PSYCHOLOGY 2700 INTRODUCTION TO ANIMAL BEHAVIOUR Spring 2009

Course description: The goal of this course is to provide an introduction to the process of evolution by natural selection and then consider its implications for the study of the behaviour of animals, including humans. It will examine the biological, social, and cultural processes responsible for shaping functionally organized behaviours in animals that solve basic life problems such as finding food, avoiding predators, attracting mates, rearing young, and living socially. In short, it will be aimed at answering the most fundamental question asked about animals and their behavior: "Why do they do what they do?"

Instructor:

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Course web page: http://people.uleth.ca/~d.rendall/Site_2/Psyc2700.html

Lectures: Tuesday & Thursday 10:50 – 12:00 PE275

Prerequisites: PSY1000 (Introduction to Psychology), or BIO1020 (Diversity of Life)

Textbook:

Dugtakin (2004) <u>Principles of Animal Behavior</u>. 2nd edition. W.W. Norton. ISBN 0393931692

Coursework:

1. One midterm exam and one final exam (50% each) based on material from lectures and the textbook.

Grading: Final letter grades for the course will be determined using the following scheme:

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

| Course Sections and Topics | TEXT | Lectures |
|--|------------|----------|
| A. PROCESSES THAT SHAPE BEHAVIOR | Chapters | |
| The causes of behavior | 1 – 5 | |
| Natural selection | | |
| Learning and culture | | |
| B. THE TRIALS OF LIFE | | |
| I. Ecological problems | | |
| Foraging | 10, 11, 13 | |
| Predation | | |
| MIDTERM EXAM (50%) [ca. March 2] | | |
| II. Social problems | | |
| Living with others | 8&9 | |
| Competition, Cooperation, Kinship | | |
| III. Reproduction problems | | |
| Sex, Sexual Selection, Sexual conflict | 7&6 | |
| Mating strategies and systems | | |
| IV. Communication | 12 | |
| FINAL EXAM (50%) – REGISTRAR SCHEDULED | | |