

BIOL 321

Animal Behaviour

Fall Term (2013-14)

CALENDAR DESCRIPTION

An evolutionary approach to the study of animal behaviour. This course explores processes and patterns in behaviour, with emphasis on perception, communication, foraging, spacing, reproduction and social behaviour in a variety of animals. Methods of studying and analyzing behaviour are explored through laboratory exercises.

LEARNING HOURS 120 (36L;12T;6G;6O;60P). RECOMMENDATION BIOL 202/3.0.

COREQUISITE 6.0 units in BIOL at the 200-level.

SCHEDULE

Lectures: Monday 14:30-15:30, Tuesday 16:30-17:30, Thursday 15:30-16:30. BIOSCI 1103.

Labs: Various days and times in BIOSCI, refer to SOLUS for details.

Instructor	Dr. L. Nagel
Instructor Contact	nagell@queensu.ca
Office Hours	TBA
TA:	Jared McDonald, Danielle Porplycia, Gabriel Chamberlain
TA Contact Information	Jared McDonald <12jm60@queensu.ca>, Danielle Porplycia <13dp14@queensu.ca>, Gabriel Chamberlain <7gc2@queensu.ca>
Office Hours	TBA

Learning Objectives

Animal Behaviour will introduce students to an evolutionary approach to the study of animal behaviour. The lectures will emphasize testing hypotheses about how natural selection shapes the behaviour of animals. Material ranges from sensory perception and physiological mechanisms underlying behaviour to foraging, spacing and movement, predator-prey interactions, reproduction, communication, and cooperation. The lectures will serve as an introduction to active and exciting research in ecology, psychology, physiology, genetics, applied conservation and animal welfare. Assignments will provide practice in understanding, interpreting and conducting behavioural science. We will read recent papers from the primary literature and discuss these in labs. Lab projects will promote the development of research skills, including the design of a study, the collection, analysis and interpretation of behavioural data, and the written communication of results. These projects will also provide practice with oral presentation skills, as students will propose and critically evaluate projects in labs.

Learning Hours

<i>Teaching method</i>		<i>Average hours per week</i>	<i>Number of weeks</i>	<i>Total hours</i>
In-class hours	Lecture	3	14	42
	Seminar			
	Laboratory	2		
	Tutorial			
	Practicum			
	Group learning			
	Individual instruction	1		14
Other	Online activity	1		14
	Off-campus activity	2		28
	Private study	2		28
Total hours on task				126

Course Outline

Natural Selection and Evolution
 Learning and Cultural Transmission
 Sexual Selection
 Cooperation
 Communication
 Aggression
 Play
 Intelligence and Personality

Textbooks/Readings

Animal Behavior 2nd edition (L.A. Dugatkin)

Grading Scheme

Component	Weight (%)	Date
In-class tests (7)	60%	
Lab participation and attendance	10%	
Research project	30%	

Grading Method

All components of this course will receive numerical percentage marks. The final grade you receive for the course will be derived by converting your numerical course average to a letter grade according to Queen's Official Grade Conversion Scale.

When letter grades are employed, the following scale will be employed for purposes of calculating your course average:

Arts & Science Letter Grade Input Scheme

Assignment mark	Numerical value for calculation of final mark
A+	93
A	87
A-	82
B+	78
B	75
B-	72
C+	68
C	65
C-	62
D+	58
D	55
D-	52
F48 (F+)	48
F24 (F)	24
F0 (0)	0

Your course average will then be converted to a final letter grade according to Queen's Official Grade Conversion Scale:

Queen's Official Grade Conversion Scale

Grade	Numerical Course Average (Range)
A+	90-100
A	85-89
A-	80-84
B+	77-79
B	73-76
B-	70-72
C+	67-69
C	63-66
C-	60-62
D+	57-59
D	53-56
D-	50-52
F	49 and below

Academic Integrity and Queen's Code of Conduct

Students are responsible for familiarizing themselves with the regulations concerning academic integrity and for ensuring that their assignments and conduct conform to the principles of academic integrity. Information is available in the Arts and Science Calendar (see Academic Regulation 1 - <http://www.queensu.ca/artsci/academic-calendars/regulations/academic-regulations>, on the Arts and Science website (see <http://www.queensu.ca/artsci/academics/undergraduate/academic-integrity>), and at Biology's website (<http://www.queensu.ca/biology/undergrad/integrity.html>) and from the instructor of this course. Departures from academic integrity include plagiarism, use of unauthorized materials, facilitation, forgery and falsification, and are antithetical to the development of an academic community at Queen's. Given the seriousness of these matters, actions which contravene the regulations on academic integrity carry sanctions that can range from a warning or the loss of grades on an assignment to the failure of a course to a requirement to withdraw from the university.

Accommodation Policy, Exam Conflicts, and Other Conflicts

Students who feel they need accommodations for disabilities or extenuating circumstances, or have a conflict between exams or other commitments should consult the Biology Department's website for details about how to proceed (<http://www.queensu.ca/biology/undergrad/integrity.html>). In general, the earlier a course coordinator is apprised of an extenuating circumstance, the more likely an accommodation can be made. Students are encouraged to be proactive in anticipating difficulties, when it is possible to do so.

Students may apply to write a make-up or deferred exam if they have an exam conflict as defined in the Academic Regulations of the Faculty (See Arts and Science Calendar Regulation 8 - <http://www.queensu.ca/artsci/academic-calendars/regulations/academic-regulations>). In this case, the student should report to the Exams Office first to verify that there is a genuine exam conflict. Biology professors will not consider your situation to be a conflict unless it meets the criteria set out by the Faculty of Arts and Sciences.

Students may request a make-up or deferred exam if they have an exam conflict with off-campus travel associated with a field course (e.g BIOL-307/3.0 or 407/3.0) that is held during the fall or winter terms.

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Accommodation of Disabilities

Queen's University is committed to achieving full accessibility for persons with disabilities. Part of this commitment includes arranging academic accommodations for students with disabilities to ensure they have an equitable opportunity to participate in all of their academic activities. If you are a student with a disability and think you may need accommodations, you are strongly encouraged to contact the Disability Services Office (DSO) and register as early as possible. For more information, including important deadlines, please visit the DSO website at: <http://www.queensu.ca/hcds/ds/>