

**Faculty of Health**  
**Department of Psychology**  
**PSYC 3280 3.0 M: ANIMAL BEHAVIOUR**  
**Thursdays @ 2:30-5:30pm, \*classroom TBD\***  
**Winter 2022**

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**Instructor and T.A. Information**

**Dr. Jenna V. Congdon**

Office Hours: *By appointment*

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<b>T.A.</b>	<b>Ezekiel Gading</b>
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<b>Office Hours</b>	<i>By appointment</i>

**Course Prerequisite(s): Course prerequisites are strictly enforced**

- HH/PSYC 1010 6.00 (Introduction to Psychology), with a minimum grade of C.
- Completed at least 54 earned credits

**Course Credit Exclusions**

Please refer to [York Courses Website](#) for a listing of any course credit exclusions.

**Course website:** [eClass](#) Course materials will be available on the course eClass site. The site will be your central access point for course materials.

**Recommended Textbook:** *Principles of Animal Behavior* (4<sup>th</sup> edition, 2020) by Lee Alan Dugatkin (Note: Photo of elephants on the front). Note: An e-book is also available through Vital Source Canada or directly from the publisher (UChicago Press).

**Course Description**

Research and theory with animals are considered. Perspectives in evolution, ethology, sociobiology, and psychology are covered. Topics include learning, sexual selection, mating, kinship, cooperation, foraging, antipredator behaviour, communication, habitat selection, territoriality, and migration, aggression, play, and animal personalities.

**Program Learning Outcomes**

Upon completion of this course, students should be able to:

1. Demonstrate in-depth knowledge of animal behaviour.
2. Articulate trends in the psychology of animal behaviour.
3. Express psychological knowledge of animal behaviour in written form.
4. Describe and explain limits to generalizability of research findings on animal behaviour.
5. Demonstrate ability to relate information on the psychology of animal behaviour to own and others' life experiences.

## Course Requirements and Assessment:

Assessment	Date of Evaluation	Weighting
Midterm #1	February 10, 2022 @ 2:30pm	20%
Midterm #2	March 17, 2022 @ 2:30pm	25%
Written Assignment	March 24, 2022 @ 11:59pm	20%
Final Exam	TBD	35%
<b>Total</b>		<b>100%</b>

### Midterms (20% and 25%, respectively) & Final Exam (35%)

Both of the midterms (February 10 & March 17 @ 2:30pm) and the final (TBD) will cover material from both the lectures and textbook up to and including the class prior to each examination. These exams will be *held online through eClass* at the beginning of class time and can consist of multiple choice, fill-in-the-blank, and short answer questions. Representative exam questions will be posted on eClass prior to the first midterm. The midterms for this section of PSYC 3280 will be 80 minutes (1h20min), and the final exam will be 120 minutes (2h) in length. *There is NO possibility of a reexamination in this course.* The final exam will not be cumulative as the emphasis will be on materials from the latter third of the course (i.e., lectures since Midterm #2). All exams for this course have been scheduled in advance to be remote to avoid any issues with potentially unexpected provincial restrictions.

### Written Assignment (20%)

Students will choose a species of animal to describe the natural history and develop an ethogram, including operational definitions of behavioral units based on observations of an individual animal of that species. This assignment provides an opportunity for students to think about the content learned in class and apply it to an animal of their choosing, including the scientific method, writing scientifically, and being concise in writing, with marks for proper American Psychological Association (APA) style formatting. *Further details on this assignment will be discussed early in the semester.*

### Class Format and Attendance Policy

The first three (3) classes will be held via Zoom; the remainder of the classes are to be held in-person on Keele campus. In-person classes will be recorded and posted subsequently, but not available remotely in a synchronous format. This course is well-suited for student interaction and I wish to have the opportunity to engage students and answer questions in real-time. Attendance will not be taken, but there will be opportunities to earn bonus marks throughout the semester.

### Grading as per Senate Policy

The grading scheme for the course conforms to the 9-point grading system used in undergraduate programs at York (e.g., A+ = 9, A = 8, B+ = 7, C+ = 5, etc.). Assignments and tests\* will bear either a letter grade designation or a corresponding number grade (e.g. A+ = 90 to 100, A = 80 to 89, B+ = 75 to 79, etc.)

For a full description of York grading system see the York University Undergraduate Calendar – [Grading Scheme for 2021-22](#)

### Missed Tests/Midterm Exams/Late Assignment

For any missed examination or late assignment, students MUST complete the following online form which will be received and reviewed in the Psychology undergraduate office. At this time, due to COVID-19 an Attending Physician’s Statement (APS) is not required, however, a reason for missing an evaluated component in the course must be provided. Vacations and family events are not valid excuses for missing assignment deadlines and examinations.

[HH PSYC: Missed Tests/Exams Form](#). Failure to complete the form within 48 hours of the original deadline will result in a grade of zero for the missed exam or late assignment.

### Add/Drop Deadlines

For a list of all important dates please refer to: [Fall/Winter 2021-22 Important Dates](#)

	Winter (Term W)
Last date to add a course <b>without permission</b> of instructor (also see Financial Deadlines)	Jan. 23
Last date to add a course <b>with permission</b> of instructor (also see Financial Deadlines)	Feb. 7
Drop deadline: Last date to drop a course without receiving a grade (also see Financial Deadlines)	18-Mar
Course Withdrawal Period (withdraw from a course and receive a grade of “W” on transcript – see note below)	March 19 - April 10

### Add and Drop Deadline Information

There are deadlines for adding and dropping courses, both academic and financial. Since, for the most part, the dates are **different**, be sure to read the information carefully so that you understand the differences between the sessional dates below and the [Refund Tables](#).

You are strongly advised to pay close attention to the "Last date to enrol without permission of course instructor" deadlines. These deadlines represent the last date students have unrestricted access to the registration and enrolment system.

After that date, you must contact the professor/department offering the course to arrange permission.

You can drop courses using the registration and enrolment system up until the last date to drop a course without receiving a grade (drop deadline).

You may [withdraw from a course](#) using the registration and enrolment system after the drop deadline until the last day of class for the term associated with the course. When you withdraw from a course, the course remains on your transcript without a grade and is notated as 'W'. The withdrawal will not affect your grade point average or count towards the credits required for your degree.

### **Information on Plagiarism Detection**

In the event of a switch to remote learning, exams will be modified to open book format to avoid the need for software for plagiarism detection.

### **Electronic Device Policy**

Electronic devices (e.g., tablets, laptops) are permitted during class time for course-related purposes. It is expected that you will complete tests/exams in a manner that does not require consulting an unauthorised source during an examination unless the exams transition to online in an open-book format.

### **Academic Integrity for Students**

York University takes academic integrity very seriously; please familiarize yourself with [Information about the Senate Policy on Academic Honesty](#).

It is recommended that you review Academic Integrity by completing the [Academic Integrity Tutorial](#) and [Academic Honesty Quiz](#)

### **Test Banks**

The offering for sale of, buying of, and attempting to sell or buy test banks (banks of test questions and/or answers), or any course specific test questions/answers is not permitted in the Faculty of Health. Any student found to be doing this may be considered to have breached the Senate Policy on Academic Honesty. In particular, buying and attempting to sell banks of test questions and/or answers may be considered as “Cheating in an attempt to gain an improper advantage in an academic evaluation” (article 2.1.1 from the Senate Policy) and/or “encouraging, enabling or causing others” (article 2.1.10 from the Senate Policy) to cheat.

### **Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities**

While all individuals are expected to satisfy the requirements of their program of study and to aspire to do so at a level of excellence, the university recognizes that persons with disabilities may require reasonable accommodation to enable them to do so. The university encourages students with disabilities to register with Student Accessibility Services (SAS) to discuss their accommodation needs as early as possible in the term to establish the recommended academic accommodations that will be communicated to Course Directors as necessary. Please let me know as early as possible in the term if you anticipate requiring academic accommodation so that we can discuss how to consider your accommodation needs within the context of this course.

<https://accessibility.students.yorku.ca/>

### **Excerpt from Senate Policy on Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities**

1. Pursuant to its commitment to sustaining an inclusive, equitable community in which all members are treated with respect and dignity, and consistent with applicable accessibility legislation, York University shall make reasonable and appropriate accommodations in order to promote the ability of students with disabilities to fulfill the

academic requirements of their programs. This policy aims to eliminate systemic barriers to participation in academic activities by students with disabilities.

All students are expected to satisfy the essential learning outcomes of courses. Accommodations shall be consistent with, support and preserve the academic integrity of the curriculum and the academic standards of courses and programs. For further information please refer to: [York University Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities Policy](#).

### Course Materials Copyright Information

These course materials are designed for use as part of the PSYC 3280 course at York University and are the property of the instructor unless otherwise stated. Third party copyrighted materials (such as book chapters, journal articles, music, videos, etc.) have either been licensed for use in this course or fall under an exception or limitation in Canadian Copyright law.

Copying this material for distribution (e.g. uploading material to a commercial third-party website) may lead to a violation of Copyright law. [Intellectual Property Rights Statement](#).

### Course Schedule†

WEEK	Topic
1 – January 13◊	Syllabus Walk-Through/Introduction/ Principles of Animal Behavior (Ch. 1)
2 – January 20◊	The Evolution of Behavior (Ch. 2)
3 – January 27◊	Learning (Ch. 5)
4 – February 3	Sexual Selection (Ch. 7) & Wrap-up
5 – February 10*	<b>Midterm 1 [Ch. 1, 2, 5, 7]; Mating Systems (Ch. 8)</b>
6 – February 17	Kinship (Ch. 9)/Cooperation (Ch. 10)
7 – February 24	<i>Reading Week [No classes]</i>
8 – March 3	Pre-reading week wrap-up & Foraging (Ch. 11)
9 – March 10	Antipredator Behavior (Ch. 12) & Wrap-up
10 – March 17*	<b>Midterm 2 [Ch. 8-12]; Communication (Ch. 13)</b>
11 – March 24*	Habitat Selection, Territoriality, and Migration (Ch. 14)/Aggression (Ch. 15); <b>Written Assignment due*</b>
12 – March 31	Play (Ch. 16)/Animal Personalities (Ch. 17)
13 – April 7	Wrap-up of Ch. 13-17 & Review
14 -- Scheduled by the Registrar**	<b>Final Exam [Ch. 13-17; TBD]</b>

† I reserve the right to make changes to this outline as the course progresses.

◊ The first three (3) classes will be delivered in a remote format due to COVID-19 Omicron concerns. See “Remote Classes & Exams” below for more information.

\* Midterms (2) and the final exam (1) will be *held online* to avoid any issues due to potential restrictions. The scheduled content following exams will be pre-recorded and posted for flexible viewing.

\*\* WARNING: Students must verify this date and time when the Final Exam Schedule is posted.

\*The Written Assignment due Thursday, March 24th @ 11:59pm.

## Course Policies:

### i. Classroom

- **ANNOUNCEMENTS:** In addition to checking eClass for posted lecture materials, please monitor the announcements (which should also be sent to your e-mail inbox) regularly to stay on track. Announcements are how myself and your TA communicate to the entire class as to how to proceed throughout the semester, with regular reminders of deadlines and other important information.
- **REMOTE CLASSES & EXAMS:** The lectures will be delivered primarily in-person during class time throughout the semester, with the scheduled exception of the first three (3) classes (Jan. 13/20/27) which will be taught remotely. Both of these classes will include an hour of in-person synchronous lecture (2:30-3:30pm) via Zoom and additional pre-recorded asynchronous lecture segments through eClass.

In the event that classes are taught remotely for additional dates, asynchronous lectures will continue with regular 1-hour synchronous availability during class time. This structure will be clearly communicated through eClass announcements and posting *if necessary*.

To avoid issues due to potential restrictions, all exams (2 midterms, 1 final exam) will be held online. The scheduled content following exams will be pre-recorded and posted for flexible consumption prior to the next class.

- **POWERPOINT SLIDES:** For in-person classes (following the first three weeks of remote lectures, pending restrictions), the raw slides (Powerpoint and PDFs) will be provided prior to live classes (Thursdays at 2:30pm), and screencast lectures (Jenna's voiceover while moving through the slides) and the stripped audio only (from the screencast lectures, similar to listening to a podcast) will be posted in the 24h following classes. Screencast slides will be complete (i.e., no missing content, assuming no technical difficulties) allowing for more time to take notes on the additional information conveyed by the presenter. The audio-only recordings will be a resource in the event that a student has trouble downloading the screencasts and/or wishes to listen to the material while moving through the raw powerpoint slides themselves. The screencast lectures and audio only lectures are the same content, but allows for students to choose which method works best for their understanding of the material in the event that students cannot attend class in-person due to illness, etc.
- **RECORDING AND/OR DISTRIBUTION OF COURSE MATERIALS:** Audio or video recording, digital or otherwise, by students of classes or any other teaching environment is not allowed unless you receive prior consent from the instructor or as a part of an approved accommodation plan. Student or instructor content, digital or otherwise, created and/or used within the context of the course is to be used solely for personal study, and is not to be used or distributed for any other purpose without prior consent from the content author(s). Each synchronous seminar will be recorded by the instructor's computer to monitor attendance, but will not be posted anywhere.

- **E-MAIL POLICY:** Please put “PSYC 3280” in the subject line of all e-mails. I am happy to answer e-mails regarding course content, and I will do my best to answer your e-mails promptly, but cannot always guarantee an immediate response. Please e-mail well in advance of seminars/deadlines/exams and please wait, at the very least, 24 hours before sending a follow-up e-mail. If you are confused about a concept discussed in class, please stop by for my office hour. When asking a question about course material via e-mail, please first include what you think the answer is or what you think the concept means (e.g., instead of e-mailing “I don’t understand concept X”, please instead e-mail something like “I’m confused by concept X. I think it means A, B, and C but I am confused about how A leads to B and C.”) Otherwise, I will ask you to first provide this information before writing a lengthy response. This process shows that you have thought about the material before just immediately asking for help. I am more than happy to help students who put in the effort to understand the material. **Before e-mailing a question, please check to see if the information that you need is in the syllabus or posted on eClass (e.g., date of midterm, final exam format, etc.).** Please apply the same e-mail policy when contacting your T.A. (Ezekiel) with any questions regarding the Written Assignment.
- **NETiquette:** As adults in a higher education course, I expect each of you to behave appropriately during remote synchronous Zoom classes (Jan. 13/20/27), out of respect for myself, your TA, and your classmates. Electronic devices are to be used for classroom purposes, such as note-taking; texting or browsing social media is an inappropriate use of synchronous time and will disrupt your active participation. Frequent talking or disruptions will not be tolerated; the individual(s) causing the disruption will be warned once then removed from the Zoom for the remainder of the remote, synchronous class. I encourage questions during large remote synchronous classes, but please use the chat to initiate your question/concern (e.g., “I have a question.” or write your question out) to avoid students speaking over each other.
- ii. Missed work and missed exams
  - A student who fails to write the **MIDTERM** due to incapacitating illness, severe domestic affliction, or other compelling reasons must formally apply for an *excused absence* **within 48h** following the scheduled date of the midterm missed, as outlined above. Excused absences are not automatic and are granted at the discretion of the department; unacceptable reasons that include, but are not limited to personal events such as vacation, weddings, etc. For excused absence from the midterm exam, the weight of the missed midterm will be transferred to the final exam. Students who have missed the midterm will be required to write a longer final exam that will include additional questions from the first two-thirds of the term. When a student misses a midterm *without an acceptable excuse*, a final grade will be computed using a raw score of **zero** for the missed midterm.

- *Deferred Final Examination:* Students who are unable to complete scheduled **FINAL** examinations because of illness, severe family difficulty, religious observance, or circumstances beyond their control may apply for a *deferred final* examination **within 48 hours** of the missed examination, as outlined above.
- *Academic Honesty:* Academic honesty is fundamental to the academic enterprise. Students are urged to understand the severity of academic dishonesty (e.g., cheating, plagiarism, collusion, unauthorized submission for credit of previously graded work, and misrepresentation) as serious offenses. Penalties for academic dishonesty range from a grade of **zero** on the work in question to **expulsion**.

**Additional note for students: Calumet and Stong Colleges' Student Success Programming**

Calumet and Stong Colleges aim to support the success of Faculty of Health students through a variety of **free programs** throughout their university career:

- Orientation helps new students transition into university, discover campus resources, and establish social and academic networks.
- Peer Mentoring connects well-trained upper-year students with first year and transfer students to help them transition into university.
- Course Representative Program aims to build the leadership skills of its Course Reps while contributing to the academic success and resourcefulness of students in core program classes.
- Peer-Assisted Study Session (P.A.S.S.) involve upper-level academically successful and well-trained students who facilitate study sessions in courses that are known to be historically challenging.
- Peer Tutoring offers one-on-one academic support by trained Peer Tutors.
- Calumet and Stong Colleges also support students' Health & Wellness, leadership and professional skills development, student/community engagement and wellbeing, career exploration, Indigenous Circle, awards and recognition, and provide opportunities to students to work or volunteer.
- Please connect with your Course Director about any specific academic resources for this class.
- For additional resources/information about our student success programs, please consult our websites (Calumet College; Stong College), email [scchelp@yorku.ca](mailto:scchelp@yorku.ca), and/or follow us on Instagram (Calumet College; Stong College), Facebook (Calumet College; Stong College) and LinkedIn
- Are you receiving our weekly email (Calumet and Stong Colleges - Upcoming events)? If not, please check your Inbox and Junk folders. If you do not find our weekly emails, then please add your 'preferred email' to your Passport York personal profile. If you need support, please contact [ccscadm@yorku.ca](mailto:ccscadm@yorku.ca), and request to be added to the listserv.