**Course Details**

**Instructor**
Dr. Ayesha Khan  
Weekly Office Hours: See appointment details on Avenue to Learn  
Office Location: Psychology Building (PC), 107  
E-mail: khan.mcmaster@gmail.com  
Please include the course code (LS 3C03) in the subject of all E-mails.

**Course Description**
This course will examine concepts that underpin animal behaviour and explore how evolutionary pressures have operated to produce diversity of this behaviour in a variety of taxa. In a nutshell, we will understand animal and human behaviours from a cognitive, ecological, psychological, and evolutionary perspective. There is no single textbook that covers our course mission; students are expected to attend class on a regular basis since not all lecture content will be taught directly from the assigned textbook.

This is a senior course in behavioural and evolutionary ecology. It is expected that students will complete all course readings and be prepared to actively participate in class. There will weekly quizzes using iClickers to help review course readings and lecture content. This is a ‘low cost’ way to ensure that students continue to keep up with the course and also actively think about behavioural, evolutionary, and ecological principles on a frequent basis.

Finally, students will be expected to read a popular press book about evolutionary principles written by ethologist and biologist Dr. Richard Dawkins and attend one public lecture (of their choice) on McMaster campus to further consolidate their understanding of evolutionary biology/behavioural ecology by learning about current research in the field.

By end of the term, students should: (1) have gained practice in applying the scientific perspective in thinking critically about research in behavioural ecology and, (2) have gained background in basic principles and ideas as proposed by influential scientists and ‘big-thinkers’ in the field.

Three lectures; one term. Prerequisite(s): LIFE SCI 2D03 or PSYCH 2TT3; and one of BIOLOGY 2F03, LIFE SCI 2A03, 2H03, ISCI 2A18 A/B  
Antirequisite(s): PSYCH 3T03

**Required Materials**

1. **Title: An Introduction to Behavioural Ecology**  
   ISBN: 9781405114165  
   Authors: Krebs, John R., West, Stuart A., Davies, Nicholas B.  
   Publisher: Wiley & Sons, Incorporated, John  
   Edition: 4  
   Publication Date: Jan. 1, 2012

2. **Title: The Selfish Gene**  
   ISBN: 9780199291151  
   Author: Dawkins, Richard  
   Publisher: Oxford University Press, Incorporated  
   Edition: 30  
   Publication Date: May. 24, 2006

3. **iClickers** will be used on a weekly basis to administer quizzes.
## Evaluation

Your final grade will be based on:

1. Midterm (15%)
2. iClicker Quizzes (Best 8 out of 9, 10% total)
3. *Selfish Gene* Test 1 (15%)
4. *Selfish Gene* Test 2 (15%)
5. Public Lecture Review (10%)
6. Cumulative Final exam (35%) to be scheduled by the Office of the Registrar

*Bonus participation marks may be earned towards your final exam score through participation. Details will be provided in class.

## Tests, Quizzes, & Final Exam

All quiz questions will be multiple-choice in format. Further instructions will be provided in class.

All tests and the final exam will comprise of written-response questions.

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 lectures. If you miss a class, please do not email the instructor or TAs for lecture notes.

Information presented via guest speakers, video or audio format will be testable on the midterm 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 9 (short) in class quizzes will be held throughout the semester. The purpose of these quizzes is to encourage reading/review of course materials, thus to review content presented in lectures, the textbook, and *The Selfish Gene*.

The final exam will be 2.5 hours in duration and cumulative, covering questions from all chapters, lecture notes, guest speakers, and audio/video presentations from throughout the semester. The final exam will also contain questions from the last four chapters (chapters 10-13) of *The Selfish Gene*.

## 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.

## iClickers

iClickers will be used for all quizzes.

Every student needs to purchase an iClicker and should bring it to every quiz date. iClickers can be purchased at the Campus Store and must be registered online with your name and MacID (NOT Student No.) in order to receive participation credit for your iClicker responses, visit [http://www.bookstore.mcmaster.ca/textbooks/iclicker-faq.html](http://www.bookstore.mcmaster.ca/textbooks/iclicker-faq.html)

Please note that it is your responsibility to ensure that you have read this course syllabus in detail. You are responsible for knowing content associated with the course and all tests and quizzes. **If you do not have your iClicker properly registered by the first quiz, you will get a zero for that quiz and any further quizzes.**

You are responsible for attending all tests and quizzes. All reasons associated with missed tests and quizzes (apart from MSAFs) will be handled by your Associate Dean.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Policies</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Missed Tests &amp; Quizzes</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>McMaster Student Absence Form</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Other Academic Matters</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Bonus Marks</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Changes to the Course Outline</strong></td>
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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

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.

### McMaster University Grading Scale

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<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Equivalent Grade</th>
<th>Point</th>
<th>Equivalent Percentages</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A+</td>
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<td>90-100</td>
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<tr>
<td>A</td>
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<tr>
<td>F</td>
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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.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>Wednesday</th>
<th>Friday</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>January 2nd</td>
<td></td>
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<td>Introduction to the Course</td>
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<tr>
<td>January 9th</td>
<td>Chapter 1 Natural Selection, Ecology, and Behaviour</td>
<td>Chapter 2 Testing Hypotheses in Behavioural Ecology</td>
<td>Quiz 1 *Bring iClicker to Class Read Chapters 1&amp;2 of The Selfish Gene</td>
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<tr>
<td>January 16th</td>
<td>Chapter 6 Living in Groups</td>
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<td>Quiz 2 *Bring iClicker to Class Read Chapter 3 of The Selfish Gene</td>
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<tr>
<td>January 23rd</td>
<td>Chapter 8 Parental Care and Family Conflicts</td>
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<td>Lecture Series: From Theory to Application</td>
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<td>Quiz 3 (Wednesday) *Bring iClicker to Class</td>
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<td>Read Chapter 4 of The Selfish Gene</td>
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<td>Quiz 4 *Bring iClicker to Class Read Chapter 5 of The Selfish Gene</td>
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<td>February 6th</td>
<td>Human Reproductive Behaviour</td>
<td>Does Warfare ONLY Exist in Humans?</td>
<td>Quiz 5 *Bring iClicker to Class Read Chapter 6 of The Selfish Gene</td>
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<tr>
<td>February 13th</td>
<td>Midterm (Review)</td>
<td>Midterm (Wednesday)</td>
<td>Lecture Series: From Theory to Application</td>
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<tr>
<td>February 27th</td>
<td>Why Should an Evolutionary Biologist Care About Human Emotions?</td>
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<td>Quiz 6 *Bring iClicker to Class Read Chapter 7 of The Selfish Gene</td>
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<td>March 6th</td>
<td>Chapter 7 Sexual Selection, Sperm Competition, and Sexual Conflict</td>
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<td>Quiz 7 *Bring iClicker to Class Read Chapter 8 of The Selfish Gene</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 13th</td>
<td><em>The Selfish Gene Test 2 (Review)</em></td>
<td><em>The Selfish Gene Test 2 Chapters 5 – 8 (March 16th)</em></td>
<td>Lecture Series: From Theory to Application</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 20th</td>
<td>Chapter 11 Social Behaviours: Altruism to Spite</td>
<td>Chapter 12 Cooperation</td>
<td>Quiz 8 *Bring iClicker to Class Read Chapters 9&amp;10 of The Selfish Gene</td>
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Classes end on Thursday, April 6th.
The final exam period begins on Tuesday, April 11th until Thursday, April 27th.