**Psychology 3106 – Animal Behaviour - Fall 2017**

COURSE INFORMATION

Instructor: David R. Brodbeck, Ph.D.

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Office: SH 506

Office Hours: TBA

Time and Location of Lectures: Mondays and Wednesdays 1-230

Website: [www.davebrodbeck.com](http://www.davebrodbeck.com) (lecture materials, powerpoints etc are here, I don’t use the CMS)

Blog: <http://people.auc.ca/brodbeck/blog>

Twitter hashtag #PSYC3106

TEXTBOOKS

Goodenough et al (2010). Perspectives on animal behavior

COURSE OBJECTIVES

This course will provide a general introduction to the field of animal behaviour along with more advanced discussion of selected topics. Psychologists and zoologists, as well as naturalists and philosophers have always asked why animals and people behave as they do. This course will examine the answers that are provided by the modern investigation of animal behaviour. The causes of behaviour, its function, its development and its evolution will be discussed.

EVALUATION

Tests (30%)

There will be two tests in the course, they will consist of essay type questions and short answers. They are worth 15% each.

Participation (10%) You will get a chance not only to ask questions and discuss things in

class, but, you will be asked to come up with questions for each presentation and hand

them in at the end of the class.

Major Presentation (25%)

You will choose a topic (in consultation with your instructor) and present it to the class.

Paper (35%)

Your paper MUST be in APA format and must be 2500-3000 words long. The paper is

due on our last day of class, December 2, 2019)

LECTURE SCHEDULE

Class Topic Reading

September 4 Hello, my name is Dave

9 Introduction Chapters 1,2

11 Genetics Chapter 3

16 Natural Selection Chapter 4

18 Natural Selection Chapter 4

23 Learning Chapter 5

30 Neural Mechanisms Chapter 6,7

October 2 Development Chapter 8

7 Test 1

9 Organization Chapter 9

21 Evolution of Behaviour

23 Adaptations

28 Navigation Chapter 10

30 Territory Chapter 11

November 4 Foraging/Predation Chapters 12,13

6 Test 2

11 Presentations

13 Presentations

18 Presentations

20 Presentations

25 Presentations

27 Presentations

December 2 Presentations

The lecture topics are not written in stone, we may get ahead or behind a bit. However, the test dates are the ones you see above.

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY

*The University takes a very serious view of such offences as plagiarism, cheating, and impersonation. Penalties for dealing with such offences will be strictly enforced.*

The following web site contains a complete policy statement on academic dishonesty and attendance. Students are encouraged to read this policy for further clarification of these issues:

https://my.algomau.ca/tools/documents/policies/Students/Disciplinary%20Regulations%20on%20Academic%20Dishonesty.pdf

CELLPHONE/COMPUTER/TABLET POLICY

If you prefer to take notes with your laptop/tablet that is fine. If I find you chatting or checking out youtube videos or doing anything that has nothing to do with the class you will be asked to leave (and it won’t really be a request….).

Your phone MUST be on silent in class. This is common courtesy. I do NOT want to hear a phone ring. I do NOT want to have to pick up your phone and tell the person on the other end of the call that he or she is a jerk who is interrupting my class. You are not to text in class. Now, if you want to use twitter to post questions or comments feel free, the hashtag is listed above.

Do NOT wear headphones in class.

ATTENDANCE POLICY

*The general regulations of the university require punctual and regular attendance at the various academic exercises. If there are extenuating circumstances related to an absence, the instructor should be notified. Absences in excess of 20% may jeopardize receipt of credit for the course.*

ATTENDANCE POLICY FOR THIS COURSE

If you do not come you cannot participate. You cannot get participation marks by not participating. So, I suggest you come to class. I do not lend out notes for this class.

MISSED TESTS/ASSIGNMENTS

Please contact me ASAP so we can set something up. An acceptable excuse (e.g., illness) will likely result in a make up test. Workload is NOT an acceptable excuse (i.e., “But I have three papers due and a test next week.” My response to this is “Welcome to University!”).

Please try not to miss either presentation.

LATENESS POLICY

I do not accept late papers. They are due at the start of the last class. This is non negotiable. If you don’t believe me, I can give you the names of some students who have tried handing in late papers to me.