

PSYC 501.32
Animal Behaviour
Fall 2020

Instructor:	Dr. Simon Spanswick	Lecture Location:	Online (Zoom, D2L)
Phone:	403-220-3938	Lecture Days/Time:	Hybrid, T 12:30-1:45
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Course Description

The broad aim of the course is to familiarize students with the fascinating world of animal behaviour. The course will examine the tools necessary to survive (and thrive) in a large, and sometimes cruel world. Potential topics may include predator/prey relationships, mating and play behaviour, and human-animal interactions. Students will gain experience in communicating and discussing the current understanding of why animals behave the way they do.

Course Learning Outcomes

The Department of Psychology is committed to student knowledge and skill development. The table below lists the key learning outcomes for this course, the program-learning outcomes they facilitate (see <https://live-arts.ucalgary.ca/psychology/about#program-learning-outcomes>), and the expected level of achievement.

Course Learning Outcomes	Assessment Methods	PLO(s)	Level(s)
Effectively present information to an academic audience	Group presentation	2,4,5	A
Effectively and accurately present information to a lay audience	Podcast Podcast Pitch	2,3,5	A
Develop skills in leading and facilitating discussions	Group presentation Discussion questions	2,4,5	A
Critically evaluate the primary literature as it relates to animal behaviour	Thought journal Discussion questions	1,2,7	A
Assess the organization and complexity of animal behaviour	Group presentation Podcast Discussion questions Thought journal	1,5,7	A

Notes. PLOs = Program-Learning Outcomes: 1 = demonstrate knowledge of psychological sciences, 2 = think critically and solve problems, 3 = conduct research and analyze data, 4 = communicate effectively, 5 = demonstrate information literacy, 6 = understand and implement ethical principles in a diverse world, 7 = apply psychological knowledge and skills, 8 = Demonstrate multicultural competence and awareness of issues related to equity, diversity,* and inclusion. Level of PLO achievement facilitated by this course: I = introductory, C = competency, A = advanced.

Acknowledgments and Respect for Diversity

Our classrooms view diversity of identity as a strength and resource. Your experiences and different perspectives are encouraged and add to a rich learning environment that fosters critical thought through respectful discussion and inclusion. The Department of Psychology would also like to acknowledge the traditional territories of the people of the Treaty 7 region in southern Alberta. The City of Calgary is also home to Métis Nation of Alberta, Region III.

Course Format

This course will use a hybrid format. Some lectures will be taught live via Zoom during each scheduled class as marked by asterisks in the course schedule below and will be recorded and posted to D2L after class. Other class materials will be posted to the course D2L page by the day/time of each scheduled class as per the course schedule.

Prerequisites

PSYC 300/301 and consent of the Department (normally restricted to Honours students)

Required Text

There is no required textbook for the course. References to potential readings from the primary literature will be provided in class.

Assessment Methods

Group presentation	30%
Podcast Pitch	15%
Podcast	30%
Thought Journal	15%
Participation	10%

Group presentation – Groups of 2 students will be responsible for delivering a zoom presentation to the class. The requirements for the group presentation are two-fold:

1. Present on a topic (e.g. foraging, mating, communication, etc.) relating to our ongoing investigation of animal behaviour. Include in your presentation the pertinent background information and some cool examples of the behaviour you have chosen.
2. Facilitate discussion related to your chosen topic. This should include a synchronous and an asynchronous component. You might consider group activities, pair-share approaches, and discussion posts via D2L. The goal is to create an engaging community in which learners can interact with the material

Grades for this assignment will be based on the quality of your presentation, in addition to how effectively you facilitate discussion. A portion of your grade will be based on feedback from your peers. More detail regarding the assignment will be discussed in class and made available on D2L.

Podcast Pitch – The purpose of this assignment is for you to receive formative feedback from the class regarding your podcast idea (see below). You will upload a description of your podcast to the D2L discussion forums. Include in your post a description of the topic you have chosen (what and why), and

the general approach you plan to take. Uploads can consist of Powerpoint files, video or audio recordings, etc. Podcast pitches should be uploaded by 11:59pm on Oct 8th. More details regarding the assignment will be discussed in class and posted on D2L.

Podcast – The goal of this assignment is to put together a podcast (approx. 10 minutes) on a topic of interest that relates to animal behaviour. Working in the same teams as your group presentation, your job is to present on a different topic than your previous assignment. The podcast should be aimed at informing the general public of your topic. Grades for the podcast will be based on a number of criteria including the clarity of your presentation and your engagement with the material. Due by 11:59pm on Dec 12th via D2L this assignment accounts for 30% of your final grade (see D2L for more details).

Thought Journal – Insight into a topic of study often arises in an offline state (i.e. outside the classroom). This assignment (to be done individually) provides you with an opportunity to transcribe your musings on the information we will discuss throughout the semester, and is designed to encourage curiosity as it relates to animal behaviour. Grades for the thought journal will be based on your reflection of, and insight into, the course material. Worth 15% of your final grade a Word or PDF copy of your thought journal is due on Dec 8th by 11:59pm via D2L. A rubric relating to the thought journal is available on D2L.

Participation – Active participation can often make the difference between a mediocre and a great course experience. My goal is to make the classroom and online environment a safe place to formulate, express, and discuss a wide variety of ideas. Your thoughts and questions can often provide a great starting point for a fruitful discussion. With this in mind, students are expected to contribute to our in-class discussion and online community in a respectful and thoughtful manner. Your participation grade will reflect your engagement with the course material. Importantly, this includes contributing to discussions, actively posting material, and participating in discourse throughout the semester. Your grade will be a product of your engagement across the entire semester. More details regarding the grade breakdown will be discussed in class and provided on D2L.

Late assignments will not be accepted without instructor approval.

University of Calgary Academic Integrity Policy

Academic integrity is the foundation of the development and acquisition of knowledge and is based on values of honesty, trust, responsibility, and respect. We expect members of our community to act with integrity.

Research integrity, ethics, and principles of conduct are key to academic integrity. Members of our campus community are required to abide by our institutional code of conduct and promote academic integrity in upholding the University of Calgary's reputation of excellence. It is your responsibility to ensure that you have read and are familiar with the student academic misconduct policy: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-academic-misconduct-policy.pdf>.

Department of Psychology Criteria for Letter Grades

Psychology course instructors use the following criteria when assigning letter grades:

A+ grade: *Exceptional Performance*. An A+ grade indicates near perfect performance on multiple choice and short answer exams. For research papers/essays/course projects/presentations, an A+ grade is awarded for exceptional work deserving of special recognition and is therefore not a common grade.

A, A- Range: *Excellent Performance*. Superior understanding of course material. Written work is very strong in terms of critical and original thinking, content, organization, and the expression of ideas, and demonstrates student’s thorough knowledge of subject matter.

B Range: *Good Performance*. Above average understanding of course material. Written work shows evidence of critical thinking and attention to organization and editing but could be improved in form and/or content.

C Range: *Satisfactory Performance*. Adequate understanding of course material. Knowledge of basic concepts and terminology is demonstrated. Written work is satisfactory and meets essential requirements but could be improved significantly in form and content. Note: All prerequisites for courses offered by the Faculty of Arts must be met with a minimum grade of C-.

D range: *Marginally meets standards*. Minimal understanding of subject matter. Written work is marginally acceptable and meets basic requirements but requires substantial improvements in form and content. Student has not mastered course material at a level sufficient for advancement into more senior courses in the same or related subjects.

F grade: *Course standards not met*. Inadequate understanding of subject matter. Written work does not meet basic requirements. Student has not demonstrated knowledge of course material at a level sufficient for course credit.

Grading Scale

A+	96-100%	B+	80-84%	C+	67-71%	D+	54-58%
A	90-95%	B	76-79%	C	63-66%	D	50-53%
A-	85-89%	B-	72-75%	C-	59-62%	F	0-49%

As stated in the University Calendar, it is at the instructor’s discretion to round off either upward or downward to determine a final grade when the average of term work and final examinations is between two letter grades. To determine final letter grades, final percentage grades will be rounded up or down to the nearest whole percentage (e.g., 89.5% will be rounded up to 90% = A but 89.4% will be rounded down to 89% = A-).

Tentative Lecture Schedule

Date	Topic/Activity/Readings/Due Date	
T Sep 8	University Lectures begin. * Introduction to the course (Zoom meeting)	The overall aim of the
R Sep 10		

T Sep 15	* Discussion 2 (Zoom meeting)	introductory discussions is to provide you with the background and tools necessary to succeed in your presentations and discussion facilitation.
R Sep 17	<i>Last day to drop a class without financial penalty</i>	
F Sep 18	<i>Last day to add or swap a course</i>	
T Sep 22	* Discussion 3 (Zoom meeting)	
R Sep 24		
F Sep 25	<i>Fee payment deadline for Fall Term full and half courses.</i>	
T Sep 29	* Discussion 4 (Zoom meeting)	
R Oct 1		
T Oct 6	* Discussion 5 (Zoom meeting)	
R Oct 8	Podcast Pitches due (11:59pm)	
M Oct 12	Thanksgiving Day, University closed (except Taylor Family Digital Library, Law, Medical, Gallagher and Business Libraries). No lectures.	
T Oct 13	* Discussion 6 (Zoom meeting)	
R Oct 15		
T Oct 20	* Discussion 7 (Zoom meeting)	
R Oct 22		
T Oct 27	Student Presentations	
R Oct 29	Student Presentations	
T Nov 3	Student Presentations	
R Nov 5	Student Presentations	
Nov 8-14	Term Break No Classes	
W Nov 11	Remembrance Day (Observed). University Closed (except Taylor Family Digital Library, Law, Medical, Gallagher and Business Libraries). No lectures.	
T Nov 17	Student Presentations	
R Nov 19	Student Presentations	
T Nov 24	Student Presentations	
R Nov 26	Student Presentations	
T Dec 1	Student Presentations	
R Dec 3	Student Presentations	
T Dec 8	Course Wrap Up	Thought Journal Due
W Dec 9	<i>Fall Term Lectures End. Last day to withdraw with permission from Fall Term half courses.</i>	
Dec 12-23	Fall Final Exam Period	Podcast Due

Extra Research Participation Course Credit is Not Offered for this Course.

Absence From A Test/Exam

Makeup tests/exams are **NOT** an option without the approval of the instructor. Students who miss a test/exam have up to 48 hours to contact the instructor to ask for a makeup test/exam. It's the instructor's discretion if they will allow a make-up exam. Students who do not schedule a makeup test/exam with the instructor within this 48-hour period forfeit the right to a makeup test/exam. At the instructor's discretion, a makeup test/exam may differ significantly (in form and/or content) from a

regularly scheduled test/exam. Once approved by the instructor a makeup test/exam must be written within 2 weeks of the missed test/exam on a day/time scheduled by the instructor. If a student cannot write their final exam on the date assigned by the Registrar's Office, they need to apply for a deferred exam <https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/exams/deferred-exams>.

Travel During Exams

Consistent with University regulations, students are expected to be available to write scheduled exams at any time during the official December and April examination periods. Requests to write a make-up exam because of conflicting travel plans (e.g., flight bookings) will NOT be considered by the department. Students are advised to wait until the final examination schedule is posted before making any travel arrangements. If a student cannot write their final exam on the date assigned by the Registrar's Office, they need to apply for a deferred exam <https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/exams/deferred-exams>. Students with an exceptional extenuating circumstance (e.g., a family emergency) should contact the Department of Psychology (psyugrd@ucalgary.ca).

Reappraisal of Graded Term Work <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/i-2.html>

Reappraisal of Final Grade <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/i-3.html>

Academic Accommodations

Students seeking an accommodation based on disability or medical concerns should contact Student Accessibility Services; SAS will process the request and issue letters of accommodation to instructors. For additional information on support services and accommodations for students with disabilities, visit www.ucalgary.ca/access/. Students who require an accommodation in relation to their coursework based on a protected ground other than disability should communicate this need in writing to their Instructor. The full policy on Student Accommodations is available at <http://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy.pdf>.

Academic Misconduct

For information on academic misconduct and its consequences, please see the University of Calgary Calendar at <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k.html>

Instructor Intellectual Property

Course materials created by professor(s) (including course outlines, presentations and posted notes, labs, case studies, assignments and exams) remain the intellectual property of the professor(s). These materials may NOT be reproduced, redistributed or copied without the explicit consent of the professor. The posting of course materials to third party websites such as note-sharing sites without permission is prohibited. Sharing of extracts of these course materials with other students enrolled in the course at the same time may be allowed under fair dealing.

Copyright Legislation

All students are required to read the University of Calgary policy on Acceptable Use of Material Protected by Copyright (www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/acceptable-use-of-material-protected-by-copyright.pdf) and requirements of the copyright act (<https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/C-42/index.html>) to ensure they are aware of the consequences of unauthorized sharing of course materials (including instructor notes, electronic versions of textbooks etc.). Students who use material protected by copyright in violation of this policy may be disciplined under the Non-Academic Misconduct Policy.

Freedom OF Information and Protection of Privacy

Student information will be collected in accordance with typical (or usual) classroom practice. Students' assignments will be accessible only by the authorized course faculty. Private information related to the individual student is treated with the utmost regard by the faculty at the University of Calgary

Student Support and Resources

<https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/registration/course-outlines>

Important Dates

The last day to drop this course with no "W" notation and **still receive a tuition fee refund** is **Thursday, September 17, 2020**. Last day add/swap a course is **Friday, September 18, 2020**. The last day to withdraw from this course is **Wednesday, December 9, 2020**.

<https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/academic-schedule.html>