

Preliminary outline for Animal Behaviour and Evolution – PNB 2XC3.
Sept, 2012

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

Instructor: Dr. Reuven Dukas (e-mail: pnb2xc3@gmail.com). **Office hour:** please email me and note the topic you wish to discuss and I will schedule an appointment.

Teaching Assistants: Karen Cogliati, Zac Durisko, Adam Reddon, Cara Tighe

Course email: (pnb2xc3@gmail.com): Monitored daily M-F.

In-person office hours: M 4:30-5:30 at ITB 102; Tu, Wed 3:30-4:30 PM at PC 205A.

The course Avenue site has partial lecture notes and supplementary material. You are responsible for all the material covered in the lectures. To succeed in the course, you should attend the lectures and take the ten weekly quizzes and two midterms.

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 animals.
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.
The chapters in the table below are required.

iClicker: You are required to bring your iClicker to every lecture. Before the second class (Sept. 13), you must register your iClicker at: <http://www.iclicker.com/support/registeryourclicker/>. **Please note that you must register your iClicker at the start of each semester!** 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	Quiz / Test
1	Introduction: Why learn about animal behaviour?		
2	Critical & scientific thinking; life history	3	Quiz 1
3	Principles of animal behaviour	1	Quiz 2
4	Evolution	2	Quiz 3
5	Evolution		Quiz 4
6	Learning	4	Midterm 1 (weeks 1-5) Oct. 11
7	Learning	4	Quiz 5
8	Social learning	5	Quiz 6
9	Social learning	5	Quiz 7
10	Foraging	10	Midterm 2 (weeks 1-9) Nov. 8
11	Foraging; antipredatory behaviour	11	Quiz 8
12	Sex & fighting	6	Quiz 9
13	Topics Chosen by the Students	TBA	Quiz 10

Grade calculation: Weekly quizzes (10% based on the best 8 quizzes), Midterm 1 (15%), Midterm 2 (25%), Final (50%). Plus optional extra credit questions in the two midterms (3%; I will provide further information in the lecture and on Avenue).

Quizzes and midterms: The weekly quiz will have questions from the previous week's lectures and material from the chapter required for the current week. I will post the chapter number required for the quiz on Avenue each week. The material in the midterms is cumulative as indicated in the schedule above, but with a larger weight for the recent material.

Missed midterms: 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.