

BIOLOGY 448–NEUROETHOLOGY
CRN 10443

Fall 2023

Department of Biology, University of Victoria

Course Description

Examination of the neural basis of behaviour. Insights into the neuronal organization of behaviour through examination of neural solutions that have evolved in animals to solve problems encountered in their particular environments. Examples in individual species will be used to illustrate how neuronal systems integrate information to shape behaviour in ~~world~~ context. Research papers

Distribution of Marks

Midterm exam (Oct.23)		20%
Final Exam (scheduled by Records)		40%
Critical Analysis Paper (due Nov. 16, topic due Oct. 30)		15%
Presentation(10 min) based on evaluation of paper (start Nov. 16/17)		5%
Tutorials		20%
Papers(1 @ 3% due Sep.28; 1 @ 7% due Oct. 26)	(10%)	
Preparation/ Participation	(5%)	
Marking Assignment(due Nov. 02)	(5%)	
	Total	100%

In order to receive the full preparation marks for the weekly tutorials, you will need to provide, in writing, three points, good or bad, about the paper that is to be discussed each week (no need to elaborate, just the three points will suffice).

Papers

The papers are critical analyses of original research papers dealing with neuroethological topics. Detailed instructions will be provided in class; in brief, your task is to provide points, good or bad, regarding the science of the research paper in question and to support your arguments.

For the format, use 1.5 spacing, Times Roman 12 point font and 1 inch margins, no title page. Also see 'Writing Scientific Papers', 'How to critically read and analyze a scientific paper', and 'Critical Analyses: things to consider' posted on Brightspace

¼ Tutorial Papers (original paper given)

Paper 1 (3%): 1½ pages including concluding sentence. This is a group assignment (four students/group) Provide three points, good or bad, regarding the science of the paper.

Paper 2 (7%): 2 ½ pages, including concluding paragraph. You will be working in pairs for this assignment. Provide three points, good or bad, regarding the science of the paper.

¼ Critical Analysis Paper

This is an individual assignment.

Four written papers

Assessment Policy

You are responsible for attending lectures and discussions, and for reading the specified papers. Failure to do so can and likely will influence your class performance

The assignments must be completed fully and on time. We will accept late assignments, but a 20% late penalty will be applied per day for up to two days late after which time the assignment will no longer be accepted, ~~as~~ you have been granted an extension. Problems with computers are not considered valid excuses for late assignments.

All requests for assignment extensions or other academic concessions must be made to Rossi Marx (zoology@uvic.ca) before the deadline as soon as you know that you will require an extension. Each request will be considered on an individual basis. You must submit, at the time of the deadline, whatever you have completed. You will be allowed to resubmit the completed assignment in case the extension is granted. Please note that the extended due date must be before the marked assignment and feedback have been released.

Challenges and queries pertaining to assignments and exams will only be considered for one week after receiving the marked assignment or exam.

Cheating and Plagiarism

The University and the Biology Department deal with cheating and plagiarism as a serious matter, since ignoring it could be interpreted as endorsing dishonest practice in one's later professional career. To claim ignorance of the University's policy on academic integrity is, therefore, not excused. Please read the policy carefully to avoid unpleasant understandings. The policy can be found on the online UVic calendar (https://www.uvic.ca/students/academics/academic_integrity/index.php).

Individual assignments are to be prepared by each student independently, even if they are based on collaborative discussions. Please keep in mind that submitting other people's work, whether a fellow student's or a published author's, as your own is plagiarism and will be penalized. This is a serious offence.

The University of Victoria Biology department reserves the right to use plagiarism detection software or other platforms to assess the integrity of student work.

Final Exam

The final exam will be based on information covered in lectures and tutorials.

The final exam can be deferred in case of documented illness, accident, family affliction, or sporting commitments as a UVic athlete. If you expect to miss the exam for any of these reasons, please notify the instructor beforehand and produce supporting documentation as soon as possible. You must also fill out a Request for Academic Concession form, available from the Records office, as soon as possible. Travel plans are ~~an~~ not a valid reason for missing the final exam.

Grading Policy

In determining final grades for the course, our spreadsheet will round your course

If you do not want your marks posted using your ID#, please notify us at the beginning of the term.

Academic Regulations and Policies

Please read the appropriate section of the current UVic Academic Calendar regarding your rights and obligations. It is your responsibility to check your records and registration status to meet the ADD/DROP dates from the UVic calendar. You will not be dropped automatically from the course if you do not attend.

Planned Lecture Topics

BTk(MC)D(20)-TjE Mrd.4

Course Experience Survey (CES)

We value your feedback on this course. Towards the end of term, as in all other courses at UVic, you will have the opportunity to complete an anonymous survey regarding your learning experience (CES). The survey is vital to providing feedback to the department regarding the course and teaching, as well as to help the department improve the overall program for students in the future. When it is time for you to complete the survey, you will receive an email inviting you to do so. You will need to use your UVic netlink ID to access the survey, which can be done on your laptop, tablet, or mobile device. Please be thinking about this important activity during the course.

The CES system is available at this link: ces.uvic.ca/blue

UVic is committed to promoting, providing and protecting a supportive and safe learning and working environment for all its members.