<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Instructor</th>
<th>Dr. Ayesha Khan</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Office Hours</td>
<td>Thursdays, 1:30 – 2:30PM, or by appointment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Office Location</td>
<td>Psychology Building (PC), Room 107</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E-mail</td>
<td><a href="mailto:akhan@mcmaster.ca">akhan@mcmaster.ca</a></td>
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**Please include the course code (Psych 2TT3) in the subject of all E-mails.**

| Course Description | This course will examine concepts that underpin animal behaviour and explore how selection pressures have operated to produce diversity of this behaviour in a variety of taxa such as invertebrates, amphibians, reptiles, fish, birds, and mammals. Course topics will include behavioural genetics, learning and cognition, communication, foraging and antipredator behaviours, and mating behaviours.  

At first, students will be introduced to the scientific process and how it is used in the field of animal behaviour. Each subsequent week we will investigate a different topic by understanding basic definitions and theoretical constructs as well as exploring data gathered from empirical studies. Students will also learn how scientific research can be used to create solutions to “real-world” challenges.  

By the end of this course, students would have gained practice in: (1) applying the scientific perspective in thinking critically about research in animal behaviour and, (2) using published data to create a solution to a ‘real-life’ question to further understand the wider implications of research.  

Three lectures; one term  
**Prerequisite(s):** PSYCH 1X03, PSYCH 1XX3 with a grade of at least C+ in each, and one of BIOLOGY 1M03, 1P03, or Grade 12 Biology U; or ISCI 1A24; or registration in Arts & Science, the B.H.Sc. (Honours) program; or credit or registration in one of BIOLOGY 1M03, 1P03 or Grade 12 Biology U, and registration in the Honours Music (Music Cognition) program  
**Antirequisite(s):** LIFE SCI 2D03, PNB 2XC3 |

| Required Reading Materials | Animal Behavior  
Concepts, Methods, and Applications  
Authors: Shawn Nordell and Thomas Valone  
Copyright © 2014 by Oxford University Press  
ISBN: 9780199737598 |

| Evaluation | Your final grade will be based on:  
1. Midterm 1 (15%)  
2. Midterm 2 (15%)  
3. On-line Quizzes (Best 5 out of 6, 5% total)  
4. Assignment 1 (15%): “Real-World” Application  
5. Assignment 2 (15%): The Scientific Process  
6. Cumulative Final exam (35%) to be scheduled by the Office of the Registrar  
* Detailed information about each course component will be posted on Avenue to Learn. |
Tests, Quizzes, & Final Exam

Quizzes will be administered through *Avenue to Learn*. All quiz questions will be multiple-choice in format. Further instructions will be provided in class.

The two mid-term tests and final exam will comprise a combination of multiple-choice, true/false statements, and written-response questions. Sample questions will be posted on *Avenue to Learn* prior to each test.

Test questions will be based on material covered in lectures and/or in the text. Please be sure to complete all text readings and keep up-to-date with content discussed during lecture. If you miss a class, please do not email the instructor for lecture notes.

Information presented via video or audio format will be testable on the midterms and final exam. Due to copyright issues, it may not be possible to post videos/audio recordings presented in class on *Avenue to Learn*. If you miss a class, please ask a fellow classmate for lecture notes.

A total of 6 (short) online quizzes will be held throughout the semester. The purpose of these quizzes is to encourage reading of text material, thus to review content presented in the book. Further instructions about deadlines and how to complete these quizzes will be discussed in class.

The final exam will be three hours in duration and cumulative, covering questions from all chapters, lecture notes, and audio/video presentations from throughout the semester.

Web Postings

In this course we will be using *Avenue to Learn*. Students should be aware that, when they access the electronic components of this course, private information such as first and last names, user names for the McMaster e-mail accounts, and program affiliation may become apparent to all other students in the same course. The available information is dependent on the technology used. Continuation in this course will be deemed consent to this disclosure. If you have any questions or concerns about such disclosure please discuss this with the course instructor.

**Course Policies**

**Missed Tests & Quizzes**

*No make-up tests or quizzes are offered for this course*. If you miss a quiz you will receive a mark of zero for that quiz. You are allowed to miss one quiz without penalty. The percentage associated with each missed test will get added to your final exam (given that you have submitted a MSAF or have permission from your Associate Dean’s Office).

**McMaster Student Absence Form**

If you are absent from the university for a minor medical reason, lasting fewer than 5 days, you may report your absence, **once per term**, without documentation, using the McMaster Student Absence Form (http://www.mcmaster.ca/msaf/). Absences for a longer duration or for other reasons must be reported to your Faculty/Program office, with documentation, and relief from term work may not necessarily be granted.

*When using the MSAF, report your absence to msaf.2tt3@gmail.com*. **Clearly write PSYCH 2TT3 in the title of your message.** Our Teaching Assistants will monitor this E-mail account and will respond within a few days about what relief may be granted for the work you have missed.

**Other Academic Matters**

If you require a specific grade in this course, please make sure that you create a schedule for yourself that will allow for you to: (1) complete all readings and course requirements, (2) attend all class meetings, (3) create a realistic study schedule, and (4) visit the Instructor during office hours for additional help. If you are struggling with course material, ask for help **early**!

**Bonus Marks**

Your final course grade will be calculated based on the course components listed on the first page. It is not possible to add bonus marks (even in the form of a few decimal points).
### Written Assignments

All written work will be marked on grammar, clarity of writing, and organization, as well as content and analysis. More details about each assignment will be posted on *Avenue to Learn*.

All assignments must be properly referenced. You may choose any style for referencing depending on your familiarity. It is preferred that you select a citation style typically used in the sciences, social sciences, or medical sciences. Once you have selected a citation style, please continue to use that specific style throughout the term.

In this course we will be using a web-based service (Turnitin.com) to reveal plagiarism. Students will be expected to submit their work electronically to Turnitin.com and in hard copy so that it can be checked for academic dishonesty. Students who do not wish to submit their work to Turnitin.com must still submit a copy to the instructor. No penalty will be assigned to a student who does not submit work to Turnitin.com. All submitted work is subject to normal verification that standards of academic integrity have been upheld (e.g., online search, etc.). To see the Turnitin.com Policy, please go to: [http://www.mcmaster.ca/academicintegrity](http://www.mcmaster.ca/academicintegrity)

Students are encouraged to visit the Centre for Student Development to improve their writing skills (MUSC B107 at x:24711). For information about the Writing Clinic and the Centre’s other services, visit the Centre’s website: [http://studentsuccess.mcmaster.ca/academic-skills/writing-support-services.html](http://studentsuccess.mcmaster.ca/academic-skills/writing-support-services.html)

### Penalties for Lateness

All written work must be submitted during class and online, on the due date before/at 7PM.

Do not submit assignments by email and do not slide them under the instructor’s door.

Late assignments will be penalized 5% a day (weekends will also count towards a penalty).

Late penalties will not be waived unless your Faculty/Program Office advises the instructor that you have submitted to that office the appropriate documentation to support your inability to submit the work by the due date.

### Plagiarism

Honesty and fairness are considered fundamental to the university's mission, and, as a result, all those who violate those principles are dealt with as if they were damaging the integrity of the university itself.

When students are suspected of cheating or a similar academic offence, they are typically surprised at how formally and seriously the matter is dealt with and how severe the consequences can be if it is determined that cheating did occur.

You are expected to exhibit honesty and use ethical behaviour in all aspects of the learning process. Academic credentials you earn are rooted in principles of honesty and academic integrity.

Academic dishonesty is to knowingly act or fail to act in a way that results or could result in unearned academic credit or advantage. This behaviour 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 types of academic dishonesty please refer to the Academic Integrity Policy, located at [http://www.mcmaster.ca/academicintegrity](http://www.mcmaster.ca/academicintegrity)
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.
2. Improper collaboration in-group work.
3. Copying or using unauthorized aids in tests and examinations.

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Document Submission

Any claims of documents submitted to locations/persons apart from those indicated in this course syllabus will NOT be accepted.

Course News

You are also responsible for checking Avenue to Learn on a regular basis (on the morning of each class meeting at minimum) to ensure that you are up-to-date on important announcements related to this course.

Accessibility Services

McMaster University Student Centre (MUSC) Basement, Room B107, or telephone 905-525-9140 at x:28652. If you require information provided in this document in an alternate/accessible format, please contact the Instructor at 905-525-9140 x:21272. http://sas.mcmaster.ca/

Changes to the Course Outline

At certain points in the course it may make good sense to modify the schedule outlined.

The instructor reserves the right to modify elements of the course and will notify students accordingly, both in class and on Avenue to Learn.

Posted changes take precedence over this course outline.

The University may change the dates and deadlines for any or all courses in extreme circumstances.

If either type of modification becomes necessary, reasonable notice and communication with the students will be given with explanation and the opportunity to comment on changes. It is the responsibility of the student to check their McMaster email and course websites weekly during the term and to note any changes.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic &amp; Important Deadlines</th>
<th>Associated Readings</th>
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| January 8th| Introduction to the Course  
The Science of Animal Behaviour                                                                       | Chapter 1           |
| January 15th| Evolution and the Study of Animal Behaviour  
**Complete Quiz 1 before 7PM today**                                                   | Chapter 2           |
| January 22nd| Methods for Studying Animal Behaviour  
**Complete Quiz 2 before 7PM today**                                                    | Chapter 3           |
| January 29th| Behavioural Genetics  
**Assignment 1 due today at 7PM**  
Submit online & in class                                                            | Chapter 4           |
| February 5th| Learning and Cognition  
**Complete Quiz 3 before 7PM today**                                                      | Chapter 5           |
| February 12th| Midterm 1                                                                                |                     |
| February 19th| No Class                                                                                |                     |
| February 26th| Communication  
**Complete Quiz 4 before 7PM today**                                                  | Chapter 6           |
| March 5th   | Foraging Behaviour  
**Complete Quiz 5 before 7PM today**                                                   | Chapter 7           |
| March 12th  | Mating Behaviour  
**Assignment 2 due today at 7PM**  
Submit online & in class                                                            | Chapter 11          |
| March 19th  | Mating Systems  
**Complete Quiz 6 before 7PM today**                                                      | Chapter 12          |
| March 26th  | Midterm 2                                                                                |                     |
| April 2nd   | Exam Review                                                                              |                     |