

9.20

Classes #1: Introduction.

Wednesday, Sept 7

Questions based on lecture:

1. What two species of animal were primarily involved in spreading bubonic plague (the black plague) in medieval Europe? What animals were often blamed?
2. What were the hobbies of the two amateurs, one American man and one British man, whose discoveries in the early part of the twentieth century led to the establishment of ethology as a science within European zoology? What did they, independently, discover?
3. Contrast the attitudes of scientists in mid-twentieth century America with those in Europe towards the study of animal behavior.
4. Edward O. Wilson, a professor at Harvard University, coined a word for a field of behavioral study in the title of a 1975 book – a monumental synthesis that generated much controversy. What is the word?
5. How is animal behavior viewed by “behavioral ecologists”?
6. Contrast “mammalogy” and “mammalian ethology”.
7. Describe one encounter you have had with an animal or group of animals (non-human), an encounter that you found particularly interesting or thought-provoking.