PSYCHOLOGY 2TT3E COURSE OUTLINE
INTRODUCTION TO ANIMAL LEARNING AND BEHAVIOUR

LECTURES: Mondays & Wednesdays 6:30pm - 9:30pm
LOCATION: JHE/A102

INSTRUCTORS:
Kelly Stiver
PC-235
ext. 26042
stiverka@mcmaster.ca

Kamini Persaud
PC-235
ext. 26042
persaukn@mcmaster.ca

OFFICE HOURS: by appointment

REQUIRED TEXTS*: (both available at Titles Bookstore, McMaster University)


* Please note that these texts are REQUIRED, ie. you are responsible for the information in the required readings from these texts. Much of this information will not be directly referred to in lecture but you will still be tested on it.

PREREQUISITE:
PSYCH 1A03, 1AA3; or registration in Honours Biology and Psychology, Honours Neural Computation or the Bachelor of Health Sciences (Honours) programme

ANTIREQUISITE:
PSYCH 2T03, 3R03

COURSE OBJECTIVES:
This course intends to provide an introduction to the fields of animal learning and behaviour. The discussion of animal learning will concentrate on analysis of the basic principles of behaviour modifications a result of experience. The discussion of animal behaviour will be concerned with the relationship between the behaviour of living organisms and their survival and reproduction in natural environments in light of evolutionary theory.

This course is divided in two parts. Kelly Stiver will cover the first part, animal learning, and Kamini Persaud will cover the topics of second half of the course on animal behaviour.

TECHNOLOGICAL REQUIREMENTS:
1. A McMaster email account is required.
2. **WebCT**: Lecture slides, course outline, discussion questions, grades, and general course announcements and information will be available on WebCT. **Students are expected to check the course WebCT site regularly.** (http://webct.mcmaster.ca/)

**COURSE ORGANIZATION:**

The course is comprised primarily of lectures, which are open to simultaneous class discussion. That is, students are encouraged to ask questions and exchange ideas. Students should also feel free to post questions for discussion with other class members and instructors on WebCT.

Readings will be assigned to accompany each lecture. You are encouraged to review the assigned readings **prior** to each lecture. The material covered in these readings will **compliment** lecture material, but will generally not be directly repeated in class. Students are responsible for the material covered in both lecture and readings.

**CLASS ATTENDANCE/MISSED CLASSES:**

Students are responsible for any material presented in missed classes. **THE INSTRUCTOR WILL NOT LEND OUT LECTURE NOTES.** Skeletal instructor notes will be available on WebCT. If students miss a class, they are recommended to borrow notes from a fellow classmate.

**GRADE CALCULATION:**

*Grades (except for final grades) will eventually be posted on WebCT*

Part 1 - Animal Learning: Quiz = 10%, Exam = 40%
Part 2 - Animal Behaviour: 2 tests: Test 1 = 20%, Test 2 = 30%

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<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tr>
<td>A+</td>
<td>90-100</td>
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<td>A</td>
<td>85-90</td>
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<td>A-</td>
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<td>B+</td>
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<td>B-</td>
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<td>C+</td>
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In converting percentage grades to letter grades, any amounts less than 0.50 will be rounded down, and amounts equal to or greater than 0.50 will be rounded up; for example, 49.49 = F, and 49.50 = D-. The instructors reserve the right to adjust final marks up or down, on an individual basis, in the light of special circumstances. There are no make up exams, if you miss an exam, your mark will be re-calculated accordingly.

**MISSED TESTS/EXAMS/ASSIGNMENTS**

Policies and procedures regarding missed tests or exams can be found on the following site: http://www.science.mcmaster.ca/~associatedean/services/exemptions.html **INSTRUCTORS DO NOT HANDLE JUDGEMENTS RELATED TO STUDENT ABSENCES.** Students must contact the office of the associate dean of science as soon as possible.

**ACADEMIC DISHONESTY:**

Attention is drawn to the Statement on Academic Ethics and the Senate Resolutions on Academic Dishonesty as found in Senate policy statements distributed at registration and available in the Senate office. Any student who infringes one of these resolutions will be treated according to the published policy.
**MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR OF PSYCHOLOGY:**
The instructor cannot be responsible for returning long distance calls from students. Any student wishing to reach an instructor is invited to e-mail the instructor.

**TENTATIVE SCHEDULE: (tentative - may change)**

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<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>TOPIC</th>
<th>READINGS</th>
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| Mon. May 2nd | **LEARNING SECTION:**  
The Structure of Unconditioned Behaviour and Basics of Classical Conditioning | Domjan  
Chpt. 1, 2, 4, 5       |
| Wed. May 4th | Classical Conditioning Continued                                      | Domjan  
Chpt. 4, 5  
6 (pgs 84-91)            |
| Mon. May 9th | Quiz (1/2 hr; 10%)  
Dual Process Models                                                      | Domjan  
Chpt. 3                   |
| Wed. May 11th | Instrumental (Operant) Conditioning – Punishment and Reinforcement  | Domjan  
Chpt. 7, 11, 12                         |
| Mon. May 16th | Schedules and Theories of Reinforcement                                 | Domjan  
Chpt. 8, 9, 10        |
| Wed. May 18th | Learning Exam (cumulative, 3 hr; 40%)                                 | ---                     |
| Mon. May 23rd | -- HOLIDAY --                                                          | ---                     |
| Wed. May 25th | **BEHAVIOUR SECTION:**  
Study of animal behaviour in light of evolutionary theory                     | Dugatkin: Chpt. 2       |
| Mon. June 6th | Behaviour Test 1 (1 hr; 20%)                                            | Dugatkin: Chpt. 8       |
| Mon. June 13th | Behaviour Section Review                                               | Come with prepared, specific questions |
| Wed. June 15th | Behaviour Test 2 (2 hr; 30%)                                            | ---                     |