

PSYC3760: Animal Communication Spring 2016

Room: B650

Time: Tuesday & Thursday, 10:50-12:05

Website: Moodle; <http://sites.sinauer.com/animalcommunication2e/>

Instructor: David Logue

Instructor's Email: david.logue@uleth.ca

Office: D858 (University Hall)

Office hours: Thursday 1-3

TA: Apoorva "Appy" Kulkarni

TA's email: apoorva.kulkarni@uleth.ca

Office: B836

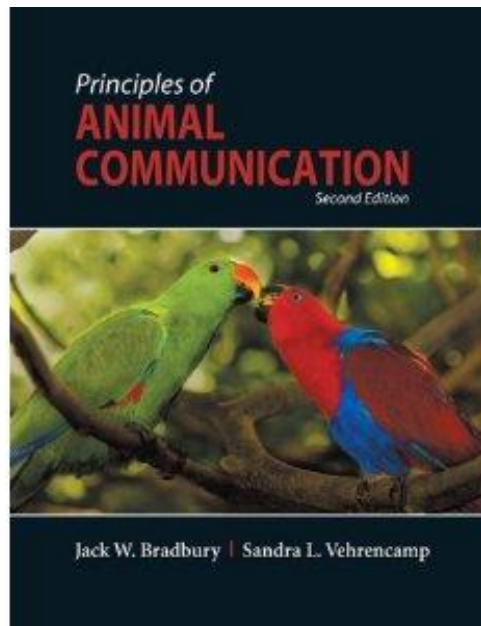
Office hours: Wednesday 1:30-3:30

Prerequisites

PSYC 2700 and at least one other 2000-level, 3-credit course in PSYC or NEUR.

Textbook

Available as a regular book or an E-book (through CourseSmart). You must get the second edition. The book is the basis of this course – all students should have a copy. We will also use the supplementary web resources from the Sinauer website described above.



Course structure

Lectures – On most days, David will lecture on a chapter from the textbook. He'll post the slides on Moodle before class. You should bring a copy (on a computer or printed out) and take additional notes during class. The lectures will follow the book pretty closely, but they will include some material that is not in the book and omit some material that is in the book. The material in the lectures will be the basis of the exam questions. If a topic is not discussed in the lecture, it will not appear on the exam.

Readings – Prior to “Reading” days, students will read an assigned paper and post a question to the author on Moodle. Questions are due before the start of class. During class, we will briefly discuss the paper and the posted questions. On some or all reading days, we will Skype with the paper's author. David and Appy will offer some students the opportunity to ask their question to the scientist who wrote the paper. The following exam will include one or more questions about the paper and discussion.

Exam review – Prior to review days, each student will post one question to Moodle. Questions are due before the start of class. David and Appy will select questions to review during the class period.

Exams

Exams will be made up of multiple choice questions and administered in the Testing Centre. No notes of any kind are permitted, but you may use of the Windows calculator program. The midterms will cover the lectures and readings from the corresponding quarter of the course. The final will include the lectures and readings from the last quarter of the course, as well as comprehensive questions addressing some of the most important ideas from quarters one through three. Students will not be able to access completed exams with their own accounts. If you wish to review you completed exam, you should visit office hours and David or Appy can open it for you on Moodle.

Exam	Dates	Content
Midterm 1	Feb 1 - Feb 5	Ch. 1-4, Reading 1
Midterm 2	Feb 29 - Mar 4	Ch. 5-8, Reading 2
Midterm 3	Mar 21 – Mar 25	Ch. 9-12, Reading 3
Final	Apr 18-22	Ch. 13-16, Reading 4, Major concepts from entire course

Grading

Grade breakdown

- 20% Midterm 1
- 20% Midterm 2
- 20% Midterm 3
- 30% Final
- 5% Questions for review days
- 4% Questions for Skype with the author
- 1% Just for being your awesome self

At the end of the term I will assign letter grades on a straight scale. I reserve the right to increase all grades by a flat amount, if necessary.

A+ > 95	C+ = 69 – 72
A = 90 – 95	C = 64 – 68
A- = 85 – 89	C- = 60 – 63
B+ = 81 – 84	D+ = 55 – 59
B = 77 – 80	D = 50 – 54
B- = 73 – 76	F < 50

Other Course Policies

I offer make-up credits for *documented emergencies only*. If you are not sure if your situation qualifies as an emergency, it probably does not. *Students that miss exams or assignments for non-emergencies will receive a zero*. Excuses must be sought as soon as the student knows s/he will miss an exam.

Please do not use electronic devices for any off-topic purpose during class. Feel free to step outside if you want to make a call, text, Vine, etc.

Students wishing to meet with David or Apoorva should do so during office hours. We will only schedule meetings outside of office hours if the student provides proof that they cannot meet during office hours. (We like meeting with students, but we're both very busy, and there are a lot of you.)

Schedule

The schedule may change in response to changes to the academic calendar or if we get behind schedule.

Date	Chapter	Topic
Thurs Jan 7	Syllabus , 1	Signals and Communication
Tues Jan 12	2	Sound and sound production
Thurs Jan 14	2-3	
Tues Jan 19	3	Sound propagation and reception
Thurs Jan 21	4	Light and visual signal production
Tues Jan 26		Reading I
Thurs Jan 28		Midterm I review
Tues Feb 2	5	Visual signal propagation and reception
Thurs Feb 4	6	Chemical signals
Tues Feb 9	7	Short range modalities
Thurs Feb 11	8	Decisions, signals, and information
Tues Feb 16	No School	
Thurs Feb 18	No School	
Tues Feb 23		Reading II
Thurs Feb 25		Midterm II review
Tues March 1	9	Economics of communication
Thurs Mar 3	10	Signal evolution
Tues Mar 8	11	Conflict resolution
Thurs Mar 10	12	Mate attraction and courtship
Tues Mar 15		Reading III
Thurs Mar 17		Midterm III review
Tues Mar 22	13	Social integration
Thurs Mar 24	14	Environmental signals
Tues Mar 29	15	Communication networks
Thurs Mar 31	16	Microbes, plants, and humans
Tues Apr 5		Reading IV
Thurs Apr 7		Final exam review
Tues Apr 12		Final exam review