

## COURSE SYLLABUS

**Course:** PNB 2XC3 (ANIMAL BEHAVIOUR & EVOLUTION)

**Prerequisite(s):** Registration in an Honours Psychology, Neuroscience & Behaviour or Combined Honours Psychology program.

**Antirequisite(s):** LIFESCI 2C03, PSYCH 2TT3

**Instructor:** Dr. Paul A. Faure      Department of Psychology, Neuroscience & Behaviour, PC-111  
Phone: 905.525.9140, ext. 26393; email: paul4@mcmaster.ca

**Course TAs:** Carling Baxter      PC-151; Phone: ext. 26042; email: baxtercm@mcmaster.ca  
Robert Mastroieni      PC-151; Phone: ext. 26042; email: mastrr1@mcmaster.ca  
Joseph Mentlik      PC-151; Phone: ext. 26042; email: mentlijd@mcmaster.ca  
Jessica Miller      PC-152; Phone: ext. 26037; email: millej16@mcmaster.ca

**Office Hours:** By appointment. Contact us via the course email account: **pnb2xc3@gmail.com**

**Location:** Lectures are Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 1330-1420 hrs in ITB-AB102.

**Textbook:** Dugatkin LA (2014) Principles of Animal Behavior. WW Norton & Company (3rd Edition).

**Logistics:** McMaster University reserves the right to change course dates, assignments and their grading weights, and deadlines at the discretion of the instructor and in case of an emergency, labour disruption, civil unrest/disobedience, etc.

**Overview:** Following an introduction and review of critical thinking and the basic tenets and principles of conducting science, this course integrates evolutionary analyses with in-depth discussions of molecular, genetic, cognitive, and physiological mechanisms that generate major classes of behaviour shared by most animals, including human animals.

**Objectives:** By the end of the course students will be able to apply analytical thinking for analyzing novel problems, draw and interpret scientific data graphs, explain the importance and uses of animal behaviour research, discuss two mechanisms that change behaviour over time, describe genetic and physiological mechanisms that control and generate behaviour, detail the major components of behaviour shared by most animals, and explain human behaviour based on concepts and examples studied in the course.

**Website:** Check <<http://www.science.mcmaster.ca/pnb/faure/2xc3>> for info and updates.

The following policies are necessary in order to be fair and equitable to all students.

**Recordings.** The recording of lectures, assignments, and/or exams (audio, photos, or video) is prohibited.

**Attendance.** You are expected to attend all lectures and exams. If you are late, please do not disrupt and/or disturb your fellow students who arrived in a timelier manner and are already seated and working. Talking during lecture or tutorials, and related disturbing behaviour, is inconsiderate. Do not schedule vacation, holiday or other travel during lectures and exams.

**Lectures.** You are responsible for all material presented in lecture.

**Readings.** In this course you are expected to go beyond the memorization of facts to display an understanding of the material. Some students will find this difficult. You are strongly encouraged to read the relevant text chapters on a particular topic before and after the lecture(s) devoted to that topic. The initial reading will help you to follow along during the lecture and to identify those areas in which you are having difficulty understanding. The follow-up reading(s) will help you to recall, synthesize, and consolidate the material that was presented in class and in the textbook.

**Notes.** Homework problems and/or assignments will be posted as PDF files on the course website. PNB 2XC3 has no course packet because it is absolutely essential that you attend class and develop proper note-taking skills. If you miss a lecture/tutorial, it is your responsibility to obtain the notes on this material

from a classmate. I advise against trying to take verbatim notes during lecture because it will be difficult for you to keep up and to think critically about what is being discussed. Moreover, most of the material discussed in class can also be found in the text, course notes, or by searching the web, albeit presented from a different perspective. Some slides shown in class will not be posted on the web because of copyright restrictions. To consolidate your knowledge, students are encouraged to search the web to obtain additional information pictures and/or pertinent information.

**Grading.** Your performance will be evaluated with three multiple-choice and/or short answer examinations and eight (8) homework assignments. The first two exams will be Mid-Term Examinations of one-hour duration, held in-class, and each worth 22% of your Final Grade. The third exam will be a cumulative Final Examination of two-and-a-half-hours duration, scheduled by the Office of the Registrar, and worth 40% of your Final Grade. Books, notes, personal electronic devices, calculators, etc. are prohibited during all exams; all you will need is a supply of pencils, erasers and, of course, adequate knowledge of the subject matter being tested. Homework Assignments are worth 16% of your Final Grade (8 × 2% each) and instructions for completing each assignment will be posted on the course website.

**Makeup Exams and Extensions.** If you miss an exam or homework assignment deadline, you will need a valid excuse AND be able to document this excuse in order to qualify for a makeup exam or extension. Examples of legitimate excuses include sickness and conflict with another M.U. academic or sporting event. If you simply skip an exam or assignment, hoping that an eventual excuse will become acceptable, then you will receive a grade of zero for that work. PNB 2XC3 does not subscribe to proposals for “extra work” in mitigation of exam/assignment delinquencies. Except in the case of illness, **a makeup exam or extension will NOT be given unless arrangements are made with the course instructor and/or TAs in advance of the regularly scheduled deadline.** In the case of missed academic work worth <25% of your final grade due to minor medical illness or personal situations lasting <3 calendar days, students must report using the McMaster Student Absence Form (MSAF) AND contact the course instructor and/or TAs within 2 calendar days of the missed work to qualify for a makeup exam or assignment extension. The MSAF may only be used once per term and may NOT be used for the final exam. For medical illness or personal situations lasting >3 calendar days and/or for missed academic work worth ≥25% of your final grade, and/or for any request for relief in a term where the MSAF has been used previously, students must provide appropriate supporting documentation to their Faculty Office to qualify for a makeup exam or assignment extension. See <[Requests for Relief for Missed Academic Term Work](#)>.

**Review Sessions.** The class period prior to each Mid-Term Examination will be used as a question and answer session and to review course material presented in class. You will benefit greatly from these sessions by coming prepared with specific questions in mind. Do not expect the course Instructor or TAs to repeat the original lecture on a particular topic.

**Seeking Help.** Please ask the course Instructor or TAs for help at any time if you need it. As a learner, it is your responsibility to recognize when you need help and then ask for it.

**Academic Dishonesty.** You are expected to exhibit honesty and use ethical behaviour in all aspects of the learning process. Academic credentials you earn are rooted in the 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 an unearned academic credit or advantage. Academic dishonesty consists of misrepresentation by deception or by other fraudulent means, and can result in serious consequences for a student such as the grade of zero on an exam or assignment, loss of course credit with a notation on the student’s transcript that reads “Grade of F assigned for academic dishonesty”, and/or suspension or expulsion from McMaster University. It is your responsibility to understand what constitutes academic dishonesty. For information on the various kinds of academic dishonesty, please refer to McMaster’s Academic Integrity Policy located at <<http://www.mcmaster.ca/academicintegrity>>.

**Academic Accommodation of Students with Disabilities.** Students requiring an academic accommodation must contact Student Accessibility Services (SAS) to make arrangements with a Program Coordinator. Academic accommodations must be arranged for each term of study. Student Accessibility Services can be contacted by phone (905-525-9140, ext. 28652) or by e-mail <[sas@mcmaster.ca](mailto:sas@mcmaster.ca)>. For more information, consult <[McMaster Policy for Academic Accommodation of Students with Disabilities](#)>.

**Course Calendar** (subject to revision) & **Assigned Readings** [D### = pages to read from textbook]

- SEPT W09: Introduction to Animal Behaviour  
R10: Why Learn About Animal Behaviour Research?  
M14: Critical Analytical Thinking  
W16: Scientific Method  
R17: Principles of Animal Behaviour I [D2-27]  
M21: Principles of Animal Behaviour II [D2-27]  
W23: Evolution of Behaviour I [D28-67]  
R24: Evolution of Behaviour II [D28-67]  
M28: Evolution of Behaviour III [D28-67] (*Full Moon & Total Lunar Eclipse*)  
W30: Hormones and Neurobiology I [D68-103]
- OCT R01: Hormones and Neurobiology II [D68-103]  
M05: Hormones and Neurobiology III [D68-103]  
W07: Review Session  
**R08: Mid-Term Examination I**  
M12-F17: *FALL BREAK*  
M19: Molecular Genetics & Development I [D104-127]  
W21: Molecular Genetics & Development II [D104-127]  
R22: Learning I [D128-163]  
M26: Learning II [D128-163]  
W28: Social Learning I [D164-197]  
R29: Social Learning II [D164-197]
- NOV M02: Foraging I [D346-381]  
W04: Foraging II [D346-381]  
R05: Foraging III [D346-381]  
M09: Anti-Predatory Behaviour I [D382-415]  
W11: Review Session (*Remembrance Day & New Moon*)  
**R12: Mid-Term Examination II**  
M16: Anti-Predatory Behaviour II [D382-415]  
W18: Anti-Predatory Behaviour III [D382-415]  
R19: Sexual Selection I [D198-235]  
M23: Sexual Selection II [D198-235]  
W25: Sexual Selection III [D198-235] & Mating Systems I [D236-269] (*Full Moon*)  
R26: Mating Systems II [D236-269] (*Thanksgiving Day, USA*)  
M30: Mating Systems III [D236-269]  
W02: Aggression I [D480-509]
- DEC R03: Aggression II [D480-509]  
M07: Aggression III [D480-509]

**Important Dates**

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16 September 2015 (Wednesday)	Last day for registration and adding or dropping courses
08 October 2015 (Thursday)	<b>Mid-Term Examination I</b>
12 October 2015 (Monday)	<i>Thanksgiving Day, Canada (no class)</i>
12-17 October 2015 (Monday-Friday)	<i>Fall Break (no class)</i>
12 November 2015 (Thursday)	<b>Mid-Term Examination II</b>
13 November 2015 (Friday)	Last Day for canceling courses without failure by default
09-22 December 2015	<b>Final Examination</b> (date/time scheduled by Office of the Registrar)