

Faculty of Health
Department of Psychology
PSYC 3280 3.0 Section A: ANIMAL BEHAVIOUR
Wednesdays/2:30 – 5:30 pm/Curtis Lecture Hall F
Fall term 2017

Instructor and T.A. Information

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Course Prerequisite(s): Course prerequisites are strictly enforced

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

Course Credit Exclusions

Please refer to [York Courses Website](#) for a listing of any course credit exclusions.

Course website: [Moodle](#)

Course Description

An introduction to the study of animal behaviour including comparative psychology, behavioural ecology, ethology and sociobiology.

Program 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

- Distinguish between proximate and ultimate questions that may be asked about animal behaviour, and formulate hypotheses of each type to explain a given behaviour.
- Explain the principles involved in the evolution of behaviour, including natural selection and sexual selection.
- Understand and explain the concept of biodiversity, be able to list the main animal taxa and understand and explain the evolutionary relationships between different taxa
- Understand some of the mechanisms involved in the production of a behavioural sequence by an animal in a range of contexts
- Create a behavioural inventory (ethogram) and use it to collect behavioural data
- Understand and use different sampling methods to collect behavioural data; compare and contrast the advantages and disadvantages of different methods
- Formulate hypotheses about behaviour and the procedures used to test them, and the types of data that can be collected

Required Text

- Principles of Animal Behavior (3rd edition, 2013) by Lee Alan Dugatkin

Course Requirements and Assessment:

Assessment	Date of Evaluation (if known)	Weighting
Midterm 1	October 25, 2017	35%
Assignment 1	November 1, 2017	10%
Assignment 2	November 29, 2017	20%
Midterm 2	Final exam period	35%
Total		100%

Description of Assignments

The written assignments will be based on observations of live animals, and will be discussed extensively in class.

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 89, B+ = 75 to 79, etc.)

(For a full description of York grading system see the York University Undergraduate Calendar - [Grading Scheme for 2017-18](#))

Late Work/Missed Tests or Exams

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://myacademicrecord.students.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.

Assignments 1 and 2 will be accepted up to and including the last day of class (November 29th) without any late penalty. NO ASSIGNMENTS WILL BE ACCEPTED AFTER MIDNIGHT ON NOVEMBER 29TH, 2017.

Important New Information Regarding Missed Tests

For any missed tests or late assignments, students MUST complete the following online form which will be received and reviewed in the Psychology undergraduate office.

[HH PSYC: Missed Tests/Exams Form](#). Failure to complete the form within 48 hours of the original deadline will result in a grade of zero for the test/assignment.

Add/Drop Deadlines

For a list of all important dates please refer to: [Fall/Winter 2017-18 - Important Dates](#)

	FALL (F)	YEAR (Y)	WINTER (W)
Last date to add a course without permission of instructor (also see Financial Deadlines)	Sept. 20	Sept. 20	Jan. 17
Last date to add a course with permission of instructor (also see Financial Deadlines)	Oct. 4	Oct. 18	Jan. 31
Drop deadline: Last date to drop a course without receiving a grade (also see Financial Deadlines)	Nov. 10	Feb. 9	March 9
Course Withdrawal Period (withdraw from a course and receive a grade of "W" on transcript – see note below)	Nov. 11 - Dec. 4	Feb. 10 - Apr. 6	March 10 - Apr. 6

***Note:** *You may withdraw from a course using the registration and enrolment system after the drop deadline until the last day of class for the term associated with the course. When you withdraw from a course, the course remains on your transcript without a grade and is notated as "W". The withdrawal will not affect your grade point average or count towards the credits required for your degree.*

Information on Plagiarism Detection

Your assignments will be based on your own behavioural observations, and will be supported by your literature review and analysis. You are expected to cite your source material appropriately (and will be graded on your appropriate use of scholarly citations).

Academic Integrity for Students

York University takes academic integrity very seriously; please familiarize yourself with [Information about the Senate Policy on Academic Honesty](#).

It is recommended that you review Academic Integrity by completing the [Academic Integrity Tutorial](#) and [Academic Honesty Quiz](#).

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.

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.

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](#).

Course Materials Copyright Information

These course materials are designed for use as part of the PSYC 3280 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

September 13: Introduction and principles of animal behavior (Chapter 1)

September 20: The evolution of behavior (Chapter 2) and **ASSIGNMENTS**

September 27: Sexual selection (Chapter 7)

October 4: Mating systems (Chapter 8)

October 11: Kinship (Chapter 9) and Cooperation (Chapter 10)

October 18: Foraging (Chapter 11)

October 25: **Midterm 1 Exam**

November 1: Anti-predator behavior (Chapter 12): **Assignment 1 due**

November 8: Communication (Chapter 13)

November 15: Habitat selection, territoriality and migration (Chapter 14)

November 22: Aggression (Chapter 15)

November 29: Play (Chapter 16) and Animal Personalities (Chapter 17): **Assignment 2 due**

FINAL EXAM PERIOD: Midterm 2 exam