

Course Information

This course provides an introduction to the interdisciplinary field of comparative cognition for undergraduate students with an interest in the evolution and function of cognitive processes across animal species. Through a combination of online presentations, textbook reading, and online activities, topics such as memory, navigation, decision-making, theory of mind, prosocial behaviour, and communication will be discussed. With successful completion of this course, students will have a fundamental knowledge base that will promote critical thinking outside of the classroom as well as support learning in advanced psychology, biology, and neuroscience courses.

Learning Outcomes

After successful completion of Psychology 205, you will be able to:

- Recognize and recall experimental findings that support or do not support existing theories in comparative cognition
- Apply theories to predict outcomes of experimental manipulations
- Engage in critical reading of primary and secondary sources.
- Combine critical reading skills and conceptual knowledge of comparative cognition to create a review of experimental findings for a broad audience.

Course Website

All communication related to this course, including on-line presentations and activities, quizzes, and grades will be posted on the course website on OnQ. Access to this site is restricted to students who are registered in this course. In addition, course announcements may be sent through Queen's email addresses so it is important to access this account on a regular basis throughout the term.

Required Reading

TEXTBOOK

All students should purchase or have access to the following textbook, available through the Queen's campus bookstore or from the publisher: Olmstead, M.C., & Kuhlmeier, V.A. (2015). *Comparative Cognition*. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press.

ONLINE PRESENTATIONS

Weekly, online presentations can be found on the course website. These presentations will explain

complex topics from the textbook and introduce new, related concepts.

Evaluation

Quizzes: 10%

Final Exam: 30%

Activities: 40%

Paper Assignment: 20%

QUIZZES (ONLINE) 10%

Each week will include a short on-line quiz (typically 5 multiple choice questions). Please refer to the course website for when these quizzes become available/unavailable. Once started, a quiz can be completed in 10-15 minutes, but it will stay open for 20 minutes. If a quiz is not submitted after 20 minutes has passed, it will receive a score of zero. Please ensure a good internet connection before starting a quiz. The quizzes are open book and are designed to test knowledge of the textbook reading material for that week. At the completion of the term, the two lowest quiz marks will be dropped, and a final cumulative mark on the remaining 10 quizzes will constitute 10% of the final grade.

FINAL EXAM 30%

All students are required to write a 3-hour final exam, worth 30% of their final mark, which will be scheduled during the end of term exam period. The final exam material will cover the entire course, with questions based on both the assigned textbook reading and the online presentations. The exam will include multiple-choice and both short answer (approximately 1 paragraph of 3-5 sentences) and long answer (approximately 2-4 paragraphs) questions.

ACTIVITIES 40%

The weekly activities are designed to apply knowledge gained from the textbook and online presentations as well as introduce new concepts and skills. All activities for this course are submitted on-line. Students should be familiar with the submission process for each activity in advance of the assignment deadline. Activities consist of the following:

COMMENTARIES (30%)

For eight of the Activities, students will individually complete on-line polls, answer questions, and/or write commentaries related to the topics covered that week. See the Course Content for specific dates of these activities.

PREPARATION OF REVIEW QUESTIONS (10%)

For one Activity, students will produce sample exam questions based on the ICE acronym

(Information, Context, Extension). See the Course Content for specific dates and further instructions.

PAPER ASSIGNMENT 20%

Students will create a 1-2 page blog or newspaper article, based on a research article but geared to the general public. The goal of this assignment is to translate scientific research into language that is interesting and accessible to a lay audience. Please refer to the Paper Assignment information in the Course Content for more details. The paper is worth 20% of the final grade, divided as follows:

WRITING PLAN (5%)

Each student will prepare a Writing Plan for their paper that is due later in the term. (See the course website for specific dates.) The writing plan should include the subject of the paper as well as an outline for the main topics to be discussed. Read the Paper Assignment information in the Course Content, as well as the Writing Plan Format, for specific requirements of this assignment.

PAPER (15%)

Each paper will be assessed, by the TA and/or instructor, using the criteria for successful popular science writing, as discussed during Week 2.

Late Policy

QUIZZES

Please see the Course Content for the opening and closing times for the weekly online quizzes. There are no make-up quizzes. At the completion of the term, the two lowest quiz marks will be dropped and a final cumulative mark on the remaining 10 quizzes will constitute 10% of the final grade. Quizzes missed due to adding this course during the add/drop period cannot be made-up but may be considered as one or both of the dropped quizzes.

ACTIVITIES

Please see the course timeline for the Activity due dates. Late submissions will be accepted up to 24 hours after the due date, but will receive a 50% point reduction

PAPER ASSIGNMENT

A late penalty of 10% per each 24 hours after the due date (including weekends) will be applied for the Writing Plan and Paper.

Policy on Final Exams

According to university regulations, students must be available to write scheduled exams at any time during the official examination period, as well as during any scheduled class. Requests to write a make-up exam because of conflicting activities (e.g., travel plans, volunteer work) will NOT be accommodated. Students are advised to wait until the final exam schedules are posted before making any travel arrangements.

Request for Academic Accommodation

Students registered with Queen's Health, Counseling, and Disability Services who require alternative accommodation assignments should notify the Instructor as soon as possible. Students who require academic accommodation for the final exam should consult Queen's Disability Service to arrange this process: <http://www.queensu.ca/hcds/ds/students/accommodations.htm>.

Academic Integrity

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 205. This material shall not be distributed or disseminated to anyone other than students registered in Psychology 205. 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.

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 Faculty of Arts and Science Official Grade Conversion Scale:

Grade	Numerical Course Average Grade (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 & below

This material is copyrighted and is for the sole use of students registered in Psychology 205.
Queen's University