

**Psychology 306 A – Animal Behaviour  
2016/2017 Winter Term 2**

**When:** MWF, 1:00 - 1:50 pm  
**Where:** BUCH A103

**Instructor:** Kiran K. Soma, Ph.D.  
Professor, Department of Psychology  
Office: Kenny 3505  
Office hour: Wed 2:00 - 3:00 pm, or by appointment  
Tel: 604-827-5820  
Email: [ksoma@psych.ubc.ca](mailto:ksoma@psych.ubc.ca)  
**\*\*\* If you have questions, I would like to help you in person. I will only use email to schedule in-person meetings.**

**TA:** Shaina Cahill  
Office: Kenny 3512  
Office hour: Tues 4:00-5:00 pm, or by appointment  
Email: [scahill@psych.ubc.ca](mailto:scahill@psych.ubc.ca)  
**\*\*\* If you have questions, please see the TA in person. The TA will only use email to schedule in-person meetings.**

**Course description:**

This course covers the scientific study of behavior. Topics will include: development of behavior, evolution of behavior, and physiology of behavior. This course is also designed to encourage critical and independent thinking, as well as improve written and oral communication. Questions and discussion are encouraged throughout the lectures.

**Required Textbook:** *Animal Behavior*, John Alcock, 2013, 10th edition. Please get the 10<sup>th</sup> edition. Can buy the book at the UBC Bookstore or Amazon etc. The eBook is also fine. One copy is on reserve at Koerner Library.

**Webpage:** Lecture notes will be available online before the lecture. Print out the slides (double-sided, 4 or 6 slides per page), so you can take notes on them during lecture (get a large 3-ring binder to store the notes). The slides will be missing critical information that will be tested on the exams. Missing information will be provided during lectures, so attend all the lectures. See this webpage: <http://www.psych.ubc.ca/~ksoma/>

**\*\*\* Please arrive to lecture on time. Late arrivals are disruptive.**

**\*\*\* All student laptops and tablets must be turned off and put away during lectures. No exceptions. Please take notes on printouts of the slides.**

**\*\*\* Turn off and put away your phone during lectures and exams. Come to lectures to listen, think, and actively participate.**

**\*\*\* Do the readings before the lectures. This will help you follow the lectures.**

	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Reading</b>
Jan 2	<b>No class</b>	
Jan 4	How do scientists study behavior?	pp. 3-13, 293-298
Jan 6	Proximate and ultimate causes, part 1	pp. 299-308
Jan 9	Proximate and ultimate causes, part 2	pp. 308-321
Jan 11	Development of behavior, part 1	pp. 323-336
Jan 13	Development of behavior, part 2	pp. 337-341
Jan 16	Development of behavior, part 3	pp. 341-357
Jan 18	Neural mechanisms, part 1	pp. 359-363
Jan 20	Neural mechanisms, part 2	pp. 363-384
Jan 23	Neural mechanisms, part 3	none
Jan 25	Neurons and hormones, part 1	pp. 391-401
Jan 27	Neurons and hormones, part 2	pp. 401-409
Jan 30	Neurons and hormones, part 3	pp. 409-420
Feb 1	Behavioral adaptations for survival, part 1	pp. 101-115
Feb 3	Behavioral adaptations for survival, part 2	pp. 115-124
Feb 6	Feeding behavior, part 1	pp. 124-137
Feb 8	Feeding behavior, part 2	pp. 29-37
Feb 10	In-class review for midterm	
Feb 13	<b>Family Day</b>	
Feb 15	<b>Midterm Exam</b>	
Feb 17	Choosing where to live, part 1	pp. 139-141, 152-169
Feb 20-24	<b>Mid-term Break</b>	
Feb 27	Choosing where to live, part 2	pp. 142-152
Mar 1	Communication, part 1	pp. 67-70, 77-80
Mar 3	Communication, part 2	pp. 70-77, 86-88
Mar 6	Reproductive behavior, part 1 (paper info)	pp. 171-181
Mar 8	Reproductive behavior, part 2 (paper info)	pp. 181-200
Mar 10	Reproductive behavior, part 3 (paper info)	pp. 200-215
Mar 13	Mating systems, part 1	pp. 217-230
Mar 15	Mating systems, part 2	pp. 230-241
Mar 17	Mating systems, part 3	pp. 241-255
Mar 20	Parental care, part 1 ( <b>submit paper</b> )	pp. 257-269
Mar 22	Parental care, part 2	pp. 270-291
Mar 24	Social behavior, part 1	pp. 43-65
Mar 27	Social behavior, part 2	pp. 15-29, 37-41
Mar 29	Human behavior, part 1	none
Mar 31	Human behavior, part 2	pp. 432-441
Apr 3	Human behavior, part 3 (final info)	pp. 441-455
Apr 5	Conclusions	none

## Evaluation:

- Midterm exam 35%
- Written assignment 15%
- Final exam 50%
- Dept of Psychology policy for 300- and 400-level courses: averages will be 66-70% with a standard deviation of 13%. Grades are not official until they appear on your academic record.

## Exams:

- Material from both the lectures and readings will be on the exams.
- The final exam will be cumulative, but with strong emphasis on the second half of the course.
- Exams will consist of multiple choice and short-answer questions.
- Emphasis on critical thinking, analysis of experimental design, interpretation of data, and proposing new experiments
- Students can view their marked exams with their TA or professor. The exam remains the property of the university.
- Regrade requests must be made in writing to the professor. The professor reserves the right to regrade the entire exam (not just a particular question), which means that your grade could go down upon regrading.

## Policy on missed tests and extensions:

- Make-up tests will only be given for validated medical reasons, without exception.
- If you miss an exam, you must email the professor within 24 hours of the exam.
- If you submit medical documentation make sure it contains the statement, "This student was unable to write the test on (date) for medical reasons."
- You are advised to see your physician within one day of the missed test. Many physicians will not provide documentation retroactively.
- All medical excuses must be personally presented to the professor as soon as you are able to return to class for a make-up exam to be scheduled.
- NOTE: make-up exams will consist of an oral exam in front of the professor and the TA.

## Written assignment:

- PLEASE: 2 pages, double spaced, Times New Roman, 12 point, 1 inch margins all around. Papers that do not follow these rules will lose points. This is important to maintain consistency across the class. We will not read past the 2<sup>nd</sup> page.
- We will provide a list of 10 recent newspaper articles for you to choose from. You MUST use one of these. Sorry, NO exceptions.
- Submit your paper by the end of class on Mar 20. No late papers will be accepted without a doctor's note. If you are sick, email the professor ASAP. You can submit the paper early.

- The newspaper articles cite a specific research article in a scientific journal.
- Find that research article (use PubMed, Google Scholar, Web of Science) and read it. To access some articles in the UBC Library, you must use a UBC network or VPN from home.
  - <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/sites/entrez?otool=icaubclib>
  - <http://scholar.google.ca/>
  - [http://apps.isiknowledge.com/WOS\\_GeneralSearch\\_input.do?preferencesSaved=&highlighted\\_tab=WOS&product=WOS&SID=3FhOCekG1a2oBF%40ICMg&search\\_mode=GeneralSearch](http://apps.isiknowledge.com/WOS_GeneralSearch_input.do?preferencesSaved=&highlighted_tab=WOS&product=WOS&SID=3FhOCekG1a2oBF%40ICMg&search_mode=GeneralSearch)
- In your paper:
  - ***State the hypothesis*** of the research article and ***main conclusions*** regarding hypothesis. (4 pts)
  - Explain 1 (and only 1) ***strength*** of the experimental design. (5 pts)
  - Explain 1 (and only 1) ***weakness/limitation*** of the experimental design. Be critical. (5 pts)
  - Describe 1 (and only 1) ***follow-up experiment*** to test the ***same hypothesis***. Include control groups and predictions. Be creative. (6 pts)
  - Did the newspaper article describe the research article correctly? Explain. (2 pts)
  - Total of 22 pts
- Papers with grammatical and spelling mistakes will lose up to 2 pts.
- Papers that break the format rules (line spacing, margins, font size) will lose up to 5 pts.
- References: ***Do not include any references.***
- Make an outline before you start writing. Your first draft should be about 3 pages (don't submit this to me; for your use only). Cut to 2 pages for the final version. Use subheadings and paragraphs. We will provide an example for you.
- ***This paper is to be original work done independently.*** If you have any questions as to whether or not what you are doing is even a borderline case of ***plagiarism or academic misconduct***, ask the instructor. Any plagiarism will result in no credit for the entire paper.

### **Psychology Department's position on academic misconduct:**

Cheating, plagiarism, and other forms of academic misconduct are very serious concerns, and the Department of Psychology has taken steps to alleviate them. First, the Department has implemented *software that can reliably detect cheating on multiple-choice exams* by analyzing the patterns of students' responses. Second, the Department subscribes to *TurnItIn, a service designed to detect plagiarism*. All materials that students submit will be scanned and compared to over 4.5 billion pages of content located on the Internet or in TurnItIn's own databases. The results are compiled into customized "Originality Reports" containing several sensitive measures of plagiarism; instructors receive copies of these reports for every student in their class. *Google and Google Scholar can also readily detect plagiarism*.

In all cases of suspected academic misconduct, the parties involved will be pursued to the fullest extent dictated by the guidelines of the University. Strong evidence of cheating or plagiarism may result in a zero credit for the work in question. The President of UBC has the right to impose harsher penalties including (but not limited to) a failing grade for the course, suspension from the University, cancellation of scholarships, or a notation added to a student's transcript.

### **Special accommodations:**

The University accommodates students with disabilities that have registered with the Disability Resource Centre.

Students who plan to be absent for varsity athletics, family obligations, or other similar commitments usually cannot be accommodated. In these cases, you must ask your instructor during the first week of class – not later than that.

### **A final note:**

Information about academic regulations, course withdrawal dates and credits can be found in the University Calendar. If you need information about studying, note taking or time management, then free workshops and advice are available from the Student Resources Centre and other student advising centres on campus.