions based on weekly topics. You are required to make three posts or responses to the weekly online forums. Your posts are due by Friday. You can receive up to 3 points per week. If your posts or responses are made by the deadline, but do not show thoughtful engagement of the material you may receive less points per post/response. If you do not meet the deadline, you will not receive points. A thoughtful post/response will show that you have read the material and question, and are contributing something new to the discussion. This is going to take more than just a couple sentences to do this. You may make more posts/responses if you wish, and many students will do this as you become engaged in the material.
4. Response Papers: **You are required to find 2 journal articles on the topic of animal assisted therapy, and write a short response paper for each.** If you have any trouble finding one, or want clarification on the article you've found, just contact me. The posted articles for required reading in class cannot be used for this assignment.
 - The first paper should include a summary of the article, classify the animal species, populations and settings it works in, as well as how it relates to the aaa/t standards of practice book. You should also include the results of the article, including strengths/weaknesses and your opinion on its effectiveness within the aaa/t field.
 - The second paper should include a summary of the article; classify the animal species, populations and settings it works in, as well as how it relates to the therapeutic techniques book. You should also include the results of the article, including strengths/weaknesses and your opinion on its effectiveness within the aaa/t field.

- These need to be done in APA format, just 2-3 pages in length (not including references page) and should reference the article read and the aaa/t book you are relating it to. Your first response paper is due at the end of Week 4, and your second one is due at the end of Week 9.
5. Final Program Paper: This is a review of an aaa/t program. You are required to find an aaa/t program, and do a summary of its operations and site interview. If you cannot find a local program, you can find one by searching online. There are many programs located throughout the US and in other countries. You can find a lot of information online and can correspond through email for the interview. As you will learn aaa/t programs are very broad in nature. An example of a program might be the use of a dog in a local library program for improving children's attention spans and reading levels. You may find aaa/t in nursing homes, residential facilities, classrooms, libraries, zoos/aquariums, mental health facilities, hospitals, hospice care units, prisons, children's programs, etc. **In order to complete this paper on time, you should locate a site and person available to correspond with as soon as possible!** More requirements on the final program paper expectations will be posted in the online classroom. This paper is due Week 10. You will be reading and referring to your second Delta Society Manual called AAT: Standards of Practice to write this paper.

Note the articles listed below can all be found at the back of the manual entitled "Therapeutic Interventions". The only ones that you will access online and is provided for you is during week one and week ten. These articles cannot be used for your response papers. You must find different articles than the ones required for the class schedule. Be prepared to discuss required readings in the online forums.

Class Schedule TBA

<u>Date</u>	<u>Assignment (Due this week) + posts/responses</u>
Week One	Syllabus, Therapeutic: in healthcare professions. Article reading posted online.
Week Two	Therapeutic: in the team approach to treatment Article: "Therapeutic horseback riding and self-concept in adolescents with special educational needs".
Week Three	Therapeutic: within mental health. Article: "Loneliness: A Health Hazard of Modern Times".
Week Four	Therapeutic: within occupational therapy. Article: "Effectiveness of an animal assisted therapy program in an inpatient psychiatric unit". Response Paper #1 Due

Week Five	Therapeutic: within therapeutic recreation. Article: “How some kids gain success, self-esteem with animals”. Online Mid-Term #1 Due
Week Six	Therapeutic: within nursing. Article: “Animal-Assisted Therapy in the Intensive Care Unit”.
Week Seven	Therapeutic: within speech and language. Article: “Clinical Notes: Animal assisted enhancement of speech therapy: A case study”.
Week Eight	Therapeutic: within physical therapy. Article reading posted online.
Week Nine	Therapeutic: within education. Article: “Pets at School”. Response Paper #2 Due
Week Ten	Therapeutic: in the service of stress management. Article “Coping with Life Changes & Transitions: The Role of Pets”. Final Paper Due
Week Eleven	Online Mid-Term #2 Due

Class Expectations and Requirements:

Mid term #1	40 pts
Mid term #2	40 pts
Participation (Discussion Board)	30 pts
Response Papers (2 X 10)	20 pts
Final Program Paper	<u>40 pts</u>
Total	170 pts

Grades based on percentage of total points earned.

Policy on late work: Late work to be lowered 10% per day overdue.

Special needs addressed on request.

All Student Handbook policies apply to class requirements and activities.

I reserve the right to make adjustments to this syllabus at my discretion.

Plagiarism

You are expected to submit your own work in all your assignments, postings to the discussion board, and other communications, and to clearly give credit to the work of others when you use it. Academic dishonesty will result in a grade of “F.” Link to Statement of Expectations for Student Conduct:
<http://oregonstate.edu/admin/stucon/achon.htm>.

Students with Disabilities

Accommodations are collaborative efforts between students, faculty and [Disability and Access Services \(DAS\)](#). Students with accommodations approved through DAS are responsible for contacting the faculty member in charge of the course prior to or during the first week of the term to discuss accommodations. Students who believe they are eligible for accommodations but who have not yet obtained approval through DAS should contact DAS immediately at 541-737-4098.

Course Evaluation

We encourage you to engage in the course evaluation process each term – online, of course. The evaluation form will be available toward the end of each term, and you will be sent instructions by Ecampus. You will login to “Student Online Services” to respond to the online questionnaire. The results on the form are anonymous and are not tabulated until after grades are posted.