

## BIOLOGY 472: Animal Behavior

Experience: Zoo Study. Lab groups will work with members of the Pt. Defiance Zoo & Aquarium's Enrichment Committee to develop and conduct a novel research project. You will gain direct experience collecting, analyzing and interpreting behavioral data and the zoo staff will gain important information that may influence future management decisions.

### Learning Objectives:

- Conduct novel, rigorous and meaningful research that could influence management decision by the zoo staff
- Gain better understanding of environmental Enrichment and the importance of zoo's enrichment efforts
- Effective collaboration
- Understand various approaches to collecting behavioral data and their relative strengths and weaknesses
- Gain direct experience collecting behavioral data
- Gain direct experience analyzing and interpreting real (and messy) data
- Learn how to make an effective poster presentation (including practical skills with Excel and PowerPoint)
- Learn how to develop an effective oral presentation
- Communicate new information to zoo staff

### Reflection Questions:

I ask that you take a few moments to reflect on your experience with the zoo study.

1. What surprised you most about designing and executing the zoo study project?
2. What challenges, if any, did you encounter during this project? What did you do to resolve them?
3. What were the most satisfying parts of this project? Why?
4. What specific skills did you gain or refine as a researcher by participating in this project?
5. If you could take this class again, what would you change about your experience working at the zoo?
6. How might this experience have impacted your choice to pursue a career in animal behavior or related field?
7. Choose one or two topics learned in class and explain how you applied them to the research project at the zoo and/or describe something you learned at the zoo that wasn't included in the classroom curriculum.