Psychology 3T3E-Sociobiology

Time: Tuesday 19:00-22:00
September 13 – November 29, 2005
Location: ITB/AB102

Instructor: Dr. Sigal Balshine
Contact Info: Office - PC 304
Email - sigal@mcmaster.ca
Office Hours - Wednesdays 9:30-11:30  by appointment only
Web page: www.science.mcmaster.ca/Psychology/psych3T3E

TAs: Julie Desjardins and Kelly Stiver
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Office Hours: - Tuesdays 16:30 – 18:30

Course description and objectives: In this 3rd year course is the study of social phenomena in the light of contemporary evolutionary knowledge and theories. It is NOT centrally concerned with Homo sapiens, and will take a comparative approach to the study of animal behaviour. Students seeking a course that focuses on human sociobiology are advised to consider taking Psychology 3F3.

It is your responsibility to ensure that you have met all prerequisites listed in the McMaster calendar for this course. If you lack any prerequisites for this course, the Department may cancel your registration at any time.


Evaluation will be based on:
1. A midterm, held in class worth 20% 25th October worth 20%
2. A short critical review due 1st November, worth 30%
(See Review Description below)
3. A three hour, registrar-scheduled final examination, worth 50%

Breakdown of marks:
Midterm = 20%
Critical Review = 30%
Final Exam = 50%
Total = 100%

Note. Extensions will NOT be offered. Late reviews will be devalued by 10% per day. For example if you hand in your review, one day late on November 2\textsuperscript{nd}, you will receive 0.9 x the grade you would have received if the work was turned in on time, 0.8 times the grade if on November 3\textsuperscript{rd} and so on.

If class assignments conflict with a personal religious observance, please notify the course instructor at least three weeks in advance.

Grades: These will be computed out of 100 points and converted to a letter grade as follows:

\[
\begin{align*}
A+ & = 100-90, & A & = 90-85, & A- & = 84-80, \\
B+ & = 79-77, & B & = 76-73, & B- & = 72-70, \\
D+ & = 59-57, & D & = 56-53, & D- & = 52-50, \\
F & = 49-0
\end{align*}
\]

Lectures will focus on a review of theory and supportive research.

Course Organization
The midterm will count for 20% of your grade. It will consist of multiple-choice questions and possibly short answers (one word or key phrases). It will be based fairly equally on the readings assigned for class and on the material covered in the lectures.

The critical review will count for 30% of your grade. This will be based on a review and critique of an empirical report of behavioural ecology research with a publication date in 2005.

The final exam will consist of multiple choice questions and short answers (with ample choice). Good marks will require thorough familiarity with and comprehension of the content of both the textbook and the lectures.
Course Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class Dates</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Chapters to Read</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. September 13</td>
<td>(Introduction)</td>
<td>1-4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. September 20</td>
<td>(Optimality &amp; Social Behaviour)</td>
<td>6, 7</td>
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<tr>
<td>3. September 27</td>
<td>(Sexual Selection)</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. October 4</td>
<td>(Guest Lecture)</td>
<td>11</td>
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<td>5. October 11</td>
<td>(Sperm Competition)</td>
<td>10</td>
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<tr>
<td>6. October 18</td>
<td>(Mating Systems Evolution)</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. October 25</td>
<td>(Sexual Conflict)</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. November 1</td>
<td>(Sex Ratio Allocation)</td>
<td>Extra assigned</td>
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<tr>
<td>9. November 8</td>
<td>(Parental Care)</td>
<td>12</td>
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<tr>
<td>10. November 15</td>
<td>(Parent-Offspring Conflict)</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11. November 22</td>
<td>(Cooperation &amp; Conflict In Social Groups)</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12. November 29</td>
<td>(Predators &amp; Preys, Life History Theory and Review)</td>
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Academic dishonesty

Academic dishonesty consists of misrepresentation by deception or by other fraudulent means and can result in serious consequences, e.g. the grade of zero on an assignment, loss of credit with a notation on the transcript (notation reads: “Grade of F assigned for academic dishonesty”), and/or suspension or expulsion from the university.

It is your responsibility to understand what constitutes academic dishonesty. For information on the various kinds of academic dishonesty please refer to the Academic Integrity Policy, specifically Appendix 3, located at http://www.mcmaster.ca/senate/academic/ac_integrity.htm

The following illustrates only three forms of academic dishonesty:
1. Plagiarism, e.g. the submission of work that is not one’s own or for which other credit has been obtained. (Insert specific course information, e.g. style guide)

2. Improper collaboration in group work. (Insert specific course information)

3. Copying or using unauthorized aids in tests and examinations.

In this course we will be using a software package designed to reveal plagiarism. Students will be required to submit their work electronically and in hard copy so that it can be checked for academic dishonesty.