

**PSYC 2700 N– Behavior and Evolution
Fall- 2019**

Instructor: Dr. Chinthaka (Taka) Kaluthota

Email: kaluthota@uleth.ca

Department: Psychology

Office: SA 8378

Teaching Assistant: Juleyska Vazquez Cardona

Email: j.vazquezcardona@uleth.ca

Office/Lab: SA 8304

Lectures: Tuesday 06.00-8.50pm (September 10 - December 3)

Room: PE250

Office hours: Wednesday 9.00-11.00am

Recommended Textbook:

Dugatkin, L.A. 2014. Principles of Animal Behavior, 3rd edition. (Optional)

Course description

This course provides an introduction to a scientific framework to investigate and understand the diversity of behaviour in animals and humans. We will examine a core set of natural processes that can influence behaviour. We will then learn, how these processes shape a range of functionally organised behaviours that solve basic life problems such as finding food, avoiding predators, attracting mates, raising young, and living in social groups.

Moodle

Lecture notes, readings, exams and other course materials will be posted on Moodle.

Coursework

Four exams (total 100%) and three quizzes (3% extra points) based on material from lectures.

Exams

Exam 1 (25%)- approx. September 27th -29th

Exam 2 (25%)- approx. October 18th - 20th

Exam 3 (25%)- approx. November 6th – 8th

Exam 4 (25%)– approx. December 7th-10th

Grading

Final letter grades will be determined using the following scheme.

A+	>95	C+	67-69.9
A	90-94.9	C	63-66.9
A-	85-89.9	C-	60-62.9
B+	80-84.9	D+	55-59.9
B	75-79.9	D	50-54.9
B-	70-74.9	F	<50

Extra Credits for Research Participation:

This course provides students with an opportunity to get involved as a participant in ongoing research projects. If you volunteer to be a participant, each project usually requires about one hour of your time. In recognition of the value of your data, and in recognition that you are learning something about the discipline of scientific psychology, beyond that of the typical classroom environment, an extra credit of 1 % for each study in which you participate will be added to your final course percentage. MAXIMUM EXTRA CREDIT = 2%. These extra credits are added after all grade cutoffs have been established for course work, such that students who choose not to participate are not disadvantaged.

Directions for Participation:

Studies will become available on September 16, 2019 by going to <https://psychleth.sona-systems.com> and signing in with your U of L username and password. Sign up in the course to which you want your credits to be assigned. If you are enrolled more than one course that offers credits, you must register for it separately. There will be NO transfer of credits between courses. Further studies and timeslots will be added throughout the semester, please keep checking, but remember that participation is on a first-come basis. Please note, there is no guarantee that all students will be able to achieve the maximum credit. The last date to participate in studies is December 4, 2019. If you experience problems with the Sona System, or you have inquiries regarding participation in studies, DO NOT CONTACT the instructor of this course. All questions regarding research participation should be directed to psychology@uleth.ca.

Dates: September 16- December 4.

Course outline

	Processes that shape behavior
Class 1	Proximate and ultimate causes of behavior and levels of analysis
Class 2	Natural selection and adaptation
Class 3	Learning and culture
Exam 1	
	Ecological problems
Class 4	Migration Foraging 1: diet choice, body size, energy and metabolism
Class 5	Foraging 2: optimal foraging, territoriality
Class 6	Predation, predator-prey dynamics
Exam 2	
	Social problems
Class 7	Cooperation, kinship, reciprocity
Class 8	Parental investment, competition among kin
Class 9	Communication - Signaller-receiver dynamics
Exam 3	
	Reproduction
Class 10	Sex, life history, mating systems
Class 11	Sexual selection and mate choice 1
Class 12	Sexual selection and mate choice 2
Exam 4	