

PSYCHOLOGY 2700
BEHAVIOUR AND EVOLUTION
Fall 2013

Course description: *This course provides an introduction to the diversity of behavior in animals and humans 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 such as finding food, avoiding predators, attracting mates, rearing young, and living socially.*

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Lectures: Tuesday 18:00 – 20:50 PE250

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

Textbook:

Alcock (2013) Animal Behavior, 10th edition. Sinauer.

Coursework:

Two midterm exams (total 80%) and one final exam (20%) 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. See detailed explanation of such participation opportunities below.

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 Guidelines and Expectations:

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 profess.
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 exchange 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 to only 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 (300 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.

Opportunities to Participate in Research Experiments in the Department of Psychology:

This course provides students with an opportunity to participate in active research programs of faculty members and students in the Department of Psychology. Calls for volunteers to assist in these studies will be made during the semester. Each study normally requires one hour or less of your time. **If you choose to participate, an extra 1% for each study will be added to your total grade at the end of the semester, up to a maximum of 3%**, in recognition of your time and the fact that you are learning something about the discipline of Psychology beyond what you would learn in the routine classroom environment. Note that there is no guarantee that all students will be able to achieve the maximum bonus. It depends on the availability of experiments. Note also that your professor for a given course (like me for Psych 2700) will not know which particular studies you participated in, only the number of studies you participated in and the relevant credit to be allocated for their course. Please check with the researcher coordinating a particular study to ensure that you have not completed that study previously.

Psyc 2700: Course Sections and Topics	TEXT
	Chapters
A. PROCESSES THAT SHAPE BEHAVIOR	1,2,10,11
<i>Multiple causes of behavior and levels of analysis</i>	
<i>Natural selection</i>	
<i>Learning and culture</i>	
MIDTERM 1 (30%)	
B. THE TRIALS OF LIFE	
I. ECOLOGICAL PROBLEMS	5,6
<i>Diet choice</i>	
<i>Optimal foraging, territoriality</i>	
<i>Predation</i>	
II. SOCIAL PROBLEMS	2,3,9
<i>Sociality I: Kinship and cooperation</i>	
<i>Sociality: Kinship, competition and parenting</i>	
MIDTERM 2 (50%)	
III. Reproduction problems	7,8,14
<i>Sex, life histories and mating systems</i>	
<i>Sexual selection and mate choice</i>	
IV. Communication	4
FINAL (20%)	