

PSYC 205

INTRODUCTION TO COMPARATIVE COGNITION

FALL 2012

Course Details

Instructor:	Mary Olmstead
Room:	Craine 429
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Office Hours:	Thursday 13:00-15:00
TA:	Nida Latif
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Room:	HH 323
Office Hours:	Thursday 15:00-16:00
Lectures:	Tuesday 14:30-16:00
Location:	Biosciences 1103

Calendar Description

The evolution and function of cognition across species, ranging from invertebrates to humans. Topics include perception, attention, associate mechanisms, categorization, decision making and memory. Each will be examined from a comparative and biological perspective. Laboratory exercises complement topics to be covered in the lectures.

Course Objectives

This course provides an introduction to the field of comparative cognition. It begins with an historical view of the field, emphasizing the synergy of different disciplines, both in terms of theoretical foundations and methodological tools. The lectures, reading material and laboratory exercises all emphasize the same principles. These include an understanding of:

Readings and Lectures

There is no formal textbook for this course. The reading material for each lecture is loaded on Moodle under the topic 'course notes'. Students are required to read these notes on your own; the lectures will NOT repeat the material provided in the course notes. Lectures will be devoted to explaining difficult concepts from the course notes and providing supplementary information such as detailed figures, demonstrations, and on-line videos. The most effective way to learn the course material is to read each chapter BEFORE the lecture. The first portion of each lecture will be devoted to answering questions about the assigned reading. Once you have read the material, you can submit questions directly to the instructor via email: olmstead@queensu.ca. Put 'Psyc205 question' in the subject line of the email but do not expect a personal response to these questions. Questions submitted at least 24 hours prior to the lecture will be addressed during the next class.

Supplementary Reading

In addition to the fundamental course material, there are seven separate readings loaded on Moodle under the topic 'Supplementary Readings'. These are organized according to the topics covered in the course: three for the first section on History, Sensory Systems, and Memory; two for the second section on Associative Mechanisms; and 2 for the final section that covers more complex cognitive processes such as Categorization and Concept Formation. The supplementary material is geared to the students who

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

Request for Academic Accommodation

If you need academic accommodation for the final exam or special class room arrangements please visit Queen's Disability Service at:

<http://www.queensu.ca/hcds/ds/students/accommodations.html>.

Academic integrity

Academic integrity is constituted by the five core fundamental values of honesty, trust, fairness, respect and responsibility (see <http://www.academicintegrity.org>). 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 at: <http://www.queensu.ca/secretariat/policies/senate-andtrustees/principlespriorities.html>

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 <http://www.queensu.ca/artsci/academic-calendars/regulations/academic-regulations/regulation-1>), on the Arts and Science website (see <http://www.queensu.ca/artsci/academics/undergraduate/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

Lecture Schedule

Sept. 11th	History of Comparative Cognition
Sept. 18th	Sensory Systems
Sept. 25th	Memory
Oct. 2nd	TEST 1
Oct. 9th	Associative Processes: Classical Conditioning
Oct. 16th	Associative Processes: Operant Conditioning
Oct. 23rd	Associative Processes: Neural Mechanisms
Oct. 30th	TEST 2
Nov. 6th	Categorization and Concept Formation
Nov. 13th	Navigation and Orientation
Nov. 20th	Choice and Decision Making
Nov. 27th	TEST 3
Exam Period	FINAL EXAM