

PSYC 501.32		Animal Behaviour		Winter 2020	
<b>Instructor:</b>	Dr. Simon Spanswick	<b>Lecture Location:</b>	D2L		
<b>Phone:</b>	403-220-4948	<b>Lecture Days/Time:</b>	MF 11:00-12:15		
<b>Email:</b>	<a href="mailto:scspansw@ucalgary.ca">scspansw@ucalgary.ca</a>				
<b>Office:</b>	AD032				
<b>Office Hours:</b>	Email me to arrange a convenient time				

### 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 [psyc.ucalgary.ca/undergraduate/program-learning-outcomes](http://psyc.ucalgary.ca/undergraduate/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, 7 = apply psychological knowledge and skills. Level of PLO achievement facilitated by this course: I = introductory, C = competency, A = advanced.

### 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%
In-class Participation	10%

**Group presentation** – Groups of 2-3 students will be responsible for constructing a Powerpoint presentation that could be delivered to a senior-level animal behaviour class. The requirements for the group presentation are two-fold:

1. The presentation should relate to our ongoing investigation of animal behaviour (e.g. foraging, mating, communication, etc.). Include in your presentation the pertinent background information and some cool examples of the behaviour you have chosen.
2. Provide mechanisms to facilitate a class discussion on your chosen topic. This can be built into the presentation in the form of videos, group activities, pair-share approaches, etc. The goal is to create an engaging classroom in which learners can interact with the material. Students may wish to provide supplementary material described their chosen discussion techniques.

Your presentation is due to the D2L dropbox by 11am on your assigned presentation day. Grades for this assignment will be based on the quality of your presentation, in addition to how effectively your ideas might facilitate discussion in the classroom. 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 prepare a brief presentation (3-5 min) that describes the topic you have chosen for your podcast (what, why) and the general approach you plan to take.

**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 groups as your in-class 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 noon on April 15<sup>th</sup> via D2L this assignment accounts for 30% of your final grade (details on D2L).

**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. Due on April 6<sup>th</sup> by 11:59pm the thought journal is worth 15% of your final grade. A digital copy of your thought journal should be submitted via D2L, or a physical copy can be

delivered to the Department of Psychology main office (AD 255). More detail regarding the journal will be made available on D2L.

**In-class Participation** – Active participation can often make the difference between a mediocre and a great course experience. My goal is to make the classroom 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 in-class discussion in a respectful and thoughtful manner. Your participation grade will reflect your in-class engagement with the course material. Importantly, this includes contributing to discussions, actively following conversations, and participating in group activities. 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 Policy for Assignments and Presentations**

Without approved documentation, late assignments will be penalized 10% per day, including weekends. Without approved documentation, and due to time constraints missed presentations cannot be made up and will receive a zero.

### **Department of Psychology Criteria for Letter Grades**

Psychology professors 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	
M Jan 06	<i>Winter term begins (block week January 6-10)</i>	
M Jan 13	Introduction to the course	
F Jan 17	Discussion 1	The overall aim of the introductory discussions is to provide you with the background and tools necessary to succeed in your in-class presentations and discussion facilitation.
M Jan 20	Discussion 2	
R Jan 23	<i>Last day to drop Winter Term half-courses.</i>	
F Jan 24	<i>Last day to add or swap a course</i> Discussion 3	
M Jan 27	Discussion 4	
F Jan 31	<i>Fee payment deadline for Winter Term fees.</i> Discussion 5	
M Feb 3	Discussion 6	
F Feb 7	Discussion 7	
M Feb 10	<b>Podcast Pitches</b>	
F Feb 14	<b>Podcast Pitches</b>	
M Feb 17	Alberta Family Day	
Feb 16-22	Term Break, No Classes (University Open, Except on Family Day)	
M Feb 24	Discussion 8	
F Feb 28	Discussion 9	
M Mar 2	<b>Student Presentations</b>	
F Mar 6	<b>Student Presentations</b>	
M Mar 9	<b>Student Presentations</b>	
F Mar 13	<b>Student Presentations</b>	

M Mar 16	<b>Student Presentations</b>	
F Mar 20	<b>Student Presentations</b>	
M Mar 23	<b>Student Presentations</b>	
F Mar 27	<b>Student Presentations</b>	
M Mar 30	<b>Student Presentations</b>	
F Apr 3	<b>Student Presentations</b>	
M Apr 6	Discussion 10	<b>Thought journal due</b>
F Apr 10	Good Friday, No Classes	
M Apr 13	Non-Instructional Day, University Open	
W Apr 15	<i>Last day of classes, last day to withdraw from winter courses</i>	<b>Podcast Due</b>
Apr. 18-29	Final Exam Period	
R Apr 30	End of Term	

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

### Seating During Exams

Instructors and exam invigilators are free to ask students to move seats before an exam begins or even during an exam. Students must comply with this request and refusal to do so may warrant a charge of academic misconduct.

### Absence From A Test/Exam

Makeup tests/exams are **NOT** an option without the approval of the instructor. A student may be asked to provide supporting documentation for an exemption/special request for a make-up exam <https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/n-1.html>. 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 during exam make-up hours provided by the department** <http://psychology.ucalgary.ca/undergraduate/exam-and-course-information#mues>. **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](mailto: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/](http://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](http://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>

### **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.

### **Student Organizations**

Psychology students may wish to join the Psychology Undergraduate Students' Association (PSYCHS). They are located in Administration 130 and may be contacted at 403-220-5567.

**Student Union VP Academic:** Phone: 403-220-3911 [suvpaca@ucalgary.ca](mailto:suvpaca@ucalgary.ca)

**Student Union Faculty Rep.:** [arts1@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts1@su.ucalgary.ca)

### **Important Dates**

The last day to drop this course with no "W" notation and **still receive a tuition fee refund** is **January 23, 2020**. Last day for registration/change of registration is **January 24, 2020**. The last day to withdraw from this course is **April 15, 2020**.