

Course Title: Comparative Psychology
Course Number: PSYC 6336
Course Location and Time: 420 LS, 3:30-4:50 TTh

Instructor: Roger Mellgren

Office: 508 LS

Office Hours: 10-12 M, 11-12 T or appointment

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Required Textbook: *The Cognitive Animal* Edited by Bekoff, Allen and Burghardt

Course Description: The fundamental methods and content of comparative psychology. Concentration on the understanding of basic principles across species and situations.

Course Learning Goals/Objectives: This course is designed to provide the student with a broad background in comparative psychology and serving as a core course in the graduate curriculum.

Attendance and Drop Policy: Regular class attendance is strongly encouraged. Lectures will involve issues and concepts that are not covered in the reading material.

Grades: There will be two exams given, one on October 2 covering the first part of the reading list and lectures through the first 22 chapters, and a comprehensive final on December 11 at 2 pm. Both exams will be short answer and essay. The mid-term will count for 30% of the final grade and the final exam will count 40%. A paper reviewing literature and proposing an experiment(s) relevant to topics in comparative psychology will count for 30% of the final grade. Credit of the paper will be split for the adequacy of the literature review and creativity/thoughtfulness of the experiment. The topic must be approved by the professor. The paper is due on December 4 at class time. Anticipated length of the paper is between 8 and 15 pages.

Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA): If you are a student who requires accommodations in compliance with the ADA, please consult with me at the beginning of the semester. As a faculty member, I am required by law to provide "reasonable accommodation" to students with disabilities, so as not to

discriminate on the basis of that disability. Your responsibility is to inform me of the disability at the beginning of the semester and provide me with documentation authorizing the specific accommodation. Student services at UTA include the Office for Students with Disabilities (located in the lower level of the University Center) which is responsible for verifying and implementing accommodations to ensure equal opportunity in all programs and activities.

Schedule of readings:

August

26 Introduction

28 1,2

September

2 3,4

4 5,6

9 7,8,9

11 No Class

16 10, 11, 12

18 13,14

23 15,16

25 17, 18, 19

30 20, 21, 22

October

2 Exam 1

7 23,24

9 26,27

14 28, 29

16 30,31

21 32,33, 34

23 35,36

28 37, 38, 39

30 40, 41

November

4 42, 43

6 44, 45

11 46, 47

13 No Class

18 48, 49

20 50, 51

25 52, 53

27 Thanksgiving holiday

December

2 54, 55

4 56, 57 (Proposal due)

11 Final Exam

