<u>**Preliminary outline for Animal Behaviour and Evolution – PNB 2XC3. Posted Sept 9, 2011**</u>

Please note that this is a newly developed course. I will update this electronic outline throughout the semester when relevant.

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Course email (pnb2xc3@gmail.com): Monitored daily M-F.
On line chat hours on either MSN or Gmail (pnb2xc3@gmail.com): M, T, F 2-4 PM.
In-person office hours (PC 151): M, T 3-4 PM at PC 205A.

The course Avenue site has <u>partial</u> lecture notes and supplementary material. <u>You are responsible for all the material covered in the lectures. To succeed in the course, you should attend the lectures and midterms.</u>

Objectives. By the end of this course the students will be able to:
1. Explain the importance and uses of research on animal behaviour.
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. 2009. *Principles of Animal Behavior, 2nd ed*. Norton, New York.
You should read, and will be tested about, the material in the chapters of the textbook listed below.

iClicker: You are required to bring your iClicker to every lecture. Before the second class (Sept. 19), you must register your iClicker at: http://www.iclicker.com/support/registeryourclicker/. Your student ID is your MacID, which is typically the first part of your e-mail address. Failure to bring your personal iClicker to lectures with evaluations, or failure to register your iClicker will result in a zero being assigned to the relevant evaluation. Using somebody else's iClicker is an academic dishonesty, which will result in a grade of F for the course.

Tentative schedule and topics (please refer to Avenue for updates):

Week	Topic	Book chapter	Test
1	Introduction: Why learn about animal behaviour? Critical & scientific thinking.	3	
2	Principles of animal behaviour	1	
3	Evolution	2	
4	Evolution	2	
5	Learning	4	Test 1 (weeks 1-4) **Oct. 11**
6	Learning & Social learning	5	
7	Social learning		
8	Life history; foraging	10	
9	Fleeing - antipredatory behaviour	11	Test 2 (weeks 1-8) **Nov. 8**
10	Sex		
11	Sex & fighting	6	
12	**Topics Chosen by the Students**	6	

Grade calculation: In-class evaluations (10%) Test 1 (15%), Test 2 (23.5%), Final (50%). 2XT0 exam (1.5%). Plus optional extra credit questions in the two midterms (3%; I will provide further information in the lecture and on Avenue). The exams are cumulative. Students who miss an exam must either fill an MSAF (https://pinjap01.mcmaster.ca/msaf/) or contact their faculty office. Students with approved forms will have their mark weighted. You should avoid missing an exam because it typically results in a lower course mark. Students who miss both midterms will have an essay-based in-class make-up exam.

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, under the Senate Policy Statements in the online calendar.

General university rules: Please read and adhere to the *General Academic Regulations* and *Senate Policy Statements* in the online calendar.