

PSYC 306A – Principles of Animal Behaviour



THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

Department of Psychology

Syllabus: Winter 2019

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor	Email	Office Hours
Dr. Tamara Bodnar Research Associate (Faculty of Medicine)	tamara.bodnar@ubc.ca	By appointment

GENERAL INFORMATION

Class Tuesday/Thursday: 3:30 – 5 pm	Hugh Dempster Pavilion 110
Teaching Assistant: Hannah Brodie hannah.brodie@alumni.ubc.ca	Office Hours: By appointment

COURSE MATERIALS

Textbooks: Principles of Animal Behavior (Third Edition) by Lee Alan Dugatkin
ISBN: 978-0-393-92045-1 (approximate cost: \$135.20)
The Selfish Gene by Richard Dawkins
ISBN: 978-0198788607 (approximate cost: \$19.95)

iClicker Plus: Classroom Response System (approximate cost: \$55.95)

Canvas: Lecture PowerPoint slides will be posted immediately *after* class

In order to do well in the course, you will need to attend class. If you miss a class, do your best to obtain notes from a friend. Textbooks are optional and you may choose to reference a different animal behaviour book, if you prefer. It is strongly recommended that you purchase/rent/borrow a textbook for reference throughout the course. Note: the textbooks listed above are on reserve at the library throughout the term. Occasionally, additional readings (published articles, podcasts, book excerpts) will be assigned to supplement lecture content and to facilitate discussions.

COURSE OVERVIEW

This course covers the scientific study of behaviour across a wide range of animal species. Information will be presented within the context of evolution and the genetic underpinnings of behaviour. Lectures will cover key topics and will present examples across a range of organisms including humans. Throughout this course key principles of the scientific method will be introduced, discussed, and related to animal behaviour experiments. This course is designed to encourage critical and independent thinking, promote discussion, and improve written and oral communication.

CONTACT

If you have a question or concern, please first consult the syllabus and if you cannot find the answer, please follow the guidelines below:

- Question about course content: Post in the class discussion board
- Question about course deadlines and expectations: Post in the class discussion board
- General questions about exams or term paper: Post in the class discussion board
- Questions about your term paper (e.g. needing feedback): Email TA
- Issues and concerns (personal): Email Tamara

Note: In order to reduce the volume of emails received, and in order to ensure that all students have access to content that would otherwise be received by email, I am strongly encouraging the class to make use of the discussion board. This board will be monitored by the teaching staff; however, we are strongly encouraging students to help answer questions (when appropriate), to use the board for group work etc. In addition, prior to posting a question on the board, please review the previous posts to ensure that your question has not yet been answered.

OFFICE HOURS

In addition to the discussion board and email, office hours can be arranged. Office hours (with TA and instructor) will generally be scheduled by appointment only (with the exception of the pre-set office hours listed below).

Office hours are designed to help you with course content, develop study strategies, assist with term paper writing etc. Please do not hesitate to make an appointment. If you are experiencing difficulties in the course, **PLEASE CONTACT US EARLY**. Scheduling an appointment immediately prior to the exam or term paper deadline will likely not be productive. If you receive a failing grade on the midterm or term paper, you are required to set up an appointment to discuss your progress in the course.

Please email the TA to schedule an appointment, providing details as to nature of your request (e.g. term paper assistance, course content questions, study strategies etc.). The TA will either set up an appointment or forward your request to me.

General office hours will take place in the **Life Sciences West Atrium (2350 Health Sciences Mall)**. If you need to schedule a confidential meeting, please mention this in your email, and a different meeting location will be provided.

Tentative* list of office hours:

Office Hours	Details	Location	Instructor
Tuesday, October 1	Available to answer term paper questions	Hugh Dempster Pavilion 110	TA
Week of Oct 21	Midterm viewing: review of graded midterms	TBD	TA
Week of Oct 28	Term paper questions/draft review	TBD	TA
December exam period	Available to answer questions prior to final exam	TBD	TB, TA
Dec or Jan	Final exam viewing: review of graded final exams	TBD	TB

*: Please check back for revised dates/times (based on class availability) to be posted on Canvas.

LEARNING TOOLS

iClicker in-class quizzes: There will be in-class iClicker questions on most class days. The goal of these quizzes is to encourage class participation. See details below.

Surveys: There will be approximately 2 – 4 class surveys using the UBC survey tool Qualtrics. The first survey will be a pre-course survey designed to assess course perceptions and aid in the design of the course to best meet the needs and interests of the students. In addition, there will be a post-midterm survey in which I will be asking for student feedback in order to modify and adjust aspects of the final half of the course and gauge student satisfaction.

Canvas discussion board: This term we will be using Canvas for class discussion. The system is highly catered to getting you help fast and efficiently from classmates, the TA, and myself. Rather than emailing questions to the myself or the TA, I encourage you to post your questions on Canvas.

READING LIST

The textbooks are optional and are meant to supplement course content (e.g. provide background if a student is lacking in specific background knowledge, aid in writing the term paper) etc. As such, no formal reading list will be provided. Students should review the table of contents in order to ascertain which textbook chapters/sections are most relevant. While some lectures will include textbook content, others will be based on papers and other resources. As such, exams will all be based on the materials presented in class unless otherwise noted.

CLASS EXPECTATIONS

Student Expectations	Instructor Expectations
a. Be active and participate in class (i.e. in small group discussion, iClicker quizzes, etc).	a. Be active and enthusiastic to facilitate student learning.
b. Listen and respect others	b. Listen and respect students' views
c. Complete all assignments individually and to the best of your ability	d. Accommodate differences in students' learning and <u>mark objectively, consistently, and in a timely manner</u>
d. Limit cell phone / computer use to course-specific activities	e. Limit cell phone / computer use to course-specific activities
e. Be punctual for all classes	f. Be in class at least 5 minutes before and after class
f. Discuss class concerns either after class or during office hours	g. Respond swiftly and effectively to student concerns through the discussion board or by email
g. Be prepared for class by reviewing assigned readings and/or lecture slides	h. Be prepared for class (post lecture slides after class).
h. Meet with the instructor early in the term if you are having difficulties in the course	i. Be available to meet with students and prepare strategies to facilitate success in the course

COURSE ASSESSMENTS

Assessment	Possible Weight	Suggested Weight	Due Date
In class clicker q's	5 – 10%	5%	Weekly
Midterm exam	20 – 30%	25%	October 15
Term paper	15 – 25%	20%	November 14
Final exam	50 – 55%	50%	TBD (cumulative)

In an attempt to alleviate test and/or term paper anxiety, you have the option of personalizing the assignment of weight to each component of the course. The "suggested weight" column provides you with a point reference for a reasonable weighting if you do not have any specific preference. As an example, if you experience exam stress, you may want to decrease the midterm exam weighting to 20% and assign additional weight to the term paper.

If you wish to customize the allocation of marks for the various components of the course, please complete the *Course Assessment* survey available on Qualtrics (https://ubc.ca1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_elCye9yIHfb6fA1) by **Tuesday, September 17** at 8

pm. If you choose to use the “suggested weight” as described above, there is no need to submit the *Course Assessment* survey.

Your decision regarding allocation of marks is final and cannot be revised after September 17.

IN CLASS ICLICKER QUESTIONS

Most lectures will include iClicker questions. These questions will cover content from the previous week (i.e. sample midterm MCQ questions), assess your level of knowledge in the subject area, survey attitudes about the topic or course, spark discussion (i.e. no wrong answers) etc. Please register your iClicker's through Canvas.

The iClicker questions will count toward your mark (see above); however, if you answer at least one question correctly, each session, you will receive full marks for that day. I understand that special circumstances may arise that prevent you from attending lecture, and as such, so each student will receive two “freebie” absences (automatic, no note/e-mail/excuse required).

I ask that you complete this quiz honestly and without the aid of online materials. Any student caught accessing the internet or other materials will receive a score of zero. In addition, any student caught with >1 iClicker device will receive a mark of 0 for the term, for the iClicker question category (this applies to the owner of the second device, as well).

MIDTERM & FINAL EXAM

The midterm exam (**Tuesday, Oct. 15, 2019**) will cover all material prior to the date of the exam. You are expected to know the material presented in class lectures. Additional textbook material and material posted on Canvas is designed to supplement course material, fill gaps in knowledge (for students lacking background in the various topics) and will not be tested directly, unless otherwise noted. There will be an additional an additional group exam-related activity (for bonus marks only) on **Thursday, October 17 (in class)**. More details will be provided in class. The format of the examinations will be multiple choice, fill-in-the-blank questions, short answer questions (1 – 4 sentences), and long answer questions (~1/2 page). The final examination will have the same format. The final exam (date TBD) will be cumulative, including material both from before and after the midterm exam.

TERM PAPER

Details regarding the requirements for this assignment will be posted on Canvas. Briefly, the assignment will be broken down into stages:

- Deadline to submit term paper outline: **Thursday, October 3 (8 pm)**
- Deadline to submit peer feedback on another student paper (for bonus marks):
Thursday, October 31 (8 pm)
- Deadline to submit final term paper: **Thursday, November 14 (8 pm)**

All components must be submitted through Turnitin or Canvas (details provided on the assignment description on Canvas). As technical difficulties can happen at the worst times,

please plan to submit at least a few hours before the deadline. Technical issues will not be considered a valid excuse for a late submission (see policy on extensions and late submissions below). Please use the class discussion board if you have questions regarding the term paper. Office hours have also been scheduled during which time you will have the opportunity to ask questions.

Please enroll yourself in the class Turnitin using the class ID: 22478375 and the enrollment key: 22213112.

UBC provides writing support and other resources to assist with the term paper process. Visit the Learning Commons to set up an appointment with a Peer Writing Consultant:
<http://learningcommons.ubc.ca/tutoring-studying/writing/>

Finally, if you have struggled with term papers in the past (e.g. time management, writing style etc.) and would like to setup an appointment to discuss strategies for completing the assignment, please do so early in the term.

POLICY ON MISSED QUIZZES, EXAMS, EXTENSIONS AND LATE SUBMISSIONS

iClicker questions: As noted above, each student will receive two “freebie” absences (automatic, no note/e-mail/excuse required) for iClicker questions.

Exams and assignments: Make-up exams and assignments will only be scheduled based on UBC policies (see <http://www.calendar.ubc.ca/vancouver/index.cfm?tree=3,329,0,0>). For a first case of a missed exam/assignment, a self-declaration of medical concern is sufficient and students need not provide a doctor’s note. For further missed exams/assignments, students should apply for academic concession with Arts Advising. For missed final exams, please contact Arts Advising. Make-up exams will consist of an ORAL EXAM in front of the instructor and the TA.

Term Paper: Individual term paper extensions will not be granted. Late submissions will receive a 15% penalty, per day, without exceptions.

BONUS MARKS

There are three ways to earn bonus marks in this course:

- 1) Peer review of term paper draft: Deadline **Thursday, October 31 (8 pm)**. More details provided in the term paper description on Canvas.
- 2) Midterm exam-related group activity: Held on **Thursday, October 17th (in class)**. More details will be provided in class.
- 3) Media release for your term paper primary research paper: Deadline **Thursday, November 28th (8 pm)**. More details provided in the term paper description on Canvas.

Each of the above bonus assignments will be worth 8 bonus points (maximum). You will receive a mark from 0 – 8 for any assignment you choose to complete. Due to limits in TA marking time, you will receive minimal feedback/comments for the bonus assignments.

COURSE SCHEDULE

Class	Date	Topic	Instructor	Other
--	T Sept. 3	No Class (UBC Imagine Day)	--	
1	Th Sept. 5	Syllabus & Course Introduction	TB	
2	T Sept. 10	Principles of Animal Behaviour	TB	
3	Th Sept. 12	The Evolution of Behaviour I	TB	
4	T Sept. 17	The Evolution of Behaviour II	TB	Course assessment survey due
5	Th Sept. 19	Term Paper Workshop	TB	Read assigned paper
6	T Sept. 24	Molecular Genetics & Development	TB	
7	Th Sept. 26	Hormones & Neurobiology: Focus on Stress	TB	
8	T Oct. 1	No class	--	TA available during class time for term paper support.
9	Th Oct. 3	Neurobiology of Fear	TB	Deadline to submit term paper outline
10	T Oct. 8	Learning and Memory	TB	
11	Th Oct. 10	Review Session	TB	
12	T Oct. 15	Midterm Exam	--	
13	Th Oct. 17	Exam review (bonus marks), Pain	TB	
14	T Oct. 22	Social behaviour I	Guest	
15	Th Oct. 24	Social behaviour II	Guest	
16	T Oct. 29	Sickness Behaviour	TB	
17	Th Oct. 31	Aggression	TB	Deadline to submit term paper peer feedback
18	T Nov. 5	Primate Behaviour	TB	
19	Th Nov. 7	Reproductive Behaviour & Mating Systems	TB	
20	T Nov. 12	Microbiome Influences on Behaviour I	TB	
21	Th Nov. 14	Microbiome Influences on Behaviour II	TB	Term paper deadline
22	T Nov. 19	Abnormal Behaviour	TB	
23	Th Nov. 21	Animal Communication	Guest	
24	T Nov. 26	Special Topics – Class Choice	TB	
25	Th Nov. 28	Review Session	TB	Media release deadline (bonus marks)

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION & POLICIES

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.com – 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 ACCOMODATIONS

The University accommodates students with disabilities who have registered with the **Centre for Accessibility**. The University accommodates students whose religious obligations conflict with attendance, submitting assignments, or completing scheduled tests and examinations. Please let your instructor know in advance, preferably in the first week of class, if you will require any accommodation on these grounds. Students who plan to be absent for varsity athletics, family obligations, or other similar commitments, cannot assume they will be accommodated, and should discuss their commitments with the instructor before the drop date.

PSYCHOLOGY DEPARTMENT'S POLICY ON GRADE DISTRIBUTION AND SCALING

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. 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.

In order to reduce grade inflation and maintain equity across multiple course sections, all psychology courses are required to comply with departmental norms regarding grade distributions. According to departmental norms, the course average will be 66-70% with a standard deviation of 13%. Scaling is likely to be used in order to comply with these norms; grades may be scaled up or down as necessary by the professor or department. Grades are not official until they appear on your academic record.

AUDIO/VIDEO RECORDING POLICY

Students may request permission to record any lectures or other formal teaching sessions. All such requests should be made in writing (including by email) prior to the lecture course or equivalent, to the instructor. The decision on whether to grant permission is at the discretion of the instructor; recording a lecture also requires the observation of privacy guidelines and regulations for students in the class whose presence or statements might also be recorded. Students may only record lectures where the instructor for the session has given their consent prior to the start of the lecture in writing (e.g. by email), and students may not make recordings of lectures unless this consent has been given. Retrospective requests are not permissible under this policy and covert recording of lectures will be treated as a disciplinary offence. Recordings of lectures or other formal teaching sessions may only be made for the personal and private use of the student. As such, students may not publish such recordings in any form (this includes, but is not limited to, the internet and hard copy publication). Students creating unauthorized recording violate an instructor's intellectual property rights and the Canadian Copyright Act and will be subject to disciplinary actions.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Further information about academic regulations, course withdrawal dates and credits can be found in the University Calendar. You are encouraged to read this material. If you run into trouble and need information about studying, preparing for exams, note taking or time management, free workshops and advice are available from the Student Resources Centre, which can be reached through the School and College Liaison Office at 822-4319 and from Student Success, <http://www.students.ubc.ca/success/>.