

PSYCHOLOGY 2700
INTRODUCTION TO ANIMAL BEHAVIOUR
Spring 2011

Course description: *The goal of this course is to provide an introduction to the diversity of animal behavior and to a scientific framework to investigate and understand it. It will examine a core set of natural processes that can influence behavior. It will then consider how these processes shape a range of functionally organized behaviours that solve basic life problems for animals such as finding food, avoiding predators, attracting mates, rearing young, and living socially. In short, it will try to answer 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 – 12:05 PE275

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

Textbook:

Alcock (2009) Animal Behavior, 9th edition. Sinauer. ISBN 978-0-87893-225-2

Coursework:

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

Participation in Psychology Experiments: Students are encouraged to participate in experiments being conducted by investigators in the Psychology Department during the course of the term. They will earn course credit for their participation to a total of 3% of the course grade.

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

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

Course Manifesto:

1. Each lecture, the Professor's responsibility is to profess (thus the title Professor).
2. Each lecture, the student's responsibility is to listen and attempt to learn. Students are free to attempt to learn in a way that suits their individual tastes (e.g., take notes, forego taking notes, etc...); however, their efforts to learn cannot interfere with others' attempts to learn or with the professor's efforts to lecture.
3. From Point 2 it follows that students are not free to do things in lecture that demonstrably distract or disturb others — i.e., talk or text on cell phones; chat with neighbors in class, etc...
4. Students who miss lecture are free to solicit notes from fellow students and other students are free to oblige such requests or not. However, the course mailing list will NOT be the forum for this because that risks clogging everyone's email inbox with unwanted messages. Instead, you may use the course discussion board on WebCT, thereby limiting such requests only to those who choose to log-on and use that discussion forum.
5. The Professor will not provide summaries or recaps of the content of lectures to individual students who miss class. Given the size of the class (200+ students with 10% or more of the class absent on any given day), that is physically impossible. More importantly, this is University and everyone at University is an adult (over 18 and able to vote). With adulthood comes great freedom ... but also great responsibility. Adult students are responsible for their own education. Lectures are provided as an opportunity to learn. If students miss lecture and forego this opportunity, then it is their responsibility (and only theirs) to acquire lecture contents. The Professor will not mark attendance nor ask students why they might miss lectures. He respects the students' adulthood, the multiple demands on time that adulthood involves, and students' freedom to make choices about how they allocate their time, including attending lectures or not. The corollary is that each student is responsible for remediating missed material.

Course Sections and Topics	TEXT
A. PROCESSES THAT SHAPE BEHAVIOR	Chapters
<i>Multiple causes of behavior and levels of analysis</i>	1 – 6
<i>Natural selection, learning and culture</i>	
<i>The Science of Animal Behavior</i>	
B. THE TRIALS OF LIFE	
<i>I. ECOLOGICAL PROBLEMS</i>	
<i>Foraging, Migration, Territoriality</i>	6 - 8
<i>Predation</i>	
MIDTERM EXAM (50%) [approx. March 1 - 4]	
<i>II. SOCIAL PROBLEMS</i>	
<i>Living with others</i>	13, 14
<i>Competition, Cooperation, Kinship</i>	12
<i>III. Reproduction problems</i>	
<i>Sex, Sexual Selection, Sexual conflict</i>	10, 11
<i>Mating strategies and Mating Systems</i>	
<i>IV. Communication</i>	9
FINAL EXAM (50%) WED. APRIL 20, 2:00 - 4:00 PM	