

**Faculty of Health
Department of Psychology
PSYC 3280 M
ANIMAL BEHAVIOUR
Winter 2017**

Instructor and T.A. Information

Instructor: Adam Bebko
Office: 031 BSB
Office Hours: Mondays after lecture 5:45-6:45
Email: bebbie@yorku.ca

T.A.	Kyle Comishen: Last names A-K	Lorinda Mak: Last names L-Z
Email	comishk@yorku.ca	lorindam@yorku.ca
Office	DB 5030 (Formerly TEL)	DB 5030 (formerly TEL)
Office Hours	By Appointment	By Appointment

On emailing etiquette:

- Send your email to your assigned TA.
- Please make the subject line useful. For example “PSYC3280: Question regarding monkeys”.
- Avoid using slang like ur, I want 2, etc. Be professional.
- Don’t address us as, “Hey TA/Prof,”. Use our names.
- Please sign your email with your full name in roman alphabet characters.
- Allow at least 24 hours for a reply, and do not expect a reply on weekends

Course Prerequisite(s): Course prerequisites are strictly enforced.

- HH/PSYC 1010 6.00 (Introduction to Psychology), with a minimum grade of C.

Course website: [Moodle](#)

Course Description

This course provides a first glimpse into the complex and magnificent lives of animals. Through the lens of evolutionary theory, this course will use examples from diverse species to examine key areas of animal behaviour. Major topics will include foraging, predation, social systems, reproduction, and intelligence.

Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this course, students should be able to:

1. Demonstrate in-depth knowledge of animal behaviour.

2. Articulate trends in the psychology of animal behaviour.
3. Express psychological knowledge of animal behaviour in written form.
4. Describe and explain limits to generalizability of research findings on animal behaviour.
5. Demonstrate ability to relate information on the psychology of animal behaviour to own and others' life experiences.

Specific Learning Objectives

Students will use evidence from modern academic literature to critically examine the causes of animal behaviour using evolutionary theory. The main assignment will give a (very) brief introduction into field work and written reports in the field. Through short in-class group presentations, students will contribute to open discussion of the course material.

Required Texts

- **The main required text is: “Animal Behavior, 10th Edition”, By John Alcock (Published by Sinauer). There are print and electronic versions available.**
- To promote student participation and discussion, this course will require a mandatory \$14 subscription to PollEverywhere.com, a website enabling instant in-class Q&A using laptops, phones, and tablets. This service is a cheaper and more user-friendly alternative to “clickers”.

Certain lectures will be based on required readings from supplementary sources including journal articles, other textbooks, and original research. Supplementary readings will be posted to the course's Moodle Page.

Each week, the course Moodle Page will feature optional supplementary material that may include videos, photos, and short articles that will complement the lecture and readings. This optional material is presented for interested students and students who wish to gain a deeper understanding of the topics covered.

Course Requirements and Assessment

Based on recent research on learning and memory retention (some of which was conducted at York), this course will feature a variety of different types of assessments designed to promote deeper understanding and engagement with the course material. These studies have shown that frequent and cumulative evaluations promote student engagement, and allow for deeper encoding of memory while reducing stress.

The course will feature short quizzes, weekly participation questions, and a small team-based assignment to provide consistent feedback and knowledge assessment. These low-stakes evaluations will culminate in a cumulative final exam and independent assignment. The goal of this format is to enhance student enjoyment, interest, and engagement while reducing cramming and stress, which will allow students to demonstrate expertise in a variety of contexts.

<u>Assessment</u>	<u>Date of Evaluation (if known)</u>	<u>Weighting</u>
Group Presentation Mini-Assignment	TBA (during lectures)	5%
In-Class Quiz 1	Jan 23	10%
In-Class Quiz 2	Feb 06	10%
In-Class Quiz 3	Feb 27	10%
In-Class Quiz 4	Mar 13	10%
In-Class Quiz 5 (Can drop lowest quiz)	Mar 27	10%
Cumulative Final Exam	TBA (during exam period)	25%
In-Class Participation (Can drop lowest 2)	Throughout semester	5%
Main Field Work Assignment	Due March 20	25%
Total		100%

Description of Assignments

Details for both assignments will be covered in class. Refer to the class schedule for timing.

Group Presentation Mini-Assignment

This assignment is designed to promote class participation and discussion. Each week, teams will present a short video and a related research article on an interesting aspect of animal behaviour and lead a brief class discussion.

Main Field Work Assignment

The purpose of this assignment is to gain experience observing animal behaviour and run a brief pilot study on an animal of your choice. Based on this naturalistic observation, you will develop hypotheses about the animal's behaviour. You will examine/support these hypotheses using evidence from peer-reviewed journal articles.

Grading as per Senate Policy

The grading scheme for the course conforms to the 9-point grading system used in undergraduate programs at York (e.g., A+ = 9, A = 8, B+ = 7, C+ = 5, etc.). Assignments and tests will bear either a letter grade designation or a corresponding number grade (e.g. A+ = 90 to 100, A = 80 to 90, B+ = 75 to 79, etc.)

(For a full description of York grading system see the York University Undergraduate Calendar - <http://calendars.students.yorku.ca/2016-2017/academic-and-financial-information/academic-services/grades-and-grading-schemes>)

Late Work/Missed Tests or Exams

York's policy: Students with a documented reason for missing a course test, such as illness, compassionate grounds, etc., which is confirmed by supporting documentation (Attending Physician Statement which can be found at: <http://registrar.yorku.ca/pdf/attending-physicians->

statement.pdf) may request accommodation from the Course Instructor. Further extensions or accommodation will require students to submit a formal petition to the Faculty.

My policy: I don't believe illness should get special treatment over stress, personal issues, religious observance, etc. For this reason I have outlined the following policies:

Missed quizzes: There will be no makeup quizzes. Since you are able to drop your lowest quiz mark, a missed quiz will count towards the dropped quiz.

Missed group presentation: Hopefully your team can cover for you!

Missed participation questions: You can drop your two worst lectures, if you miss more than two, tough luck!

Late main assignment: You will be given ample time to complete your assignment. For this reason, late assignments will be subject to a 20% penalty. Assignments will no longer be accepted two weeks after the final lecture.

Missed final exam: You must contact me within 48 hours and subsequently provide university-sanctioned documentation. You will likely have to apply for deferred exam status with the department.

Extended absence: In the event of extenuating circumstances individualized modifications to the course evaluation may be required

Add/Drop Deadlines

For a list of all important dates please refer to: [Important Dates](#)

Important dates	Winter (W)
Last date to add a course without permission of instructor (also see Financial Deadlines)	Jan. 18
Last date to add a course with permission of instructor (also see Financial Deadlines)	Feb. 1
Last date to drop a course without receiving a grade (also see Financial Deadlines)	March 10
Course Withdrawal Period (withdraw from a course and receive a "W" on the transcript)	March 11 - Apr. 5

Information on Plagiarism Detection

The main assignment will be submitted through turnitin.com (via Moodle), to check for plagiarism.

Electronic Device Policy

We will be using electronic devices in class! Please bring a laptop or phone to class with you with sufficient batteries to participate in class Q&A.

Nevertheless, studies have shown that improper use of laptops and phones (social media, games, web browsing, etc.) is highly distracting to other students, and can reduce attention and

comprehension for students seated behind you. Please be mindful of other students. If you absolutely must use your laptop for personal reasons during class (i.e. family member going into labour), out of respect for your peers, please sit at the back of class.

Attendance Policy

Come if you like! But you will be missing out on the participation marks if you are absent.

Academic Integrity for Students

York university takes academic integrity very seriously, please visit [an overview of Academic Integrity at York University](#) from the Office of the Vice-President Academic.

The following links will assist you in gaining a better understanding of academic integrity and point you to resources at York that can help you improve your writing and research skills:

- [Information about the Senate Policy on Academic Honesty](#)
- [Online Tutorial on Academic Integrity](#)
- [Information for Students on Text-Matching Software: Turnitin.com](#)
- [Beware! Says who? A pamphlet on how to avoid plagiarism](#)
- [Resources for students to help improve their writing and research skill](#)

Test Banks:

The offering for sale of, buying of, and attempting to sell or buy test banks (banks of test questions and/or answers), or any course specific test questions/answers is not permitted in the Faculty of Health. Any student found to be doing this may be considered to have breached the Senate Policy on Academic Honesty. In particular, buying and attempting to sell banks of test questions and/or answers may be considered as “Cheating in an attempt to gain an improper advantage in an academic evaluation” (article 2.1.1 from the Senate Policy) and/or “encouraging, enabling or causing others” (article 2.1.10 from the Senate Policy) to cheat.

Note: I make my own tests.

Electronic Devices During a Test/Examination:

Electronic mobile devices of any kind are not allowed during a test or examination. Students are required to turn off and secure any electronic mobile device in their bag which is to be placed under the chair while a test/exam is in progress. Any student observed with an electronic device during a test/exam may be reported to the Undergraduate Office for a potential breach of Academic Honesty.

Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities:

While all individuals are expected to satisfy the requirements of their program of study and to aspire to do so at a level of excellence, the university recognizes that persons with disabilities may require reasonable accommodation to enable them to do so. The [York University Accessibility Hub](#) is your online stop for accessibility on campus. The [Accessibility Hub](#) provides tools, assistance and resources. Policy Statement

York Policy: York University shall make reasonable and appropriate accommodations and adaptations in order to promote the ability of students with disabilities to fulfill the academic requirements of their programs.

The nature and extent of accommodations shall be consistent with and supportive of the integrity of the curriculum and of the academic standards of programs or courses.

Provided that students have given sufficient notice about their accommodation needs, instructors shall take reasonable steps to accommodate these needs in a manner consistent with the guidelines established hereunder.

For Further Information please refer to: [York university academic accommodation for students with disabilities policy](#)

Regarding quizzes: If you would like to write quizzes with alt exams, that is fine. There will be a short break after every quiz, so you will have time to complete it and get back to class. However, the quizzes are very short, and likely do not require special accommodations.

Course Materials Copyright Information:

These course materials are designed for use as part of the PSYC 3280 3.0M course at York University and are the property of the instructor unless otherwise stated. Third party copyrighted materials (such as book chapters, journal articles, music, videos, etc.) have either been licensed for use in this course or fall under an exception or limitation in Canadian Copyright law.

Copying this material for distribution (e.g. uploading material to a commercial third-party website) may lead to a violation of Copyright law. [Intellectual Property Rights Statement](#)

Course Schedule:

Accompanying document