

PSYC 306A – Animal Behaviour

Syllabus: Winter 2017

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

| Instructor | Email | Office Hours |
|---|--|----------------|
| Dr. Tamara Bodnar Post-doctoral fellow (Faculty of Medicine) | tamara.bodnar@ubc.ca | By appointment |

GENERAL INFORMATION

| | |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| Class Tuesday/Thursday: 11 – 12:30 | Mathematics 100 |
| Teaching Assistant: Samantha Baglot | Office Hours: By appointment |
| | s.baglot@alumni.ubc.ca |

COURSE MATERIALS

Textbooks: Principles of Animal Behavior (Third Edition) by Lee Alan Dugatkin
ISBN: 978-0-393-92045-1

The Selfish Gene by Richard Dawkins
ISBN: 978-0198788607

iClicker REEF subscription (w/ mobile device or laptop)

Connect: Lecture PowerPoint slides will be posted before class
Supplementary readings will be posted

Lecture PowerPoint slides will be missing details that you will be expected to fill in during class time (e.g. answers to discussion questions). As a result, in order to do well in the course, you will need to attend class. If you miss a class, do your best to obtain notes from a friend. Exams will test knowledge of the material presented in class. Textbooks are optional and you may choose to reference a different animal behaviour book, if you prefer. It is strongly recommended that you purchase/rent/borrow a textbook for reference throughout the course. Occasionally, require readings (published articles, podcasts, book excerpts) will be assigned to supplement lecture content and to facilitate discussions.

COURSE OVERVIEW

This course covers the scientific study of behavior across a wide range of animal species. Information will be presented within the context of evolution and the genetic underpinnings of behaviour. Lectures will cover key topics and will present examples across a range of organisms including humans. Throughout this course key principles of the scientific method will be introduced, discussed, and related to animal behaviour experiments. This course is designed to encourage critical and independent thinking, promote discussion, and improve written and oral communication.

CLASS EXPECTATIONS

| Student Expectations | Instructor Expectations |
|---|---|
| a. Be active and participate in class (i.e. in small group discussion, quizzes, etc). | a. Be active and enthusiastic to facilitate student learning. |
| b. Listen and respect others | b. Listen and respect students' views |
| c. Complete all assignments individually and to the best of your ability | d. Accommodate differences in students' learning and mark objectively, consistently, and in a timely manner |
| d. Limit cell phone / computer use to course-specific activities | e. Limit cell phone / computer use to course-specific activities |
| e. Be punctual for all classes | f. Be in class at least 5 minutes before and after class |
| f. Discuss class concerns either after class or during office hours | g. Respond swiftly and effectively to student concerns by email or in person |
| g. Be prepared for class by reviewing assigned readings and/or lecture slides | h. Be prepared for class (post lecture slides before class). |
| h. Meet with the instructor if you are having difficulties in the course | i. Be available to meet with students and prepare strategies to facilitate success in the course |

SUGGESTED "READING" LIST

A weekly "reading" list will be posted on connect. This will consist of suggested textbook sections and published articles, as well as additional media (e.g. videos, podcasts) designed to supplement the lecture content and facilitate discussions.

COURSE ASSESSMENTS

| Assessment | Possible Weight | Due Date |
|------------------|-----------------|---------------------------|
| In class quizzes | 5 – 15% | Weekly |
| Midterm exam | 15 – 35% | October 17 th |
| Term paper | 15 – 35% | November 16 th |
| Final exam | 30 – 60% | TBD (cumulative) |

IN CLASS QUIZZES

We will have weekly in-class quizzes using iClicker Cloud (no iClicker device required). Please follow the directions posted on Connect to setup your iClicker Cloud account.

Weekly iClicker quizzes will cover content from the previous week. As we will be using iClicker cloud, which will require a mobile device or computer, I ask that you complete this quiz honestly and without the aid of online materials. Any student caught accessing the internet or other materials will receive a score of zero.

The individual quiz will be followed by a group quiz (group of 5 – 6 students). Questions will be the same as the individual quiz. Your quiz mark will comprise both the individual quiz (80%) and the group quiz (20%).

Note: The iClicker Cloud will also be used regularly in class to assess content understanding and to encourage participation (not for marks).

MIDTERM AND FINAL EXAM

The midterm exam (Tuesday, Oct. 17, 2017) will cover all material prior to the date of the exam. You are expected to know the material presented in class lectures. Weekly “reading” material is designed to supplement course material, fill gaps in knowledge (for students lacking background in the various topics) and will not be tested directly. Content from the weekly “reading” material presented and discussed in class will be examinable.

The format of the examinations will be multiple choice and short answer/essays. The final examination will have the same format. The final exam (date TBD) will be cumulative, including material both from before and after the midterm exam.

TERM PAPER

The term paper is due on Thursday, Nov. 16, 2017 at 8 pm by email or submit a hardcopy in class (Nov 16th). As technical difficulties can happen at the worst times, please plan to submit at least a few hours before the deadline. Technical issues will not be considered a valid excuse for a late submission (see policy on extensions and late submissions below).

Details regarding the requirements for this assignment are posted on Connect. Office hours will be scheduled during which time you will have the opportunity to ask questions and have preliminary drafts reviewed.

UBC provides writing support and other resources to assist with the term paper process. Visit the Learning Commons to set up an appointment with a Peer Writing Consultant:

<http://learningcommons.ubc.ca/tutoring-studying/writing/>

Finally, if you have struggled with term papers in the past (e.g. time management, writing style etc.) and would like to setup an appointment to discuss strategies for completing the assignment, please do so early in the term.

POLICY ON MISSED QUIZZES, EXAMS, EXTENSIONS AND LATE SUBMISSIONS

Quizzes: If you are absent during the weekly quiz, you will receive a mark of zero. To accommodate minor illnesses and other course conflicts, your lowest quiz mark will be dropped without requiring reporting your absence to the instructor. Please make class attendance a priority, as requests to omit additional quizzes will not be granted. If you are present for all quizzes, you will have the advantage of dropping your lowest mark.

Midterm & Final Exams: Make-up exams will only be provided for valid medical reasons, without exception. If you miss an exam, you must email the instructor within 24 hr of the exam and you must submit valid medical documentation in order to re-take the exam at a later date.

Make-up exams will consist of an oral exam in front of the instructor and the TA.

Paper: Paper extensions will not be granted. Late submissions will receive a 15% penalty, per day, without exceptions.

OFFICE HOURS

Office hours will be scheduled by appointment.

Office hours are designed to help you with course content, develop study strategies, assist with term paper writing etc. Please do not hesitate to make an appointment. If you are experiencing difficulties in the course, contact us early. Scheduling an appointment immediately prior to the exam or term paper deadline will likely not be productive. If you receive a failing grade on the midterm or term paper, you are required to set up an appointment to discuss your progress in the course.

Please email Samantha (s.baglot@alumni.ubc.ca) to schedule an appointment, providing details as to nature of your request (e.g. term paper assistance, course content questions, study strategies etc.). Samantha will either set up an appointment or forward your request to me.

General office hours will take place in the Life Sciences West Atrium (2350 Health Sciences Mall). If you need to schedule a confidential meeting, please mention this in your email, and a different meeting location will be provided.

Set office hours have been scheduled prior to the midterm, for midterm review, and for term paper review. Final exam office hours will be posted once the exam schedule is released.

Tentative*:

| Office Hours | Details | Location | Instructor |
|-------------------------------------|---|----------|------------|
| *Friday, October 13 th | Available to answer questions prior to midterm exam | TBD | TB, SB |
| *Tuesday, October 24 th | Midterm viewing: review of graded midterms | TBD | TB, SB |
| *Thursday, October 5 th | Term paper questions/draft review | TBD | SB |
| *Thursday, November 2 nd | Term paper questions/draft review | TBD | SB |
| TBD | Available to answer questions prior to final exam | TBD | TB, SB |

*: Please check back for revised dates/time (based on class availability) to be posted on connect.

COURSE SCHEDULE

| Class | Date | Topic | Instructor | Other |
|-------|------------------|---|------------|-------------------------------------|
| -- | <i>T</i> Sept. 5 | <i>No Class (UBC Imagine Day)</i> | -- | |
| 1 | Th Sept. 7 | Syllabus & Course Introduction | TB | |
| 2 | T Sept. 12 | Principles of Animal Behaviour | TB | |
| 3 | Th Sept. 14 | The Evolution of Behaviour I | TB | |
| 4 | T Sept. 19 | The Evolution of Behaviour II | TB | |
| 5 | Th Sept. 21 | Molecular Genetics & Development | TB | |
| 6 | T Sept. 26 | Hormones & Neurobiology: Focus on Stress | TB | |
| 7 | Th Sept. 28 | Neurobiology of Fear | TB | |
| 8 | T Oct. 3 | Learning & Memory | TB | |
| 9 | Th Oct. 5 | Sickness Behaviour | TB | Office Hours: Term Paper Help |
| 10 | T Oct. 10 | Oxytocin: A Model Endocrine System Underlying Behaviour | SB | |
| 11 | Th Oct. 12 | Review Session | TB, SB | |
| 12 | T Oct. 17 | Midterm Exam | -- | |
| 13 | Th Oct. 19 | Aggression | | |
| 14 | T Oct. 24 | Feeding Behaviour | Guest: DT | Office hours: review graded midterm |
| 15 | Th Oct. 26 | Pain: Evolutionary & Behavioural Role | TB | |
| 16 | T Oct. 31 | Primate Behaviour | TB | |
| 17 | Th Nov. 2 | Sexual Selection | TB | Office Hours: Term Paper Help |
| 18 | T Nov. 7 | Reproductive Behaviour & Mating Systems | TB | |
| 19 | <i>Th</i> Nov. 9 | <i>No Class (Society for Neuroscience)</i> | -- | |
| 20 | <i>T</i> Nov. 14 | <i>No Class (Society for Neuroscience)</i> | -- | |
| 21 | Th Nov. 16 | Microbiome Influences on Behaviour | TB | Term Paper Deadline |
| 22 | T Nov. 21 | Behavioural Plasticity | TB | |
| 23 | Th Nov. 23 | Abnormal Animal Behaviour | TB | |
| 24 | T Nov. 28 | Special Topics | TB | |
| 25 | Th Nov. 30 | Review Session | TB, SB | |

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

PSYCHOLOGY DEPARTMENT'S POSITION ON ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT

Cheating, plagiarism, and other forms of academic misconduct are very serious concerns of the University, and the Department of Psychology has taken steps to alleviate them. In the first place, the Department has implemented software that can reliably detect cheating on multiple-choice exams by analyzing the patterns of students' responses. In addition, the Department subscribes to TurnItIn.com – a service designed to detect plagiarism. All materials that students submit for grading will be scanned and compared to over 4.5 billion pages of content located on the Internet or in TurnItIn's own proprietary databases. The results of these comparisons are compiled into customized "Originality Reports" containing several sensitive measures of plagiarism; instructors receive copies of these reports for every student in their class. 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. According to the University Act (section 61), 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.

All graded work in this course, unless otherwise specified, is to be original work done independently by individuals. If you have any questions as to whether or not what you are doing is even a borderline case of academic misconduct, please consult your instructor. For details on pertinent University policies and procedures, please see Chapter 5 in the UBC Calendar (<http://students.ubc.ca/calendar>) and read the University's Policy 69 (available at <http://www.universitycounsel.ubc.ca/policies/policy69.html>).

PSYCHOLOGY DEPARTMENT'S POLICY ON GRADE DISTRIBUTION AND SCALING

Faculties, departments and schools reserve the right to scale grades in order to maintain equity among sections and conformity to university, faculty, department or school norms. Students should therefore note that an unofficial grade given by an instructor might be changed by the faculty, department or school. Grades are not official until they appear on a student's academic record.

In order to reduce grade inflation and maintain equity across multiple course sections, all psychology courses are required to comply with departmental norms regarding grade distributions. According to departmental norms, the course average will be 66-70% with a standard deviation of 13%. Scaling is likely to be used in order to comply with these norms; grades may be scaled up or down as necessary by the professor or department. Grades are not official until they appear on your academic record.

AUDIO/VIDEO RECORDING POLICY

Students may request permission to record any lectures or other formal teaching sessions. All such requests should be made in writing (including by email) prior to the lecture course or equivalent, to the instructor. The decision on whether to grant permission is at the discretion of the instructor; recording a lecture also requires the observation of privacy guidelines and regulations for students in the class whose presence or statements might also be recorded. Students may only record lectures where the instructor for the session has given their consent prior to the start of the lecture in writing (e.g. by email), and students may not make recordings of lectures unless this consent has been given. Retrospective requests are not permissible under this policy and covert recording of lectures will be treated as a disciplinary offence. Recordings of lectures or other formal teaching sessions may only be made for the personal and private use of the student. As such, students may not publish such recordings in any form (this includes, but is not limited to, the internet and hard copy publication). Students creating unauthorized recording violate an instructor's intellectual property rights and the Canadian Copyright Act and will be subject to disciplinary actions.