

**Psychology 306 A – Animal Behaviour  
2007/2008 Term 2**

**When:** MWF, 9:00 - 9:50 am  
**Where:** BUCH A203

**Instructor:** Kiran K. Soma, Ph.D.  
Assistant Professor, Department of Psychology  
Office: Kenny 3505  
Office hour: Mon 10:00 - 11:00, *or by appointment*  
Tel: 604-827-5820  
Email: [ksoma@psych.ubc.ca](mailto:ksoma@psych.ubc.ca)  
**IMPORTANT: If you have questions, I would like to help you in person. I will only use email to schedule in-person meetings.**

**TA:** Amit Shah  
Office: Kenny 3512  
Office hour: To be announced in class  
Email: [amitshah84@hotmail.com](mailto:amitshah84@hotmail.com)  
**IMPORTANT: If you have questions, please see Amit in person. He will only use email to schedule in-person meetings.**

**Course description:**

This course is designed to introduce students to the scientific study of animal behavior. Topics will include: development of behavior, evolution of behavior, and physiology of behavior.

Important: this course is also designed to encourage critical and independent thinking, as well as improve written and oral communication. These goals are central to the course. **Thus, questions and discussion are encouraged throughout the lectures! We will award EXTRA CREDIT for class participation (2 points on your COURSE GRADE if you contribute 13+ times in class.)**

It is your responsibility to ensure that you have met all prerequisites for this course (see UBC Calendar). If you lack any prerequisites for this course, the Department may cancel your registration at any time.

**Textbook:** *Animal Behavior*, John Alcock, 2005, 8th Ed. Note: Please get the 8th Edition. You can buy the textbook at the UBC Bookstore or at Amazon.com, etc. **Please get your textbook ASAP.** One copy is on reserve at Koerner Library.

**Webpage:** Lecture notes will be available online the day before the lecture by 8:00 pm, so you can print out the slides before class. **Note that the slides will be missing important information, which will be provided during lectures.** Thus, it is very useful to attend all the lectures. See this webpage:  
<http://www.psych.ubc.ca/~ksoma/>

**Note:** Please turn off cell phones during lectures and exams.

**Important: do the reading before the lectures. This will help you follow the lectures.**

	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Readings</b>
Jan 7	Studying the causes of behavior	Ch. 1, pp. 3-24
Jan 9	Proximate and ultimate causes of birdsong, part 1	Ch. 2, pp. 27-40
Jan 11	Proximate and ultimate causes of birdsong, part 2	Ch. 2, pp. 40-53
Jan 14	Development of behavior, part 1	Ch. 3, pp. 55-67
Jan 16	Development of behavior, part 2	Ch. 3, pp. 67-80
Jan 18	Development of behavior, part 3	Ch. 3, pp. 80-97
Jan 21	Neural mechanisms, part 1	Ch. 4, pp. 99-119
Jan 23	Neural mechanisms, part 2	Ch. 4, pp. 119-125
Jan 25	Neural mechanisms, part 3	Ch. 4, pp. 125-140
Jan 28	Neurons and hormones, part 1	Ch. 5, pp. 143-160
Jan 30	Neurons and hormones, part 2	Ch. 5, pp. 160-173
Feb 1	Neurons and hormones, part 3	
Feb 4	Behavioral adaptations for survival, part 1	Ch. 6, pp. 175-186
Feb 6	Behavioral adaptations for survival, part 2	Ch. 6, pp. 187-206
Feb 8	Feeding behavior, part 1	Ch. 7, pp. 209-220
Feb 11	Feeding behavior, part 2	Ch. 7, pp. 220-238
Feb 13	Review	Review Ch. 1-7
Feb 15	Midterm	
Feb 18-22	No class	
Feb 25	Choosing where to live, part 1	Ch. 8, pp. 241-252
Feb 27	Choosing where to live, part 2	Ch. 8, pp. 252-263
Feb 29	Choosing where to live, part 3	Ch. 8, pp. 264-273
Mar 3	Communication, part 1	Ch. 9, pp. 275-282
Mar 5	Communication, part 2	Ch. 9, pp. 282-297
Mar 7	Communication, part 3	Ch. 9, pp. 297-314
Mar 10	Reproductive behavior, part 1	Ch. 10, pp. 317-348
Mar 12	Reproductive behavior, part 2	Ch. 10, pp. 348-360
Mar 14	Reproductive behavior, part 3	Ch. 10, pp. 360-366
Mar 17	Mating systems, part 1	Ch. 11, pp. 369-389
Mar 19	Mating systems, part 2	Ch. 11, pp. 390-403
Mar 21	No class	
Mar 24	No class	
Mar 26	Parental care, part 1	Ch. 12, pp. 405-426
Mar 28	Parental care, part 2	Ch. 12, pp. 426-435
Mar 31	Social behavior, part 1	Ch. 13, pp. 437-453
Apr 2	Social behavior, part 2	Ch. 13, pp. 453-465
Apr 4	Social behavior, part 3	Ch. 13, pp. 465-477
Apr 7	Human behavior, part 1	Ch. 14, pp. 479-503
Apr 9	Human behavior, part 2	Ch. 14, pp. 503-515
Apr 11	Human behavior, part 3 / General conclusions	

### **Evaluation:**

Midterm	40%
Final Exam	60%

- 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 true/false, multiple choice, and short-answer questions.
- **Emphasis on critical thinking, analysis of experimental design, interpretation of data, and proposing new experiments !**

- Faculties, departments and schools reserve the right to scale grades in order to maintain equity among sections and conformity to university, faculty, department or school norms.
- ***Department of Psychology policy for Psyc 300 and 400-level courses: class averages will range from 66-70% with a standard deviation of 13%.*** Students should therefore note that an unofficial grade given by an instructor might be changed by the faculty, department or school. Grades are not official until they appear on a student's academic record.

- Students have the right to view their marked examinations with their TA or professor, providing that they apply to do so within a month of receiving their final grades. This review is for pedagogic purposes. The examination remains the property of the university.
- **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.**

Further information about academic regulations, course withdrawal dates and credits can be found in the University Calendar. If you run into trouble and need information about studying, preparing for exams, note taking or time management, then free workshops and advice are available from the Student Resources Centre, which can be reached at 604-822-4319.

### **Policy on Missed Tests and Extensions:**

- ***Make-up tests will only be given for validated medical reasons.***
- 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.
- In the absence of such written verification, you will not be excused.
- **Make-up exams will consist of an oral exam (50 min) in front of the professor and the TA.**

### **Psychology Department's Position on Academic Misconduct:**

Cheating, plagiarism, and other forms of academic misconduct are very serious concerns of the University, and the Department of Psychology has taken steps to alleviate them. In the first place, the Department has implemented *software that can reliably detect cheating on multiple-choice exams* by analyzing the patterns of students' responses. In addition, the Department subscribes to TurnItIn -- a service designed to detect plagiarism. All materials that students submit for grading will be scanned and compared to over 4.5 billion pages of content located on the Internet or in TurnItIn's own proprietary databases. The results of these comparisons are compiled into customized "Originality Reports" containing several sensitive measures of plagiarism; instructors receive copies of these reports for every student in their class.

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. According to the University Act (section 61), 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.

All graded work in this course, unless otherwise specified, is to be original work done independently by individuals. If you have any questions as to whether or not what you are doing is even a borderline case of academic misconduct, please consult your instructor. For details on pertinent University policies and procedures, please see Chapter 5 in the UBC Calendar (<http://students.ubc.ca/calendar>) and read the University's Policy 69 (available at <http://www.universitycounsel.ubc.ca/policies/policy69.html>).

### **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 cannot be accommodated, except under extremely serious circumstances. In these cases, you must ask your instructor during the first week of class.