Sample Syllabus

Psychology 4977– Honors Advanced Topics in Psychology: Comparative Cognition

Instructor
Professor Name
Email:
Office:
Phone:
Office Hours:

General Course Information
Psych 4977 (3 Credit Hours)
Semester
TR 2:00PM – 3:15PM
Classroom location

Credit Hours: 3

Prerequisites
Member of the Honors College
2.3 Grade-point average

Course Goal

This course is designed to be an in depth seminar on comparative cognition. The main objective of the course is to understand animal cognition and behavior. In undertaking this task we will explore the underlying processing involved in perception, memory, spatial cognition, concept formation, and other areas. We will examine each area at a behavioral level of analysis. We will read a combination of classic research and research at the forefront of each area to obtain an informed view on theories, methods, and data. There is one required text for the course. Additional readings will also be used.

Required Text


General Policies

*Academic Dishonesty.* Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Students are expected to behave with integrity. Students who do not comply with the Auburn University academic honor code will be dealt with in the manner specified in the Tiger Cub.

*Attendance Policy.* Students are expected to attend all classes. Roll will be taken. If a student misses more than 1/3 of the classes then that student will automatically receive a grade of FA (failure for excessive absences). However, you may be excused for reasons presented in the *Tiger Cub.*
a. Illness of the student or serious illness of a member of the student's family.

b. The death of a member of the student's immediate family.

c. Trips for members of the student organizations sponsored by an academic unit, trips for University classes, and trips for participation in intercollegiate athletic events. When feasible, the student must notify the instructor prior to the occurrence of such absences.

d. Religious holidays. Students are responsible for notifying the instructor in writing of anticipated absences due to their observance of such holidays.

e. Subpoena for court appearance.

f. Any other reason the instructor deems appropriate.

Disabilities. Accommodations will be provided for students with the appropriate documentation from the Program for Students with Disabilities (PSD). Please provide the appropriate documentation from PSD at the beginning of the semester. Students needing accommodations should arrange a meeting the first week of class. Come during office hours or email for an alternate time. Bring the Accommodation Memo and Instructor Verification Form to the meeting. Discuss items needed in this class. If you do not have an Accommodation Memo but need special accommodations, make an appointment with The Program for Students with Disabilities, 1244 Haley Center, 844-2096 (V/TT) or email: haynemd@auburn.edu

Withdrawal. Students may withdraw (although with a W on their transcript) until mid-semester.

Contacting the Instructor. Many of your questions about this class can be answered by consulting the syllabus. The instructor will be happy to discuss issues related to class outside of the classroom during office hours and email. If you cannot meet during office hours, make inquiries in class, or set up an appointment by email. Student emails will be answered within 24 hours, except on Saturday and Sunday.

Assignments, Paper, and Grading

Assignments. Come to class with 2 questions pertaining to the reading assignment. We will use these questions to stimulate class discussion. Send me your questions via email by 11:30AM before class on each class day. Each assignment is worth 100 percentage points, see grading scale below. The late policy is a 10 percentage point deduction for each calendar day an assignment is late.

Term Paper. This paper is to be a review paper on any topic of your choice in Comparative Cognition. The paper should be 10-15 pages (not including references) and in APA format. We will individually meet and discuss your topic before you begin writing your paper. I will hand out a sheet with possible topics but you will not be limited to this list. The term paper is worth 100 percentage points, see grading scale below. The late policy is a 10 percentage point deduction for each calendar
day the paper is late.

Discussion Leader. You will also be responsible to lead class in a discussion of a topic. For this topic you will select a paper for the class to read. We will individually meet and discuss the paper before assigning it to the class. Each discussion is worth 100 percentage points, see grading scale below. The late policy is a 10 percentage point deduction for each class day that you miss your discussion leader day.

Make-up Policy.
1. Make-ups for the full value of the activity will be given only when these activities are missed due to sudden illness, accidents, family emergencies and other legitimate university excuses.
2. Regardless of the nature of your legitimate excuse, you must, when possible, notify the instructor in advance by calling or through e-mail. Official AU excuses and doctor’s excuses are accepted as legitimate justification for missing a class.

Class Participation. I expect you will come fully prepared to discuss each class’ readings. That is, you should arrive at class with an opinion and articulate your opinion. Grading criteria are as follows: A = Contribute to class often by demonstrating a high level of preparation (e.g., constructive analysis and synthesis of class material, answers questions) and actively involved in discussion; B = Contribute to class regularly by demonstrating regular preparation (e.g., basic understanding of facts, answers questions) and is usually involved in discussion; C = Contributes to class rarely, (e.g., rarely understands the facts, rarely able to answer questions) and usually not involved in discussion; D = No contribution to class (e.g., does not read material, unable to answer questions, not involved in discussion). F = Does not attend class.

Final. There will be no final exam for this class because the term paper is more important to assessing your abilities in this class. The term paper requires a great deal of effort and work in addition to your regular class participation and assignments.

Grades. Final grades will be determined as follows:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Grade</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>30%</td>
<td>Assignments</td>
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<tr>
<td>25%</td>
<td>Class Participation</td>
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<tr>
<td>10%</td>
<td>Discussion Leader</td>
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<tr>
<td>35%</td>
<td>Paper</td>
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Grading Scale.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentage Range</th>
<th>Grade</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>90%-100%</td>
<td>A</td>
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<tr>
<td>80%-89%</td>
<td>B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>70%-79%</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60%-69%</td>
<td>D</td>
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<tr>
<td>&lt; 60%</td>
<td>F</td>
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Reading List
Honors Advanced Topics in Psychology: Comparative Cognition - 4977

Semester 20xx
Tu-Th 2:00-3:15, Classroom Location

Week 1. History of Comparative Cognition

Roberts Chapter 1

Week 1. Self Awareness

Roberts p387-390.


Week 2. Primate Reasoning

Roberts p375-383


Week 3. Tool Making

Roberts p396-399


Week 4. Theory of Mind
Week 4. Avian Visual Cognition


Week 5. Search Image


Week 5. Memory

Week 6. Imitation


Week 6. Intraocular Transfer and Mental Rotation by Pigeons


Week 7. Spatial Cognition / Cognitive Map

Roberts p201-222


Week 7. Spatial Memory

Roberts p222-238


Week 8. Concept Learning

Roberts p335-338


Roberts p338-352


Week 9. General Process

Week 10. Cooperation (Student 1)


Week 10. Phobias (Student 2)


Week 11. Maternal Separation in Guinea Pigs (Student 3)


Week 11. Dolphin Cross-Modal Recognition (Student 4)


Week 12. Magneto Perception (Student 5)


Week 12. Visuospatial Learning in Dogs (Student 6)


Week 13. Counting (Student 7)

Roberts p318-333

**Week 13. Timing (Student 8)**

Roberts p244-246


**Week 14. Object Permanence in Kittens (Student 9)**


**Week 14. Foraging in Nonhuman Primates (Student 10)**


**Week 15. Language in Dogs (Student 11)**


**Week 15. Object/Picture Correspondence (Student 12)**
