Attention!

This is a representative syllabus.

The syllabus for the course when you enroll may be different.

Use the syllabus provided by your instructor for the most up-to-date information. Please refer to your instructor for more information for the specific requirements for a given semester.

Feel free to contact the Psychology Advising Office for any questions regarding psychology courses either by email (psychadvising@osu.edu) or phone (614.292.5750).

Thank you!
**Required Text:**
*Other required readings will be available on Canvas. Plan to check & use this resource frequently.

**Course Overview:**
Comparative Psychology is an advanced psychology course which will require a great deal of critical thinking. We will discuss research on animal behavior and cognition by psychologists and ethologists, highlighting behavioral and cognitive differences between species. There will be an emphasis on the evolutionary and adaptive significance of the mechanisms underlying behavior. To understand the amazing behavioral and cognitive feats of animals, we will critically examine scientific theories and discuss their application to various animal species.

**Course Objectives:**
Upon completion of this course, students will:
- demonstrate an understanding of the historical background of comparative psychological research
- explain different types of research methods in comparative psychology and benefits/drawbacks of each method
- identify and describe similarities and differences among different species’ performance on cognitive and behavioral tasks
- evaluate comparative cognitive research in terms of scientific validity and reliability, as well as implications for future human and non-human psychological research (developmental, cognitive, social, etc.)
- formulate original thinking in comparative psychology
Assessment & Grading –

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Required Course Work:</th>
<th>Percentage of your Final Grade:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Discussion</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class Lead/Teaching (In place of paper/presentation)</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exams (2)</td>
<td>20% x 2 = 40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Exam (1)</td>
<td>22%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total:</strong></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Extra Credit:** If you visit an approved research or animal sanctuary (research laboratory, Columbus zoo, A.P.E.S., Capital Area Humane Society) for at least 1 hour and observe a species, you can write a short response paper on the species you observed, making connections with at least two topics from the textbook and at least one outside reference (peer-reviewed journal article) (up to 1%).

**Grading Scale:**
The following standard OSU grade scale will be followed to determine final grades. These percentages will be based solely on earned points during the semester.

**NO ROUNDING OF FINAL GRADES WILL OCCUR.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>93-100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>87-89%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>77-79%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D+</td>
<td>67-69%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E</td>
<td>0-59%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>90-92%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>83-86%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>73-76%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>60-66%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>80-82%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C-</td>
<td>70-72%</td>
</tr>
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**Grade Components:**

1. **Discussion (18%)**: Each student will submit (at least) 1 discussion question at the beginning of each class for that class’s topic(s). Your question(s) should focus on the assigned readings (textbook and/or articles). Each question will be graded on a 1 point scale.
   - 1 point: meaningful question that incorporates the assigned readings; should demonstrate in-depth thought about the material
   - 0.5 points: content only question (methods, terminology, etc) that demonstrates little (or only partial) in-depth thought about the material
   - 0 points: no question submitted or a question that is not relevant to assigned content

These grades will be updated on a weekly basis.

Eighteen discussion questions will count toward your final grade; We will have more than this over the semester, so anything you submit beyond 18 will count as extra credit (up to 1%). Since the purpose of discussion questions is to aid in class discussion, it is important that they are completed before class and submitted in person during class (emailed submissions will not be accepted). However, since occasional absences do occur, you may drop ONE missed or low discussion submission over the course of the semester.

Part of this discussion grade also includes feedback you provide to other students following their in-class presentations.

**Note:** As part of this grade, you are also expected to make meaningful contributions to the class discussion. If you are continually not making any meaningful contributions in class, you will not receive full credit that week’s discussion grade.
2. **Class Lead/Teaching (20%)**: Instead of writing a research proposal paper, you will be required to “lead” 3 class sessions (for 40 minutes each), including suggesting two relevant peer-reviewed journal articles 1 week ahead of each class session and including a critical thinking or discussion activity. Each session will be worth ~6.67% of your grade.

3. **Exams (20%)**: The two exams consist of a combination of short answer and essay questions that cover information from the textbook, assigned articles, and lectures.

   Make-up Exams will ONLY be given in the case of a documented emergency.

   To be considered for a makeup exam:
   1. You MUST contact me PRIOIR to the exam to be eligible for a make-up.
   2. You MUST provide documentation from an official source (e.g., a physician) that verifies your emergency on the day of the exam. *No documentation, no make-up.*
   3. You MUST take the makeup within 1 week of the regularly scheduled exam.

   Note: court appearances, family vacations, job attendance, days out with your friends, and mild illness do NOT count as emergencies and will not result in a make-up exam.

4. **Final Exam (22%)**: The Final Exam will consist of 4-5 short answer questions, which will be provided at the beginning of Finals week and due during the Final Exam period for our class via the Dropbox on Carmen (deadline: 11:45am on Wednesday, August 5th). The Final Exam will focus on the material since Exam 2, but will include some cumulative concepts.

**Class Policies –**

**Attendance and Participation:**
- This course will consist mostly of class discussions (instead of formal lectures). Therefore, your attendance in class is critical to your success. If you miss a class, it is your responsibility to get any notes you miss from another student in class.
- To fully participate in each class I expect that you will have read all of the assigned readings, both from the textbook and journal articles, before class.

**General:**
- Be on time; I will be courteous of your time and always end class on time, so please be courteous of class start time.
- Turn off or silence cell phones during class during class! Also, since most of the class will involve discussion and we will not have formal lecture slides, the use of laptops or iPads is strongly discouraged.
- Respect the opinions and comments of others in the class.
- If you have ANY questions or concerns, please ask! You can ask me either before or after class or during my office hours, I’m here to help you succeed in class!
**Academic Misconduct:**
It is the responsibility of the Committee on Academic Misconduct to investigate or establish procedures for the investigation of all reported cases of student academic misconduct. The term “academic misconduct” includes all forms of student academic misconduct wherever committed; illustrated by, but not limited to, cases of plagiarism and dishonest practices in connection with examinations. Instructors shall report all instances of alleged academic misconduct to the committee (Faculty Rule 3335-5-487). For additional information, see the Code of Student Conduct ([http://studentlife.osu.edu/csc/](http://studentlife.osu.edu/csc/)).

**Sexual Misconduct/Relationship Violence:**
Title IX makes it clear that violence and harassment based on sex and gender are Civil Rights offenses subject to the same kinds of accountability and the same kinds of support applied to offenses against other protected categories (e.g., race). If you or someone you know has been sexually harassed or assaulted, you may find the appropriate resources at [http://titleix.osu.edu](http://titleix.osu.edu) or by contacting the Ohio State Title IX Coordinator, Kellie Brennan, at titleix@osu.edu

**Students with a Disability:**
The University strives to make all learning experiences as accessible as possible. If you anticipate or experience academic barriers based on your disability (including mental health, chronic or temporary medical conditions), please let me know immediately so that we can privately discuss options. You are also welcome to register with Student Life Disability Services to establish reasonable accommodations. After registration, make arrangements with me as soon as possible to discuss your accommodations so that they may be implemented in a timely fashion. SLDS contact information: slds@osu.edu; 614-292-3307; slds.osu.edu; 098 Baker Hall, 113 W. 12th Avenue.
Course Schedule (May be subject to change) –
Any updates and/or adjustments will be posted on Carmen and announced in class.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Assignment Due Dates</th>
<th>Units of Instruction</th>
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</thead>
</table>
| Wk 1: T, 1/9  
R, 1/11 |                       | Syllabus & Course Overview  
Ch 1 & Introduction            |
| Wk 2: T, 1/16  
R, 1/18 |                       | Ch 2: Senses  
-Ch 2 continued               |
| Wk 3: T, 1/23  
R, 1/25 |                       | Ch 3, Concept Formation  
-Ch 3 continued               |
| Wk 4: T, 1/30  
R, 2/1 |                       | Ch 4, Time & Number  
-Ch 4 continued               |
| Wk 5: T, 2/6  
R, 2/8 | **Exam 1 (in class)**  
Exam 1 (Ch 1-4)  
Ch 5, Cause & Effect |                       |
| Wk 6: T, 2/13  
R, 2/15 |                       | -Ch 5 continued  
Ch 6, Reasoning               |
| Wk 7: T, 2/20  
R, 2/22 |                       | -Ch 6 continued  
Ch 7, Navigation               |
| Wk 8: T, 2/27  
R, 3/1 |                       | -Ch 7 continued  
Ch 8, Social Cognition & Self-Awareness |
| Wk 9: T, 3/6  
R, 3/8 | **Exam 2 (in class)**  
Exam 2 (Ch 5-8) |                       |
| Wk 10: 3/13 & 3/15 | **—NO CLASS—**           | Spring Break                        |
| Wk 11: T, 3/20  
R, 3/22 |                       | Presentations/Discussion (Day 1)  
Presentations/Discussion (Day 2)          |
| Wk 12: T, 3/27  
R, 3/29 |                       | Ch 9, Social Learning  
-Ch 9 continued               |
| Wk 13: T, 4/3  
R, 4/5 |                       | Ch 10, Remembering  
-Ch 10 continued               |
| Wk 14: T, 4/10  
R, 4/12 |                       | Ch 11, Animal Communication in the Wild  
-Ch 11 continued               |
| Wk 15: T, 4/17  
R, 4/19 |                       | Ch 12, Language  
-Ch 12 continued; Ch 13, Comparisons & Conclusions |
| **Mon., April 30th,** | **Final Exam**               | Final Exam (Ch 9-13 and Cumulative Concepts) |

*Final Exam*