

**Psychology 306 A – Animal Behaviour  
2012/2013 Term 1**

**When:** MWF, 1:00 - 1:50 pm  
**Where:** BUCH A201

**Instructor:** Kiran K. Soma, Ph.D.  
Associate Professor, Department of Psychology  
Office: Kenny 3505  
Office hour: Wed 2:00 - 3:00 pm, or by appointment  
Tel: 604-827-5820  
Email: [ksoma@psych.ubc.ca](mailto:ksoma@psych.ubc.ca)

**\*\*\* If you have questions, I would like to help you in person. I will only use email to schedule in-person meetings.**

**TA:** Tahereh Bozorgmehr  
Office: TBA  
Office hour: TBA, or by appointment  
Email: TBA

**\*\*\* If you have questions, please see the TA in person. The TA will only use email to schedule in-person meetings.**

**Course description:**

This course introduces students to the scientific study of animal behavior. Topics will include: development of behavior, evolution of behavior, and physiology of behavior. This course is also designed to encourage critical and independent thinking, as well as improve written and oral communication. Questions and discussion are encouraged throughout the lectures.

**Required Textbook:** *Animal Behavior*, John Alcock, 2009, 9th Ed. **Please get the 9th Edition.** You can buy the book at the UBC Bookstore or Amazon etc. The 9<sup>th</sup> edition eBook is also fine. One copy is on reserve at Koerner Library.

**Webpage:** Lecture notes will be available online the day before the lecture. Print out the slides ahead of time, so you can take notes on them during lecture (get a large 3-ring binder to store the lecture notes – there will be many pages). The slides will be missing critical information that will be tested on the exams. **Missing information will be provided during lectures, so attend all the lectures.** See this webpage: <http://www.psych.ubc.ca/~ksoma/>

**\*\*\* All student laptops must be turned off and closed during lectures. No exceptions. Please take notes on printouts of the slides.**

**\*\*\*Please arrive to lecture on time. Late arrivals are disruptive.**

**\*\*\*Turn off your cell phone, iPhone, Blackberry etc. during lectures and exams. Come to lectures to listen, think, and actively participate.**

*Do the reading before the lectures. This will help you follow the lectures.*

	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Readings</b>
Sept 5	What is science? How do scientists study behavior?	Ch. 1, pp. 3-27
Sept 7	Proximate and ultimate causes of birdsong, part 1	Ch. 2, pp. 29-43
Sept 10	Proximate and ultimate causes of birdsong, part 2	Ch. 2, pp. 43-60
Sept 12	Development of behavior, part 1	Ch. 3, pp. 63-76
Sept 14	Development of behavior, part 2	Ch. 3, pp. 76-88
Sept 17	Development of behavior, part 3	Ch. 3, pp. 88-105
Sept 19	Neural mechanisms, part 1	Ch. 4, pp. 107-125
Sept 21	Neural mechanisms, part 2	Ch. 4, pp. 125-131
Sept 24	Neural mechanisms, part 3	Ch. 4, pp. 131-147
Sept 26	Neurons and hormones, part 1	Ch. 5, pp. 149-161
Sept 28	Neurons and hormones, part 2	Ch. 5, pp. 161-172
Oct 1	Neurons and hormones, part 3	Ch. 5, pp. 172-181
Oct 3	Behavioral adaptations for survival, part 1	Ch. 6, pp. 183-195
Oct 5	Behavioral adaptations, part 2 ( <b>midterm info</b> )	Ch. 6, pp. 196-217
Oct 8	<b>Thanksgiving</b>	
Oct 10	Feeding behavior, part 1 ( <b>midterm info</b> )	Ch. 7, pp. 219-238
Oct 12	Feeding behavior, part 2	Ch. 7, pp. 238-247
Oct 15	Review for midterm ( <b>practice questions</b> )	review Ch. 1-7
Oct 17	<b>Midterm Exam</b>	
Oct 19	Choosing where to live, part 1	Ch. 8, pp. 249-265
Oct 22	Choosing where to live, part 2 ( <b>paper info</b> )	Ch. 8, pp. 265-284
Oct 24	Communication, part 1	Ch. 9, pp. 287-294
Oct 26	Communication, part 2 ( <b>submit newspaper article</b> )	Ch. 9, pp. 294-327
Oct 29	Reproductive behavior, part 1	Ch. 10, pp. 329-339
Oct 31	Reproductive behavior, part 2	Ch. 10, pp. 340-359
Nov 2	Reproductive behavior, part 3 ( <b>paper info</b> )	Ch. 10, pp. 360-376
Nov 5	Mating systems, part 1 ( <b>submit paper</b> )	Ch. 11, pp. 379-393
Nov 7	Mating systems, part 2	Ch. 11, pp. 393-404
Nov 9	Mating systems, part 3	Ch. 11, pp. 404-419
Nov 12	<b>Remembrance Day (observed)</b>	
Nov 14	Parental care, part 1	Ch. 12, pp. 421-430
Nov 16	Parental care, part 2	Ch. 12, pp. 430-454
Nov 19	Social behavior, part 1	Ch. 13, pp. 457-488
Nov 21	Social behavior, part 2	Ch. 13, pp. 488-504
Nov 23	Human behavior, part 1	Ch. 14, pp. 507-518
Nov 26	Human behavior, part 2	Ch. 14, pp. 518-535
Nov 28	Human behavior, part 3 ( <b>final info</b> )	Ch. 14, pp. 535-546
Nov 30	Conclusions	

## Evaluation:

- Midterm exam 35%
- Written assignment 15%
- Final exam 50%
- Dept of Psychology policy for 300- and 400-level courses: averages will be 66-70% with a standard deviation of 13%. Grades are not official until they appear on your academic record.

## Exams:

- Material from both the lectures and readings will be on the exams.
- The final exam will be cumulative, but with strong emphasis on the second half of the course.
- Exams will consist of multiple choice and short-answer questions.
- Emphasis on critical thinking, analysis of experimental design, interpretation of data, and proposing new experiments
- Students can view their marked exams with their TA or professor. The exam remains the property of the university.
- Regrade requests must be made in writing. The professor reserves the right to regrade the entire exam (not just a particular question), which means that your grade could go down upon regrading.

## Policy on missed tests and extensions:

- Make-up tests will only be given for validated medical reasons, without exception.
- If you miss an exam, you must email the professor within 24 hours of the exam.
- If you submit medical documentation make sure it contains the statement, "This student was unable to write the test on (date) for medical reasons."
- You are advised to see your physician within one day of the missed test. Many physicians will not provide documentation retroactively.
- All medical excuses must be personally presented to the professor as soon as you are able to return to class for a make-up exam to be scheduled.
- Make-up exams will consist of an oral exam in front of the professor and the TA.

## Written assignment:

- PLEASE: 2 pages, double spaced, Times New Roman, 12 point, 1 inch margins all around. Papers that do not follow these rules will not receive full credit. This is important to maintain consistency across the class. We will not read past the 2<sup>nd</sup> page.
- Submit your newspaper article for approval by the end of class on Oct 26 (or earlier). The newspaper article must be from a particular newspaper (see below) and Sept/Oct 2012.
- Staple your paper (on top) to the research article and newspaper article and submit by the end of class on Nov 5. No late papers will be accepted without a doctor's note. You can submit the paper early.

- Find a newspaper article ***published in Sept/Oct 2012*** about animal (including human!) behavior. The newspaper article must be published during these 2 months.
- In ***New York Times, BBC, CBC, Vancouver Sun, Globe and Mail, or The Guardian only.***
  - <http://www.nytimes.com/pages/science/index.html>
  - <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/science/nature/default.stm>
  - <http://www.cbc.ca/technology/>
  - <http://www.vancouversun.com/>
  - <http://www.theglobeandmail.com/>
  - <http://www.guardian.co.uk/science>
- Newspaper article should cite a specific research article in a scientific journal.
- Find that research article (use PubMed, Google Scholar, Web of Science) and read it. To access some articles in the UBC Library, you must use a UBC network or VPN from home.
  - <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/sites/entrez?otool=icaubclib>
  - <http://scholar.google.ca/>
  - [http://apps.isiknowledge.com/WOS\\_GeneralSearch\\_input.do?preferencesSaved=&highlighted\\_tab=WOS&product=WOS&SID=3FhOCekG1a2oBF%40ICMg&search\\_mode=GeneralSearch](http://apps.isiknowledge.com/WOS_GeneralSearch_input.do?preferencesSaved=&highlighted_tab=WOS&product=WOS&SID=3FhOCekG1a2oBF%40ICMg&search_mode=GeneralSearch)
- In your paper:
  - ***State the hypothesis*** of the research article and ***main conclusions*** regarding hypothesis. (4 pts)
  - Explain 1 (and only 1) ***strength*** of the experimental design. (5 pts)
  - Explain 1 (and only 1) ***weakness*** of the experimental design. Be critical. (5 pts)
  - Describe 1 (and only 1) ***follow-up study*** to test the ***same hypothesis***. Include control groups and predictions. Be creative. (6 pts)
  - Did the newspaper article describe the research article correctly? Explain. (3 pts)
  - Writing style, grammar and spelling. (3 pts)
  - Following ***formatting rules (length, spacing, margins, font size)*** (2 pts, all or none)
  - Total of 28 pts
- References: ***Do not include any references.***
- ***Make an outline before you start writing. Your first draft should be about 3 pages*** (don't submit this to me; for your use only). Cut to 2 pages for the final version. Use subheadings and paragraphs. We will provide an example for you.
- ***This paper is to be original work done independently.*** If you have any questions as to whether or not what you are doing is even a borderline case of ***plagiarism or academic misconduct***, ask the instructor. Any plagiarism will result in no credit for the entire paper.

### Psychology Department's position on academic misconduct:

Cheating, plagiarism, and other forms of academic misconduct are very serious concerns, and the Department of Psychology has taken steps to alleviate them. First, the Department has implemented ***software that can reliably detect cheating on multiple-choice exams*** by analyzing

the patterns of students' responses. Second, the Department subscribes to *TurnItIn, a service designed to detect plagiarism*. All materials that students submit will be scanned and compared to over 4.5 billion pages of content located on the Internet or in TurnItIn's own databases. The results are compiled into customized "Originality Reports" containing several sensitive measures of plagiarism; instructors receive copies of these reports for every student in their class. *Google and Google Scholar can also readily detect plagiarism*.

In all cases of suspected academic misconduct, the parties involved will be pursued to the fullest extent dictated by the guidelines of the University. Strong evidence of cheating or plagiarism may result in a zero credit for the work in question. The President of UBC has the right to impose harsher penalties including (but not limited to) a failing grade for the course, suspension from the University, cancellation of scholarships, or a notation added to a student's transcript.

**Special accommodations:**

The University accommodates students with disabilities that have registered with the Disability Resource Centre.

Students who plan to be absent for varsity athletics, family obligations, or other similar commitments usually cannot be accommodated. In these cases, you must ask your instructor during the first week of class.

**A final note:**

Information about academic regulations, course withdrawal dates and credits can be found in the University Calendar. If you need information about studying, note taking or time management, then free workshops and advice are available from the Student Resources Centre.