

Animal Behaviour - PSYCH 2TT3

2008

Instructor: Dr. Reuven Dukas (e-mail: psych2tt3@psycserv.mcmaster.ca).

Office Hours: By appointment. Please e-mail a justified request to psych2tt3@psycserv.mcmaster.ca.

Teaching Assistants: Adam Guzzo, Melanie MacEacheron, Julie Marentette, Lori Wollaston.

Course e-mail: psych2tt3@psycserv.mcmaster.ca.

TA Office and Hours: PC-205A; M, T: 1:30 to 2:30 PM; W, Th: 9-10 AM

The course website on Learnlink has partial lecture notes and supplementary material. You are responsible for all the material covered in the lectures. Attending lectures is necessary for succeeding in the course.

Objectives. By the end of this course the students will be able to:

1. Explain the importance and uses of research on animal behavior.
2. Discuss the two mechanisms that can change behaviour over time.
3. Describe genetic and physiological mechanisms that control and generate behaviour.
4. Apply scientific thinking for analysing novel problems in animal behaviour.
5. Detail the major components of behaviour, which are shared by most animal species.
6. Explain human behaviour based on concepts and examples studied in the course.
7. Interpret graphs and know how to draw graphs from data.

Textbook: Dugatkin, L. A. 2004. *Principles of Animal Behavior*. Norton, New York.

You are expected to read the relevant chapters in the textbook, which will supplement the lectures.

Schedule and tentative topics:

Week	Topic	Book chapter	Test
1	Introduction: Why learn about animal behaviour? Critical & scientific thinking. Research approaches.	3	
2	Principles of animal behaviour	1	
3	Evolution	2	
4	Evolution	2	
5	Learning	4	Test 1 (weeks 1-4) Feb. 6
6	Learning	5	
7	Learning		
8	Life history; foraging	10	
9	Fleeing - antipredatory behaviour	11	Test 2 (weeks 1-8) Mar. 12
10	Fighting and cooperation	14	
11	Sex	6	
12	Case study: evolutionary biology of bird song		
13	TBA		

Grade calculation: Test 1 (15%), Test 2 (25%), Final (60%). Plus optional extra credit questions (4% ; further information will be provided in the lecture and on Learnlink). Students who miss an exam must contact their faculty office (see http://registrar.mcmaster.ca/calendar/year2005/sec_111.htm). The faculty office will inform us directly about students with approved applications, who will have their mark weighted. There will not be make-up in-class tests.

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.