**Psychology 306 A: Principles of Animal Behaviour**

2018/2019 Winter Term I

**When:** TTh, 9:30-11:00 am  
**Where:** LSC 1003

**Instructor:** Daniel Tobiansky, Ph.D.  
Office: Koerner S255  
E-mail: djtobiansky@psych.ubc.ca

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

**Office Hours***

By appointment

**Teaching Assistant:** Jackson Schumacher  
Office: Koerner S144  
E-mail: schumacher@psych.ubc.ca

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

**Office Hours***

To be announced in class  
& by appointment

**Course Material:**

**Required:**

- The Selfish Gene, By Richard Dawkins. Preferably the 30th anniversary edition or newer. Though we won’t cover (and thus you won’t be tested on) all chapters in the book and won’t cover them in a sequential manner, I would suggest you read the book in its entirety and sequentially to get the full scope of the argument made by Dawkins. You are not required to do this.

- Selected readings posted on Connect. These will be short essays or book excerpts from psychologists and biologists. I will post them one (1) week before the class that we are scheduled to go over them.

**Suggested:**

- Animal Behavior, 2nd edition, By Shawn Nordell and Thomas Valone. The book will be available at the UBC Bookstore or Amazon. The eBook is also fine.

- PowerPoint slides (lecture notes) will be posted on our Connect website (http://connect.ubc.ca) in the Course Content section. Slides will be available online before the lecture. Print out the slides so you can take notes on them during lecture. The slides will be missing critical information that will be tested on the exams. Missing information will be provided during lectures, so attend all the lectures. Selected articles and viewing/listening material will also be posted here. 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. A precursory knowledge of biology is suggested. 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.
*** Using a laptop to take notes during a lecture may seem efficient, but it has been shown by research to side-track attention in detrimental ways -- both yours and the attention of other students around you (Fried, 2008; Sana, Weston, & Cepeda, 2013). This may be especially true in a dimly lit classroom, where the relatively brightly lit screens of laptops and other electronics stand out and draw attention to them involuntarily. Because of this, my policy on the use of electronics will be as follows: If you want to surf the internet (e.g., Netflix, Reddit, etc.) while in class, that is your choice, 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. Written Assignments: Throughout the semester you will be given the option to complete short written assignments to replace up to 10% of your midterm exams. Each writing assignment will cover material from the lessons since the beginning of class or last short writing assignment. The writing assignment should be no more than 1 paragraph or 1 double spaced page. There will be 3 short writing assignments in total. 20 percentage points will be deducted for every day that an assignment is late if you do decide to complete an assignment. Each assignment will be worth 3.33% of your final grade and your exam percentage scores will be adjusted accordingly. Check Canvas for the assignment outlines/requirements.

2. In Class Exams:
   - There will be 3 exams throughout the semester.
   - Each exam will cover the material from the lessons since the previous exam. The second midterm will not be cumulative. The final exam will be cumulative, but with strong emphasis on the last third of the course.
   - You will get one full class period (80 minutes) to complete each midterm exam. Each midterm exams will be worth 20% of your final grade and your final exam will be worth 30%.
   - Exams will contain short answer, long answer and multiple choice questions.
   - The emphasis is on critical thinking, interpretation of experiments, and proposing new experiments, and knowledge synthesis. 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. **Term Paper:**

The format **MUST** be as follows:
- No more than 4 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 2nd 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 proxy from home. The following are useful websites for literature searches:

1) PubMed
2) Google Scholar
3) Semantic Scholar

**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)

**Assessment** | **Points**
--- | ---
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
Total | 50

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 13th. 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:

| Assessment without assignments | Weight |
--- | ---
Total midterm exam points converted to a percent | 50% |
Total final exam points converted to a percent | 30% |
Total points on the paper converted to percent | 20% |

| Ex.: assessment with assignments | Weight |
--- | ---
Total short written assignments points converted to percentage | 10% |
Total midterm exam points converted to a percent | 40% |
Total final exam points converted to a percent | 30% |
Total points on the paper 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, paper, and short written assignments 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 do not 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 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](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 may 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/](https://www.ubc.ca/emergency/)

**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.
# 2018 Calendar for Principles of Animal Behavior PSY 306A

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 required sources. Topics and assignment due dates are subject to change.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Dawkins/Canvas</th>
<th>Nordell</th>
<th>Due</th>
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<tr>
<td>9/4</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Imagine Day – NO CLASS</td>
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<td>9/6</td>
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<td>Intro</td>
<td>Canvas</td>
<td>pp. 3-7</td>
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<tr>
<td>9/11</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>The Scientific Method</td>
<td>Canvas</td>
<td>pp. 7-20, 23-36</td>
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<td>9/13</td>
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<td>Evolution I</td>
<td>Canvas</td>
<td>pp. 41-54</td>
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<td>9/18</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Evolution II</td>
<td>Ch. 2, Canvas</td>
<td>pp. 54-56</td>
<td>Assignment 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>9/20</td>
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<td>Genetics &amp; Behavior</td>
<td>Ch. 3, Canvas</td>
<td>pp. 58, 61-78</td>
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<td>9/25</td>
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<td>Neuroscience of Behavior</td>
<td>Ch. 4, Canvas</td>
<td>pp. 88-89, 151-153</td>
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<td>Sensory Systems I</td>
<td>Canvas</td>
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<td>Catchup &amp; Review</td>
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<td>10/9</td>
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<tr>
<td>10/11</td>
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<td>Animal Learning</td>
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<td>pp. 147-178</td>
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<td>10/16</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>Territoriality &amp; Aggression</td>
<td>Ch. 5</td>
<td>pp. 273-291</td>
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<td>Reproductive Behaviors</td>
<td>Ch. 12</td>
<td>pp. 56-58, 302-332</td>
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<td>10/23</td>
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<td>Ch. 7 &amp; 9</td>
<td>pp. 335-360</td>
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<td>10/30</td>
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<td>Parental Care</td>
<td>Ch. 6 &amp; 8</td>
<td>pp. 363-388</td>
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<td>Communication I</td>
<td>pp. 63-65 &amp; Ch. 11</td>
<td>pp. 113-143</td>
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<td>Communication II</td>
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<td>11/15</td>
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<td>Altruism &amp; Sociobiology I</td>
<td>Ch. 10</td>
<td>pp. 393-401</td>
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<td>Altruism &amp; Sociobiology II</td>
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<td>pp. 401-423</td>
<td>Assignment 3</td>
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<td>Human Behavior I</td>
<td>Ch. 12 &amp; 13</td>
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<td>Conclusion</td>
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<td>FINALS BEGIN</td>
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## Readings on Canvas

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<th>Date</th>
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<th>Authors</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9/6</td>
<td>The Demon-Haunted World; The Identity of Man</td>
<td>C. Sagan; J. Bronowski</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9/11</td>
<td>Curious Naturalists; On Being the Right Size</td>
<td>N. Tinbergen; J.B.S. Haldane</td>
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<td>9/13</td>
<td>Darwin’s Dangerous Idea; The Growth of Biological Thought</td>
<td>D. Dennett; E. Mayr</td>
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<td>9/18</td>
<td>Social Evolution; Consciousness Explained</td>
<td>R. Trivers; D. Dennett</td>
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<td>Genome</td>
<td>M. Ridley</td>
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<td>9/25</td>
<td>Wait But Why (pp. 40-77)</td>
<td>Tim Urban</td>
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<td>9/27</td>
<td>The Mind Machine</td>
<td>C. Blakemore</td>
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<tr>
<td>11/29</td>
<td>The Pale Blue Dot</td>
<td>C. Sagan</td>
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