Psychology 355
Winter 2015
Comparative Cognition
Syllabus

Instructor: Scott Robson
E-mail: 9sr58@queensu.ca
Office Hours: Mondays, 3-4 PM, H235

Please e-mail the appropriate TA depending on your last name (see below) with questions, queries, etc. If the TA thinks that she cannot answer or would feel more comfortable with me answering, she will pass it along to me. Please e- mail or call me only in the case of an emergency. However, you are encouraged to come to my office hours if you have any questions about the material or the course.

Teaching Assistants:
Office Hours: Mondays, 9:30-10:30 AM, H323
Last names starting with A-L: Email Angela Luedke, ange.luedke@gmail.com
Last names starting with M-Z: Email Rebecca Stead, 0rs1@queensu.ca

Emailing specifically for paper assignment:
Email: Scott Robson, 9sr58@queensu.ca
Office hours for paper assignment: Mondays, 2-3PM, H235 (Starting Feb 23rd):

Meeting Time and Place:
Wednesdays 1:00-2:30 pm
Fridays 11:30am-1:00pm
Kingston Hall 101

Course Description:
This lecture course will discuss theory and research in animal cognition from a comparative perspective. The course will begin with an introduction to basic principles of animal learning and memory. With this background information established, the course will then focus on empirical and theoretical approaches to domains such as timing and counting, social learning, communication, and theory of mind. For each of these topics, comparisons among animal species will be made, including comparisons to humans (particularly infants and children). Students will be exposed to both the early research in comparative psychology as well as very recent research findings, and will be encouraged to develop skills for the critical reading of scientific reports.

Course Requirements:
A. Exam 1- 35%
B. Exam 2- 35%
C. Study Proposal 20% (See Study Proposal Handout for more detail)
D. Quizzes 10%

Required Reading:
All readings and links to readings are found on the course website:
www.infantcognitiongroup.com/psyc355

Lecture Outlines:

Lecture Outlines (in Word format) will be available on the course website prior to 8:00am on the morning of lecture days. In many cases, the outlines will be available earlier (e.g., the evening before a lecture day).

Many students find it best to write or type their notes directly onto this outline. If you can resist the temptations of the internet, please feel free to bring laptops to class for note-taking purposes. However, using a phone, a Blackberry, or similar device is not permitted during the lecture.

Grade Conversion:
All components of this course will receive numerical percentage marks. The final grade you receive for the course will be derived by converting your numerical course average to a letter grade according to Queen's Official Grade Conversion Scale:

Queen's Official Grade Conversion Scale

Grade	Numerical Course Average (Range)
A+	90-100
A	85-89
A-	80-84
B+	77-79
B	73-76
B-	70-72
C+	67-69
C	63-66
C-	60-62
D+	57-59
D	53-56
D-	50-52
F	49 and below

Policy on Exams:
Exams will consist of material from the lectures and the required reading. Question format will be multiple choice (Scantron) and short written responses. Documentation is required for missed exams if a make-up exam is requested. Only in extreme cases and in instances of faith observance is a make-up exam granted. Inquiries should be sent to Scott Robson. According to university regulations, students are expected to be available to write scheduled exams at any time during the official April examination period as well as during any scheduled class times. Requests to write a make-up exam because of conflicting travel plans (e.g. flight bookings) or requests to miss an in-class exam due to other plans will NOT be considered except under extraordinary circumstances and with documentation. Students are advised to wait until the final exam schedules are posted before making any travel arrangements.

Students who cannot write an exam during the April exam period due to a serious, extenuating circumstance must be available to write a deferred exam during the Psychology Department's Make up Exam period:
http://www.queensu.ca/psychology/Undergraduate/psycdepartmentalpolicies.html

There are no opportunities for extra-credit or 'bonus' points in this course. Students who are registered with Queen's Health, Counselling, and Disability Services and require alternative accommodation for exams and/or assignments should please notify Scott Robson as soon as possible.

Queen's Academic Integrity Information:

"Academic integrity is constituted by the five core fundamental values of honesty, trust, fairness, respect and responsibility (see http://www.academicintegrity.org/fundamental_values_project/index.php). These values are central to the building, nurturing and sustaining of an academic community in which all members of the community will thrive. Adherence to the values expressed through academic integrity forms a foundation for the 'freedom of inquiry and exchange of ideas' essential to the intellectual life of the University (see the Senate Report on Principles and Priorities)

Students are responsible for familiarizing themselves with the regulations concerning academic integrity and for ensuring that their assignments conform to the principles of academic integrity. Information on academic integrity is available in the Arts and Science Calendar (see Academic Regulation 1), on the Arts and Science website (see http://www.queensu.ca/artsci/academics/academic-integrity), and from the instructor of this course.

Departures from academic integrity include plagiarism, use of unauthorized materials, facilitation, forgery and falsification, and are antithetical to the development of an academic community at Queen's. Given the seriousness of these matters, actions which contravene the regulation on academic integrity carry sanctions that can range from a warning or the loss of

grades on an assignment to the failure of a course to a requirement to withdraw from the university.”

Queen’s Copyright Information:

"This material is copyrighted and is for the sole use of students registered in Psychology 355. This material shall not be distributed or disseminated to anyone other than students registered in Psychology 355. Failure to abide by these conditions is a breach of copyright, and may also constitute a breach of academic integrity under the University Senate’s Academic Integrity Policy Statement."

Course Schedule:

Week	Date	Topic	Required Readings
1	1/7	Introduction to Course	O & K* Chapter 1
	1/9	History of Comparative Cognition	
2	1/14	Basic Concepts of Animal Learning**	O & K Chapter 4 (p. 1-7; 19-33), Shettleworth (1998) (p. 233-265)
	1/16	Basic Concepts of Animal Memory	
3	1/21	Serial Learning**	Shettleworth (2009) (p. 357-365) Terrace et al. (2003)
	1/23	Metamemory & Episodic Memory**	Hampton (2001) Smith & Washburn (2005)
4	1/28	Timing**	O & K Chapter 6
	1/30	Counting I	
5	2/4	Counting II	
	2/6	Causality**	O & K Chapter 8 (p. 1-21)
6	2/11	**[Exam 1]**	
	2/13	Tool Use**	O & K Chapter 8 (p. 21-42)
7	2/18	**Reading Week**	
	2/20		
8	2/25	Social Competence I**	O & K Chapter 10
	2/27	Social Competence II	
9	3/4	Social Competence III	
	3/6	Prosocial Behaviour I**	O & K Chapter 11
10	3/11	Prosocial Behaviour II	
	3/13	Communication I**	O & K Chapter 12
11	3/18	Communication II	
	3/20	Social Learning I**	O & K Chapter 13
12	3/25	Social Learning II	
	3/27	Social Learning III	
13	4/1	Domestication	
	4/3	**NO CLASS**	
TBA	During Finals	**[Exam 2]**	

* "O & K" refers to the textbook readings from Olmstead and Kuhlmeier (2015).
** indicates the date of a quiz on the reading material for that lecture.