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| Course ID: | Course Title: | Fall 2017 |
| ECOL 383 | Animal Behaviour | Prerequisite: |
| | | Credits: 3 |

ONLINE CLASS

| Class Information | | Instructor Information | | Important Dates | |
|--|--|------------------------|--|--|----------------------------|
| Days: | TU: 5:30-6:45 | Instructor: | Graeme Gissing | First day of classes: | Wed, Sep. 6 |
| | Class attended remotely but also used for written tests on campus. | Email: | ggissing@ambrose.edu | Last day to add/drop, or change to audit: | End of first week of class |
| | TH: Online | | | | |
| Final Exam: Monday, Dec. 18th at 1 pm in A2131 | | Phone: | Provided to students | Last day to withdraw from course: | Thu, Nov. 30 |
| | | Office: | N/A | Last day to apply for coursework extension: | Fri, Dec. 1 |
| | | Office Hours: | Arranged individually by students. Conducted via online meeting. | Last day of classes: | Tue, Dec. 12 |

Course Description

This course explores the biological basis of animal behaviour using key principles from the fields of ethology and behavioural ecology. Placed within an evolutionary framework, the unifying principles of natural and sexual selection are used to investigate the driving forces that have shaped the remarkably diverse and often strange suite of behaviours in animals that enable them to survive harsh climates, find mates, care for young, migrate across diverse landscapes, and learn to survive in their environment.

Expected Learning Outcomes

It is the aim of the course that students acquire the following skills:

- 1)** Gain a full understanding of the mechanisms that enable animals to sense, and respond to, stimuli in their environment.
- 2)** Develop the ability to critically evaluate hypotheses regarding the adaptive significance of specific behaviour.
- 3)** Understand the research methodologies associated with the successful study of animal behaviour and develop the ability to design an experiment to test a specific hypothesis regarding animal behaviour.

- 4) Demonstrate scientific literacy in the field of animal behaviour and be capable of communicating their knowledge to peers through a term project culminating in a scientific presentation of a selected topic in animal behaviour.
- 5) Be able to distinguish the proximate and ultimate causes of behaviour in natural populations.
- 6) Gain an understanding of the different reproductive strategies, and the associated reproductive behaviour, in the animal kingdom and how individual organisms use behaviour to maximize their reproductive success.
- 7) Understand the role and complexities of learning in the lives of animals and how it is integral to cooperation, conflict, social structure, and survival.
- 8) Be capable of integrating an ecological and evolutionary approach to the study of animal behaviour and being capable of seeing larger patterns as common threads interconnecting the diverse topics covered in the course.

Textbooks

This course will not have a textbook. Students will read and discuss a series of journal articles, participate in the evaluation and design of experiments in animal behaviour, and rely on lecture materials.

Course Schedule

Our first meeting (via Zoom web conference in Moodle) will be **Tuesday, September 12, 2017** at 5:30 PM and will consist of a general introduction to the course and its online format, the course outline, and student evaluation.

The following schedule provides a *general guideline* and timetable for topics and tests. It *may change depending on progress* through the semester. See Attendance section below for course format.

| Week | Topic / Activity |
|------|---|
| 2 | Behaviourism vs. ethology Classical and operant conditioning The work of three key figures in ethology using case studies |
| 3 | Methods and techniques used for studying animal behaviour |
| 4 | Genetic control and innate behaviour |
| 5 | Hormones and behaviour |
| 6 | Tuesday October 10, 2017: Term Test 01 of 02 - In classroom (A2133) starting at 5:30 PM |
| | Learning in animals |
| 7 | Learning in animals |
| 8 | Communication and cultural transmission |
| 9 | Migration and animal navigation |
| 10 | Fall Break - No Classes |
| 11 | Tuesday November 14, 2017: Term Test 02 of 02 - In classroom (A2133) starting at 5:30 PM |
| | Animal mating systems and reproductive behaviour |
| 12 | Animal welfare in captive animals and assessing welfare through behavioural research |
| 13 | Cooperation, cheating, and moral behaviour in animals |
| 14 | Parasite manipulation of behaviour and interspecific cooperation |
| | Thursday December 7, 2017: Term Projects presentations (as required) starting at 5:30 PM |

Requirements:

All quizzes, exams, and assignments are announced and/or scheduled in advance. Assignments and activities (where applicable) are designed to review major concepts, summarize pertinent results, and demonstrate comprehension of material covered. Assignments are due at the designated time (please see the late policy below for additional information about late submissions).

Theory (Lecture) Term Tests and Exams:

1. Term tests are objective, utilizing a variety of formats including multiple-choice, matching, true/false, short answer, calculations, drawing of diagrams and graphs/plots. Tests may also contain a set of selected short essay questions.
2. The final exam will have a structure similar to the term tests, with a combination of question formats. Approximately 60% of the final exam will cover new material (since term test 2 of 2). Approximately 40% of the exam will consist of comprehensive material. This ratio may change based on class progress but will be made clear prior to the final exam. Further details regarding this comprehensive material will be forthcoming.

Late Submission of Assignments:

We realize that certain circumstances prevent students from turning in individual assignments on time and have developed the following late policy to address these rare situations. The late policy will **NOT cover term tests, quizzes, or the final exam**, all of which **MUST** be completed on time or a grade of zero will be assigned. The following late policy will only apply if the instructor is contacted **IN WRITING** prior to the deadline. Late submissions without contact prior to the deadline will not be accepted.

Note: Some activities (example: discussion forum posts) will not be accepted if submitted late (grade of zero). These will be made clear to students.

| Condition (calendar days include both weekdays and weekends) | Deduction |
|---|-----------|
| Assignment is turned in 1 calendar day after it is due (e.g. Due: Monday, handed in on Tuesday) | 20% |
| Assignment is turned in 2 calendar days after it is due (e.g. Due: Monday, handed in Wednesday) | 30% |
| Assignment is turned in 3 calendar days after it is due (e.g. Due: Friday, handed in on Monday) | 40% |
| Assignment is turned in 4 calendar days after it is due (e.g. Due: Monday, handed in on Friday) | 50% |
| Assignment is turned in 5 or more calendar days after it is due | 100% |

Attendance:

This is an online course with one formally scheduled class time per week (Tuesdays: 5:30-6:45PM). Students will attend the formal class time remotely (from anywhere) via Zoom video conference. The link to access the video conference will be posted on Moodle. Students will need a computer to access the video conferences and **MUST** have a web camera and microphone in order to participate effectively. The video conferences will be recorded and posted. A second video lecture will be presented on Thursdays (5:30-6:45PM). Live attendance for the second class section is not mandatory but recommended in order to ask questions. However, the second video lecture will also be recorded and posted and students will not be penalized if they are unable to attend the Thursday class live. The corresponding lecture notes will be posted for all video lectures.

Grade Summary:

| Activity | Percent of Grade | Notes |
|----------------------------|------------------|--|
| Term Test 01 | 15% | *Term Project - Options will be available: 1) Term paper (10 pages text) 2) 12 minute talk on a selected topic 3) 12 minute video of talk, or a documentary 4) Open to other proposals with approval |
| Term Test 02 | 20% | |
| Online Quizzes (3 or 4) | 10% | |
| Online Activities (3 or 4) | 10% | |
| Assignments (2) | 10% | |
| Term Paper / Term Project | 15% | |
| Final Exam | 20% | |

| | | | | | |
|----|---------|-------------|----|-----------|--------------|
| A+ | 95-100% | Outstanding | C+ | 65-70% | Satisfactory |
| A | 90-95% | Excellent | C | 60-65% | Satisfactory |
| A- | 85-90% | Very Good | C- | 55-60% | Poor |
| B+ | 80-85% | Good | D | 50-55% | Minimal Pass |
| B | 75-80% | Good | F | Below 50% | Fail |
| B- | 70-75% | Good | | | |

Because of the nature of the Alpha 4.00 system, there can be no uniform University-wide conversion scale. The relationship between raw scores (e.g. percentages) and the resultant letter grade will depend on the nature of the course and the instructor's assessment of the level of each class, compared to similar classes taught previously.

Please note that final grades will be available on student registration system. Printed grade sheets are not mailed out.

Ambrose University Academic Policies:

Communication

All students have received an Ambrose e-mail account upon registration. It is the student's responsibility to check this account regularly as the Ambrose email system will be the professor's instrument for notifying students of important matters (cancelled class sessions, extensions, requested appointments, etc.) between class sessions. If students do not wish to use their Ambrose accounts, they will need to forward all messages from the Ambrose account to another personal account.

Registration

During the **Registration Revision Period** students may enter a course without permission, change the designation of any class from credit to audit and /or voluntary withdraw from a course without financial or academic penalty or record. Courses should be added or dropped on the student portal by the deadline date; please consult the List of Important Dates. After that date, the original status remains and the student is responsible for related fees.

Students intending to withdraw from a course after the Registration Revision Period must apply to the Office of the Registrar by submitting a "Request to Withdraw from a Course" form or by sending an email to the Registrar's Office by the **Withdrawal Deadline**; please consult the List of Important Dates on the my.ambrose.edu website. Students will not receive a tuition refund for courses from which they withdraw after the Registration Revision period. A grade of "W" will appear on their transcript.

Students wishing to withdraw from a course, but who fail to do so by the applicable date, will receive the grade earned in accordance with the course syllabus. A student obliged to withdraw from a course after the Withdrawal Deadline because of health or other reasons may apply to the Registrar for special consideration.

Exam Scheduling

Students, who find a conflict in their exam schedule must submit a Revised Examination Request form to the Registrar's Office by the deadline date; please consult the List of Important Dates. Requests will be considered for the following reasons only: 1) the scheduled final examination slot conflicts with another exam; 2) the student has three final exams within three consecutive exam time blocks; 3) the scheduled final exam slot conflicts with an exam at another institution; 4) extenuating circumstances. Travel is not considered a valid excuse for re-scheduling or missing a final exam.

Electronic Etiquette

Students are expected to treat their instructor, guest speakers, and fellow students with respect. It is disruptive to the learning goals of a course or seminar and disrespectful to fellow students and the instructor to use electronics for purposes unrelated to the course during a class session. Turn off all cell phones and other electronic devices during class. Laptops should be used for class-related purposes only. Do not use iPods, MP3 players, or headphones. Do not text, read, or send personal emails, go on Facebook or other social networks, search the internet, or play computer games during class. Some professors will not allow the use of any electronic devices in class. The professor has the right to disallow the student to use a

laptop in future lectures and/or to ask a student to withdraw from the session if s/he does not comply with this policy. Repeat offenders will be directed to the Dean. If you are expecting communication due to an emergency, please speak with the professor before the class begins.

Academic Policies

It is the responsibility of all students to become familiar with and adhere to academic policies as stated in the Academic Calendar. Personal information (information about an individual that may be used to identify that individual) may be required as part of taking this class. Any information collected will only be used and disclosed for the purpose for which the collection was intended. For further information contact the Privacy Compliance Officer at privacy@ambrose.edu.

Extensions

Although extensions to coursework in the semester are at the discretion of the instructor, students may not turn in coursework for evaluation after the last day of the scheduled final examination period unless they have received permission for a course Extension from the Registrar's Office. Requests for course extensions or alternative examination time must be submitted to the Registrar's Office by the deadline date; please consult the List of Important Dates. Course extensions are only granted for serious issues that arise "due to circumstances beyond the student's control."

Appeal of Grade

An appeal for change of grade on any course work must be made to the course instructor within one week of receiving notification of the grade. An appeal for change of final grade must be submitted to the Registrar's Office in writing and providing the basis for appeal within 30 days of receiving notification of the final grade, providing the basis for appeal. A review fee of \$50.00 must accompany the appeal. If the appeal is sustained, the fee will be refunded.

Academic Integrity

We are committed to fostering personal integrity and will not overlook breaches of integrity such as plagiarism and cheating. Academic dishonesty is taken seriously at Ambrose University as it undermines our academic standards and affects the integrity of each member of our learning community. Any attempt to obtain credit for academic work through fraudulent, deceptive, or dishonest means is academic dishonesty. Plagiarism involves presenting someone else's ideas, words, or work as one's own. Plagiarism is fraud and theft, but plagiarism can also occur by accident when a student fails or forgets to acknowledge to another person's ideas or words. Plagiarism and cheating can result in a failing grade for an assignment, for the course, or immediate dismissal from the university college. Students are expected to be familiar with the policies in the current Academic Calendar that deal with plagiarism, cheating, and the penalties and procedures for dealing with these matters. All cases of academic dishonesty are reported to the Academic Dean and become part of the student's permanent record.

Note: Students are strongly advised to retain this syllabus for their records.