

BIOC54 Animal Behaviour

Course Syllabus Winter 2016

BIOC54 lectures Wednesday 1400h-1600h

Tutorials: Wednesdays 1600-1700h; Thursdays 1400-1500h; Thursday 1500-1600h

Course Personnel	Office Hours	Email
Instructor: Karen Williams, PhD	SW 563B Friday 1330-1530h	kd.williams@utoronto.ca
TAs: Luciana Baruffaldi; Sheena Fry; Nishant Singh	TBA	

Course Goals and Learning Objectives

Animal Behaviour provides you with a survey of explanations for animal behaviour from an evolutionary perspective. You will learn how the scientific process is used to explore animal behaviour. Assignments and lectures provide opportunities for:

- Observing and analysing behaviour identifying questions key to an ultimate understanding of behaviour
- Developing your skills in the reading of animal behaviour primary literature
- Developing your analytical skills to be able to propose experiments, using the “Scientific Method” to develop theories and produce scientific knowledge

Text: Animal Behavior 10th Ed Alcock, J. 2013. Sinauer Associates Inc. Publishers. ISBN 978-087893-966-4

Resources for doing well

I. Prepare

- a. Readings from the textbook will be posted on the Blackboard site. It is best to read about the topic before the lecture and watch any videos posted on Blackboard before the lecture
- b. Lecture notes will be available in the 2-slide per page format approximately 12-24 hours before the lecture. Note that the lecture notes will often not contain all the slides for the lecture and will frequently contain questions that will be answered in lecture. Therefore, before the lecture, it would be really good to read through the lecture notes looking for these questions that way you will be prepared to find the answers during the lecture

II. Participate

- a. Attend lectures. In this third year course attendance and participation in lectures is expected. Lectures will not be webcast.
- b. Attend the tutorial in which you are registered. Attendance at tutorials is graded, it forms part of your participation grade. You need to attend 7 of 8 tutorials to get the full participation grade.

III. Communicate

- a. Blackboard Portal will have the most updated information so please see Blackboard Portal for all queries and check Blackboard frequently. BioC54 will not use the intranet, announcements will be made in Blackboard. It is your responsibility to check Blackboard first for any course information.
- b. Email only after you have checked Blackboard for the relevant information. Contact information for instructor kd.williams@utoronto.ca and teaching assistants (TAs) are available on Blackboard under "Contacts" or by clicking Send Email. Please use your U of T email address for all communication emails from other addresses may not receive a response.
- c. Your classmates will also be a resource for you in this course so exchange emails, ask and answer questions on the discussion board and you will find the course to be a great experience.

Course Evaluation

Grade	Assignments	Date due
10%	Tutorial Quizzes and participation	ongoing
5%	Tutorial Mini-Assignments (TMA)	ongoing
6%	Online (pop-quiz) Assessments	Ongoing TBA in Blackboard
1%	Posts to Blackboard Journal pages	Ongoing
5%	Group Oral Presentation & evaluation	Tutorials in Week 11-12
8%	Paper on presentation topic	31-Mar-16
25%	Midterm test	24-Feb-16
40%	Final exam	date set by Registrar
100%		

Assignment learning objectives

- In the tutorials and the two TMA video assignments you will observe, describe and analyse behaviour.
- The oral presentation of a paper and report assignment will encourage critical reading and analysis of the methods used in animal behaviour and will provide an opportunity to practice presentation skills

- The online assessments will help you keep up with the lecture and tutorial information
- The exams (midterm and final) will test your ability to understand the material, apply the knowledge and propose new experiments

Assessment information

Turnitin: "Normally, students will be required to submit their course essays to Turnitin.com for a review of textual similarity and detection of possible plagiarism. In doing so, students will allow their essays to be included as source documents in the Turnitin.com reference database, where they will be used solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism. The terms that apply to the University's use of the Turnitin.com service are described on the Turnitin.com web site".

Students are required to upload their assignments to Turnitin. If you would like to opt out of Turnitin you are required to submit a request to the instructor in writing by February 1st and be prepared to submit draft copies of your assignments.

Tutorials: Participation and attendance in tutorials will greatly assist your understanding of the material. Activities and associated readings in each tutorial will be tested in tutorial quizzes and on the tests

Tests: The midterm test will be held during class time and will likely include multiple choice and short answer questions. More information about the test and final will be posted on Blackboard.

Late Penalties

Tutorial Mini-Assessment (TMA) video assignments: notify the TA and instructor within 48h if you miss a TMA video assignment. Please note that it is NOT possible to make-up a missed TMA video assignment, and if you miss both TMA video assignments you will not have a grade, i.e. you will receive a zero.

Paper report assignment: Late assignments will be penalized 5% per day (24 hours) of lateness to a maximum of 5 days of lateness.

Posts to Blackboard Blog Journal pages: late posts are not counted for a grade

Missed tests/exams: There will be ONE make-up midterm exam for those with a valid U of T medical certificate: http://www.utsc.utoronto.ca/~registrar/resources/pdf_general/UTSCmedicalcertificate.pdf

If you missed the Final Exam please see Registrar's office.

Re-Evaluation requests: A written request for re-evaluation must accompany the assignment or test. All requests must be addressed to the instructor (email requests permitted) and must be received by April 19th 2016. Please be advised that the entire assignment or test will be evaluated and your grade may go up, down or may not change.

Procedures, Policies and Campus resources

Academic Integrity

Please see UTSC resource links on Academic integrity:

<http://www.adfg.utoronto.ca/processes/acdiscipline/AcademicDisciplineResourcesLinks.htm>

Please see also UTSC student policy on “code of behaviour in academic matters” by following this link:

http://www.utsc.utoronto.ca/~stuaff/student_policies.html

Access Ability

Please follow the link below for UTSC student services related to Access Ability:

<http://www.utsc.utoronto.ca/~ability/>

Accommodation

Please see the link below for policies on religious accommodation and student conduct:

http://www.utsc.utoronto.ca/~stuaff/student_policies.html

Equity

Everyone has the right to learn in a safe environment so please read these policies that we will follow:

<http://www.hrandequity.utoronto.ca/Assets/HR+Digital+Assets/Equity+Resources/studentequity.html>

Lecture Schedule

Course timetable: <https://www.utsc.utoronto.ca/~registrar/scheduling/timetable>

Every effort will be made to follow the proposed schedule below. Blackboard will have the most up-to-date version.

Week	Lecture topic	Readings from text	Tutorial Group	Tutorial topic
6-Jan-16	Introduction and vole behaviour	Chapter 1 & 10 p. 294-298	A&B	Measuring Behaviour
13-Jan-16	Adaptation feeding and birds	Chapters 5 & 10 p.298-321	A&B	Video Mini assignment 1
20-Jan-16	Bowerbirds & Beetles	Chapter 7 p.171-196	A	Evolution of Cooperation
27-Jan-16	Mating systems: sperm, sex and choice	Chapter 7 p. 196-206 & Chapter 8	B	Evolution of Cooperation
3-Feb-16	Battles between the sexes and leks	Chapter 7 p. 208-213 & Chapter 8	A	Honest signalling
10-Feb-16	Genes and Selection: bees and flies	Chapter 11 p. 324-348	B	Honest signalling
17-Feb-16	READING WEEK			
24-Feb-16	MIDTERM TEST	Chapters 1,5,7,8,10 & (11)	A&B	Library skills
2-Mar-16	Social life	Chapters 2, 3, & 11	A&B	Video Mini assignment 2
9-Mar-16	It's all in the family	Chapter 9 p. 262-273	A	Signals for survival
16-Mar-16	Fight or flight	Chapters 2, 5 & 6	B	Signals for survival
23-Mar-16	Communication Hyena and wasps	Chapters 8 & 15	A	Oral presentations
30-Mar-16	Human Behaviour: genes & evolution	Chapters 13 & 14	B	Oral presentations
	Final Exam in April exam period			