

# NEUROETHOLOGY

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NROC34H3

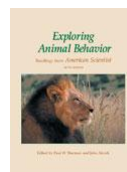
Text and syllabus

## NROC34H3 Neuroethology

### Neuroethology

TEXT (required):  
Exploring Animal Behavior:  
Readings from American  
Scientist. 5<sup>th</sup> Edition.  
Eds. P. W. Sherman & J.  
Alcock. 2010. Sinauer  
Associates Inc. Publishers.

ISBN 978-0-87893-815-5



## Neuroethology: objectives

### Learning Objectives

- In this course you will explore the neural basis of behaviour and how the scientific process is used to discover it. Assignments and lectures provide opportunities for:
  - Observing and analyzing behaviour
  - Developing your skills in the critical reading of primary literature in neuroethology
  - Developing your analytical skills to be able to propose experiments

### Assignment learning objectives

- In the two **video assignments** you will observe, describe and analyze behaviour
- The **poster assignment** will encourage critical reading and analysis of the methods used in neuroethology
- The exams (**midterm and final**) will test your understanding of the material, your ability to apply the knowledge and to propose new experiments
- The **critical review** of an article will assess your ability to understand the primary literature and methods used in neuroethology.

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## Lecture schedule

Week of	Lecture theme	Lecture topic	Reading
12 January	Sensing a target in space	To bee or not to be	Text p. 323-333;354-365
19 January		Fruit fly foraging	Article
25 January	Escape from threat	Bats and moths	Text p. 121-133
1 February		Bird song system	Text p. 93-100; 101-108
8 February	Sensory cues	Voles (and moles)	Text p.224-230;279-
15 February		Cats and mice	Text p. 175-
READING WEEK			
1 March		Fish and groups	Text p. 109-; 197-
8 March		MIDTERM TEST	
15 March	Navigating around the globe	Butterflies and Turtles: migration	Article
22 March		The birds and the bees: rhythms	
5 April		Rhythms and Review	Text p. 101-; 138-; 268-
8 April		Review Neuroethology	

## Assignments

Grade	Assignments	Due Date
5%	Video assignment I	in Class January 25
5%	Video assignment II	in Class February 15
8%	Poster assignment	01-Mar-13
2%	Posts to Blackboard discussion & Wiki pages	ongoing
15%	Critical review	05-Apr-13
25%	Midterm test	08-Mar-13
40%	Final Exam	During Exam period

## 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"* University of Toronto
  - Students are required to upload their assignments to Turnitin. If you would like to opt out of Turnitin you must notify the instructor in writing by February 1<sup>st</sup> 2013 and be prepared to submit draft copies of your poster and critical review assignments.
- Late penalties:
  - Video assignments: notify instructor within 48 hours if you have missed a video assignment . Please note that it is NOT possible to make-up a missed video assignment and if you miss both video assignments you will not have a grade i.e. You will receive a zero.
  - Poster assignment and Critical review: 5% per day (24 hours) of lateness to a maximum of 5 days of lateness.
  - Posts to Blackboard: discussion, wiki or journal pages: late posts are not counted for a grade.
- Exams:
  - There will be ONE make-up midterm (on 15<sup>th</sup> March) for those with a validated U of T medical certificate.

## Procedures and policies

- **Blackboard:** Please check frequently for updated information. NROC34H3 will not use the intranet.
- **Lectures and notes:**
  - In this third year course your participation in lectures is expected
  - Lectures will be webcast (available only for 2 weeks after the lecture)
  - Lecture notes will be available (12 to 24 hours prior to lecture)
- **Email:**
  - Email contact information for instructor and TA are available please use your U of T address for all communication, emails from other addresses may not receive a response.
- **Re-evaluation:**
  - A written request for re-evaluation must accompany be the assignment. All requests must be addressed to the instructor (email requests permitted) and must received by 8 April 2013 (by 19 April 2013 for the Review). Please be advised that the entire assignment will be re-evaluated and your grade may go up, down or may not change.