

**Psychology 306 A: Animal Behaviour**  
**Fall 2015 MWF 9:00-9:50am BUCH A103**

**Instructor:**

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**Office Hours\*\*\***

Wednesdays 4-5pm  
& by appointment

\*\*\* *If you have questions, I would like to help you in person. I will only use email to schedule in-person meetings.*

**Teaching Assistant:**

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**Office Hours\*\*\***

Tuesdays 4-5pm  
& by appointment

\*\*\* *If you have questions, please see the TA in person. The TA will only use email to schedule in-person meetings.*

**Course Material:**

**Required:**

- Animal Behavior, 9<sup>th</sup> edition or higher, By John Alcock. The book will be available at the UBC Bookstore or Amazon. The eBook is also fine. One copy is on reserve at Koerner Library.
- The Selfish Gene, By Richard Dawkins. Preferably the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary edition.
- Selected articles and viewing/listening material will be posted on our Connect website (<http://connect.ubc.ca>) in the *Course Content* section. PowerPoints will be posted on Connect. If you would like to go over a particular class/PowerPoint, please contact either your TA or me.

**Course Overview:**

There are no prerequisites for this class. This course covers the scientific study of behavior. Topics will include: development of behavior, evolution of behavior, and physiology of behavior. This course is also designed to encourage critical and independent thinking, as well as improve written and oral communication. Questions and discussion are encouraged throughout the lectures.

\*\*\* **Please arrive to lecture on time. Late arrivals are disruptive.**

\*\*\* **All students who plan on using laptops and tablets must sit in the back 3 rows of the classroom as to not distract those behind them. No exceptions.** *If you want to surf the internet (e.g., Facebook, Netflix, Reddit, etc...) and not pay attention while in class, that is your decision as you are an adult, but I suggest staying at home...you would be more comfortable and you wouldn't be a distraction to others.*

\*\*\* **Turn off and put away your phone during lectures and exams. Come to lectures to listen, think, and actively participate.**

### **Course Assessments:**

**1. Quizzes:** On Mondays or Fridays throughout the semester a pop quiz may be administered. Each quiz will cover material from the lessons since the last quiz and should not take more than 10 minutes. There will be 4 quizzes in total. Missed quizzes may not be made up unless you have a valid reason for missing it (see below). Each quiz will be worth 3.33% of your final grade, and your lowest grade will be dropped. Quizzes will consist of several multiple-choice questions.

**2. In Class Exam:** There will be 2 exams throughout the semester. Each exam will cover the material from the lessons since the previous exam. The final exam will be cumulative, but with strong emphasis on the second half of the course. You will get one full class period (50 minutes) to complete each exam. The midterm exam will be worth 30% of your final grade and your final will be worth 40%. They will contain short answer, long answer, multiple choice, or fill-in-the-blank questions. The emphasis is on critical thinking, analysis of experimental design, interpretation of data, and proposing new experiments. Each question will specify how much it is worth within the exam. Students can view their marked exams with their TA or professor. The exam remains the property of the university. Regrade requests must be made in writing to the professor. The professor reserves the right to regrade the entire exam (not just a particular question), which means that your grade could go down upon regrading.

### **3. Written assignments:**

The format MUST be as follows:

- No more than 3 pages double-spaced
- Times New Roman, 12 point
- 1-inch margins all around.

Papers that do not follow these rules will lose points. This is important to maintain consistency across the class. We will not read past the 2<sup>nd</sup> page if the format is not followed.

We will provide a fictitious scenario wherein you encounter an unknown animal species. You must elaborate on the most pronounced behaviour; state your hypothesis on how this behaviour has evolved and its purpose. You will then propose a study to determine if your hypothesis is viable, which will be considered your methods section. Describe your results and discuss if your results have supported your hypothesis. In the discussion relate your organisms' behaviour to well-characterized behaviours of known animals by searching scientific research articles on similar behaviours. You may want to start by researching these behaviours in your books and then find specific research articles through the UBC library before you begin writing. To access some articles in the UBC Library, you must use a UBC network or VPN from home. The following are useful websites for literature searches:

- 1) PubMed - <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/sites/entrez?otool=icaubclib>
- 2) Google Scholar - <http://scholar.google.ca/>

- 3) Jstor - <http://www.jstor.org/>
- 4) Web of Science – <http://www.webofknowledge.com>

Your paper MUST include the following aspects (grading scheme):

- **Describe the behavior** of interest and elaborate. (10 pts)
- **State your hypothesis** on the importance of the behaviour and **describe the methods** you would use to test the hypothesis. (10 pts)
- **Describe the results** of your experiment and **provide a conclusion** about these results. (10 pts)
- **Propose a follow-up study** to your experiment to further understand the organisms' behaviour. (5 pts)
- **Provide 3 to 5 references** supporting your conclusion and cite them in the conclusion section of the paper. They must be from a *peer-reviewed journal* article and they must be relevant to your organism. (4 pts)
- **Create a reference page** for the papers you cited. Must be in APA format. This reference page does not count towards your total page count. (1 pt)

<i>Assessment</i>	<i>Points</i>
Description of behavior	10
Hypothesis and methods	10
Results and conclusion	10
Follow up study	5
References (3 to 5; relevance and formatting)	5
Grammar, clarity, and organization	10
<b>Total</b>	<b>50</b>

Other guidelines and suggestions:

- Papers that break the format rules (line spacing, margins, font size) will lose up to 2 pts.
- Make an outline before you start writing. Your first draft should be longer than your final version (don't submit this to me; for your use only). Cut it to no more than 3 pages for the final version. Use subheadings and paragraphs.
- **This paper is to be original work done independently.** If you have any questions as to whether or not what you are doing is even a borderline case of plagiarism or academic misconduct, ask the instructor.

**\*\*\*Submit your paper by the end of class on November 13<sup>th</sup>. No late papers will be accepted without a doctor's note. You can submit the paper early.**

**Course Grades:**

Your quizzes and exams will be averaged according to the percentages (weights) shown below. Your grades will be posted on Connect under the *My Grades* section. Please check grades periodically, as there can be input errors. As long as there were no input errors grades *will not* be changed after the semester has ended. Final grades will be scaled as shown below:

<i>Assessment</i>	<i>Weight</i>
Total quiz points converted to percentage	10%
Total midterm exam points converted to a percent	30%
Total final exam points converted to a percent	40%
Total points on the written assignment converted to percent	20%

**Other considerations:**

- *Department of Psychology policy for 300- and 400-level courses. Averages will be 66-70% with a standard deviation of 13%. Grades are not official until they appear on your academic record.*
- *No Extra Credit.* Your final grade is composed of your exams, papers, and quiz grades and that is it.
- *Attendance.* Attendance will not be taken, although students who come to class are more likely to better on quizzes and exams.
- *Please come to office hours if you do poorly on any exam or feel like you need extra help or you just want to talk. **I am happy to help and am here to make sure that you learn and understand the material.***

**Accommodations For Persons With Disabilities**

If you experience difficulty in this course for any reason, please don't hesitate to consult with me. In addition to the resources of the department, a wide range of services are available to support you in your efforts to meet the course requirements. The University of British Columbia provides upon request appropriate academic accommodations for qualified students with disabilities. If you qualify for accommodations because of a disability, please notify me in a timely manner so that we can make arrangements to address your needs.

**Academic integrity**

Cheating, plagiarism, and other forms of academic misconduct are very serious concerns, and the Department of Psychology at the University of British Columbia has taken steps to alleviate them. First, the Department has implemented software that can reliably detect cheating on multiple-choice exams by analyzing the patterns of students' responses. Second, the Department subscribes to TurnItIn, a service designed to detect plagiarism. All materials that students submit will be scanned and compared to over 4.5 billion pages of content located on the Internet or in TurnItIn's own databases. The results are compiled into customized "Originality Reports" containing several sensitive measures of plagiarism; instructors receive copies of these reports for every student in their class. Google and Google Scholar can also readily detect plagiarism.

In all cases of suspected academic misconduct, the parties involved will be pursued to the fullest extent dictated by the guidelines of the University. Strong evidence of cheating or plagiarism may result in a zero credit for the work in question. The President of UBC has the right to impose harsher penalties including (but not limited to) a failing grade for the course, suspension from the University, cancellation of scholarships, or a notation added

to a student's transcript.

**Missed quizzes/exams due to Religious Holidays:**

Religious holy days sometimes conflict with class and examination schedules. If you miss a work assignment or other project due to the observance of a religious holy day you will be given an opportunity to complete the work missed within a reasonable time after the absence. It is the policy of the University of British Columbia that you must notify each of your instructors at least fourteen days prior to the classes scheduled on dates you will be absent to observe a religious holy day.

See <http://students.ubc.ca/enrolment/exams/exam-policies> for more information.

**Policy on missed tests and extensions:**

- Make-up tests will only be given for validated medical reasons, without exception.
- If you miss an exam, you must email the professor within 24 hours of the exam.
- If you submit medical documentation make sure it contains the statement, "This student was unable to write the test on (date) for medical reasons."
- You are advised to see your physician within one day of the missed test. Many physicians will not provide documentation retroactively.
- All medical excuses must be personally presented to the professor as soon as you are able to return to class for a make-up exam to be scheduled.
- Make-up exams will consist of an oral exam in front of the professor and the TA.

**In the event of an emergency**

Occupants of buildings on The University of British Columbia campus are required to evacuate buildings when a fire alarm is activated. Alarm activation or announcement requires exiting and assembling outside.

Familiarize yourself with all exit doors of each classroom and building you may occupy. Remember that the nearest exit door may not be the one you used when entering the building.

Students requiring assistance in evacuation shall inform their instructor in writing during the first week of class.

In the event of an evacuation, follow the instruction of faculty or class instructors. Do not re-enter a building unless given instructions by the following: Vancouver Fire Department, The University of British Columbia Police Department, or Fire Prevention Services office. Link to information regarding emergency evacuation routes and emergency procedures can be found at: <https://www.ubc.ca/emergency/>

### Calendar:

Following are the topics to be covered and the readings that students are expected to be doing, whether or not the material is explicitly addressed in class. Students should keep up with the readings from all sources. Topics and assignment due dates are subject to change

Dates	Week	Topic	Alcock	Dawkins	Due/Exams
9/9	1	Course introduction	pp. 3-13, 293-298		
9/11		Evolution and behaviour I	299-308	Ch. 1 and 2	
9/14	2	Evolution and behaviour II	308-321	Ch. 4	
9/16		Development of behaviour I	323-336		
9/18		Development of behaviour II	337-341		
9/21	3	Development of behaviour III	341-357		
9/23		Neuroscience of behaviour I	359-363		
9/25		Neuroscience of behaviour II	363-384		
9/28	4	Neuroscience of behaviour III	none		
9/30		Neuroendocrinology I	391-401		
10/2		Neuroendocrinology II	401-409		
10/5	5	Neuroendocrinology III	409-420		
10/7		Behav adaptations for survival I	101-115		
10/9		Behav adaptations for survival II	115-124		
10/12	6	NO CLASS – THANKSGIVING DAY			
10/14		Feeding behaviour I	124-137		
10/16		Feeding behaviour II	29-37		
10/19	7	In class review for midterms			
10/21		<b>EXAM I</b>			<b>EXAM I</b>
10/23		Choosing where to live I	139-141, 152-169		
10/25	8	Choosing where to live II	142-152		
10/27		Reproductive behaviours I	171-181		
10/29		Reproductive behaviours II	181-200		
11/2	9	Reproductive behaviours III	200-215		<b>Submit Paper</b>
11/4		Mating Systems I	217-230	Ch. 9	
11/6		Mating Systems II	230-241		
11/9	10	Mating Systems III	241-255		
11/11		NO CLASS – REMEMBERANCE DAY			
11/13		Parental Care I	257-269		Ch. 7 and 8

<b>Dates</b>	<b>Week</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Alcock</b>	<b>Dawkins</b>	<b>Due/Exams</b>
11/16	<i>11</i>	Parental Care II	270-291		
11/18		Communication I	67-70, 77-80		
11/20		Communication II	70-77, 86-88	Ch. 11	
11/23	<i>12</i>	Sociobiology I	43-65		
11/25		Sociobiology II	15-29, 37-41		
11/27		Human behaviour I	none		
11/30	<i>13</i>	Human behaviour II	432-441		
12/2		Human behaviour III (final info)	441-455		
12/4		Conclusions	none		
12/8	<i>14</i>	FINAL EXAMS BEGIN			

**A final note:**

Information about academic regulations, course withdrawal dates and credits can be found in the University Calendar. If you need information about studying, note taking or time management, then free workshops and advice are available from the Student Resources Centre.

Though not foreseeable, any changes or deviations from this syllabus (e.g. order in which topics are covered) will be announced in class.