

# ANSC\*6740 - Special Topics in Applied Animal Welfare Science

## Winter 2025 Course Outline

**Section: 01**

**Credits: 0.50**

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## 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

A lecture/seminar course covering in depth topics in applied animal welfare science. The course will review the scientific research into the welfare of a specific animal species or a specific animal welfare problem common across species, focusing on the main threats to welfare, relevant indicators of welfare, and possible solutions to improve welfare.

**Department(s):** Department of Animal Biosciences

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## Course Description

This graduate course offers an introduction to poultry welfare. It reviews the scientific literature on the welfare of domestic birds. Real farm visits and hands-on experience will be used to compare and assess bird welfare, teaching students about relevant indicators of poultry welfare and possible solutions to improve domestic bird welfare.

## Lecture Schedule

This course will be delivered intensively over 5 days within a 2-week period. The instructor will use class emails and the Class CourseLink site to post detailed information about course events, requirements, and grades. Dates will be coordinated with students, farmers, and industry representatives based on their availability and any farm restrictions (e.g., avian influenza). This may require extending the 5-day intensive period beyond 2 weeks.

During this period, contact time will include lectures, discussions, and welfare assessments. Following lectures, students will be provided with 1-2 hours to read a paper, after which they will break off into small discussion groups. Alternatively, following the lecture, students will be presented with a video or field trip presenting a welfare issue and break out into small groups to evaluate the problem and propose solutions.

At the end of this intensive class period, students will write a short report on a specific animal welfare issue and its solution. This review will be due and presented to the class at the end of the semester (the time and schedule will be determined based on the availability of the students, farmers, and industry representatives).

## Instructor Information

**Dr. Alexandra Harlander**

Email: [aharland@uoguelph.ca](mailto:aharland@uoguelph.ca)

Office: ANNU 247

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## Learning Resources

### Course Resources

Readings/Course material available on Courselink

## 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.

## Cost of Textbooks and Learning Resources

No costs for textbooks or learning resources.

## Course Level Learning Outcomes

1. introduce students to poultry welfare
2. identify bird welfare issues associated with farming and why they are important
3. identify how to use relevant information technology to access and analyze literature
4. teach students to evaluate relevant research and identify research knowledge gaps
5. use peer discussion to cultivate critical thought amongst students to solve real-world on-farm bird welfare problems

## Field Trip Fees

For those courses in the Department of Animal Biosciences that have a field trip component - an associated fee for each field trip in the amount of \$20 will apply. Further details on how these fees will be collected will be provided in class/on CourseLink, along with a waiver form that will need to be completed prior to the trip(s).

## Assessment Breakdown

Description	Weighting (%)	
Contribution to Group Work/Discussions - In Class/on field trips	70%	
Short review of a specific poultry welfare issue & solution	15%	
Presentation of that poultry welfare issue to the class	15%	

## Grading Schemes

### Contribution to Group Work/Discussions - in class/on field trips (70%)

Date: on-going through course

Learning Outcome: 1, 2, 5

### Short review of a specific poultry welfare issue & topic (15%)

Date: Date and Time TBA

Learning Outcome: 3, 4

### Presentation of the poultry welfare issue to the class (15%)

Date: Date and Time TBA

Learning Outcome: 3, 4, 5

## Last Day to Drop Course

The final day to drop Winter 2025 courses without academic penalty is the last day of classes: April 04

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, Late Assignments

*If you choose to submit assignments to the instructor late, the full allocated mark will be reduced by 10% per day after the deadlines for submission, up to a maximum of 5 days.*

## 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/>).