

# CBH3003: Comparative Psychology

Instructor:

Nicole Dorey, Ph.D., C.A.A.B.

Office hours

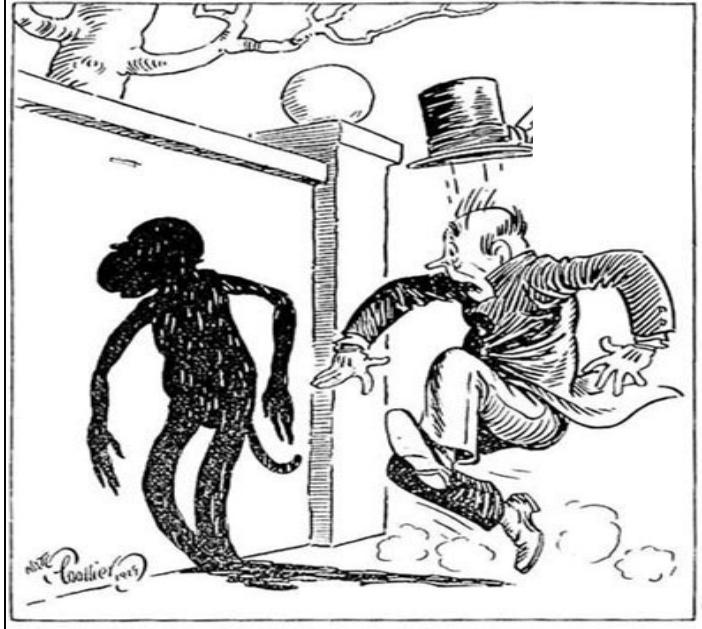
Monday 3:00-4:00 pm

Email:

ComparativePsy@psych.ufl.edu

Teaching Assistants office hours

TBA



Picture of a man that sees a monkey shadow instead of his own and seem startled.

## Overview

Though psychologists compare many different things, the term “Comparative Psychology” is reserved for the comparison of the behavior of different species. Since it involves the behavior of animals, comparative psychology forms a bridge between psychology and zoology. As such, we will discuss both primarily psychological, as well as biological, aspects of animal behavior.

We will discuss how comparative psychologists understand the many things that different species do. Some scientists view various nonhuman animals as model organisms that can aid our understanding of the behavior of humans – as well as the evolution of human behavior. Others are more interested in nonhumans for their own sakes, and seek to understand the diversity of behavior in the animal world. Upon successful completion of this course, you will have a wide, yet relatively in-depth understanding of various abilities of nonhuman animals with respect to concepts that parallel what is typically considered “uniquely human”.

## Goals of this course

- 1) To form a bridge between psychology and zoology in understanding animal behavior.
- 2) To grow a better understanding of the differences of animal behavior across species.
- 3) To grow a better understanding of the many differences in the topic of animal behavior that occurs across species.

## Requirements/Expectations

Keeping up with this online course is the student's responsibility (i.e., not mine). You can expect this class to be demanding but hopefully personally and intellectually fulfilling. The course requires you to read, think, write, and apply what you are learning. Class lectures, assignments, and additional required material are only accessible through the course website. Assignments must be submitted electronically through the course website as well. I will NOT accept your assignment via email. In anticipation of technical difficulties, make sure you turn in assignments early. You must use a hardwired connection to upload your assignments. If you experience technical difficulties you need to contact call (not email) the help desk within 24 hours. That information can be found at the bottom of the e-learning home page. Explain the situation and send me your incident number via the course email address.

Computer/internet access to Canvas is required for this course. Students are responsible for maintaining access to Canvas.

- 1) Extensions or make-ups will not be given for students-based on technical difficulties on any course material. This includes but is not limited to:
  - a. Waiting until the last minute to submit and thus getting an error message.
  - b. Forgetting to hit the submit button on any of the course material.
- 2) Do not wait until the last minute to complete course materials as this is an online course and things happen.
- 3) If Canvas website experiences technical difficulties, deadlines will be adjusted to allow for completion of assignments for ALL students.

- 4) Announcements will be made periodically about class issues (such as when grades are posted). These will be visible on Canvas. Students are responsible for all announcements made there, or through the course email listserv. The course listserv will periodically send emails directly to your Gatorlink email address, so you are responsible for checking and reading these emails. You must check your UF email and Canvas on a daily bases so you don't miss any course announcement.
- 5) **The Canvas calendar is not accurate because of the limitations in Canvas. You must go by the due date document provided by your professor.**

The instructor and TA(s) are here to help you learn. Make use of the conference feature in the course website, online discussion, and course email to communicate with the instructor and TA(s). Emails will not be answered if they are sent to Canvas email or personal email accounts. We only check the course email that is stated above.

For questions sent through email, the instructor or TA will typically reply within 24 hours of receiving the email during a normal week. Please allow more time for emails sent on official holidays, Fridays, or over the weekend. If you would like to have Dr. Dorey respond to your email, just put her name in the subject line. All interactions with instructors and class members are expected to be professional and appropriate. If your email is unprofessional we will not respond to it.

### Make-Ups and Late Policy

**NO MAKE-UPS WILL BE GIVEN ON ANY MATERIAL FOR THIS COURSE**, except for university excused absences with adequate documentation. Documentation should be provided at least a week before the course material is due unless there are extenuating circumstances. Doctor's notes etc. must be provided as soon as possible. Make-ups need to be completed no later than a week after the material was due (including weekends and holidays). Thus if the material was due on Wednesday, then it must be completed by the following Wednesday unless there are extenuating circumstances.

**Late work** is allowed on most individual assignments only (NOT discussion posts, reflection paper or exams). Individual assignments that are marked on canvas as such are allowed to be up to 72 hours late but will have a penalty of 3 pts for each day.

### Assessments

This is an online course. All material is only accessible through Canvas. All email correspondence with the teaching assistant(s) (TAs) and instructor **must occur** through the course email address given above NOT Canvas.

#### Texts

##### Principles of Animal Behavior

ISBN: 9780393920451

Author: Dugatkin

Edition: 3rd

Publisher: Norton

## **Examinable material**

Instructions for Exams:

- 1) Material for exams will cover the text, lectures and assigned videos, podcast and/or readings for that module.
- 2) The exam must be completed in a single session. Exams are open from 8 am on Thursday the week before they are due and close at 11:59 pm on the day they are due and must be completed within 25 min.
- 3) Once you complete an exam, you must wait until the exam period is over to review your answers. Correct answers for exams will not be given. I find that students learn the material better if they find the answers on their own.
- 4) Keep in mind that there is no extra credit offered in this course for poor exam performance.

## **Assignment**

Assignment can be found and turned in on Canvas. Instructions for the assignment will be found on Canvas a week before the first due date.

## **Discussion**

Each week you will be required to make a discussion board post related to an assigned media clip as well as respond to a fellow classmate. For each discussion a link to the media will be located on Canvas in that week's module. You must post in your group under my discussion thread (not in the general discussion, announcements or in the group discussion board under your own thread). Failure to post in the correct location will result in a zero. Your discussion may take any form you like (e.g., a question, a statement of confusion, elaboration, disagreement). They don't have to be long-winded, but they need to contribute to the conversation at hand. These should be 4-5 sentences. Think of these as low-stakes writing assignments to simulate what we might do with each other in class if time permitted. You have good ideas. Share them. You will get full points as long as the post adds value to the discussion.

You are also required to reply to a classmates' discussion post each week. The idea is to get a conversation going—you can answer someone's question (perhaps with an overlooked fact or with your own opinion, or maybe with a YouTube video?), disagree (civilly, of course), or otherwise expand on someone's initial post. As long as you're thinking deeply and talking to each other, I'm happy. I do not want simple "great point" or "I agree" type responses. I want there to be meat to your response. Again, you will get full points as long as you add to the discussion.

Please see the due date document for due dates on discussion posts and responses. **Note that there are different deadlines for posts and responses due to the limitations in Canvas.** If you miss a deadline, you will not get any points for your post/response. You will get 7 points for a perfect post and 3 points for a perfect response (10 points total).

## Grades

I will calculate your grades by adding the total number of points *you earned*. There are a total of 120 points available in this course.

Grade	Total Points	Graded Item	Points
A	110-120	3 exams 20 pt each	60
A-	108-109	(dropping your lowest grade)	
B+	106-107	Assignments	10
B	98-105	5 Discussion post and responding to a classmate (dropping your lowest grade)	50
B-	96-97		
C+	94-95		
C	86-93		
C-	84-85		
D+	81-83		
D	74-80	<b>Total points available</b>	<b>120</b>
D -	72-73		
E	71 & Below		

The good news is that these grades are firm – everybody in the class can get an A (and I hope you do)! The bad news is that these grades are firm – if you score just one point below the cutoff then you will get the lower grade.

## Policy for disputing grades

You will have one week (including weekends and holidays) after any course material grade has been posted to dispute your grade. The exception will be the last exam because there simply isn't enough time at the end of the semester before grades are due. Disputes will **NOT** be accepted after that date. If you want to dispute a grade you will need to write a paragraph explaining the dispute (for exams write out the question and include a screen shot showing your question is incorrect) and a paragraph explaining why your answer is correct with references to the material in the text for each question. For other assignments you will need to also write out a paragraph explaining the situation and **MUST** use reference to material not just your opinion. Then send a private email with this information to the course email address.

## UF Academic Policies

This course complies with all UF academic policies. For information on those policies and for resources for students, please see <https://syllabus.ufl.edu/syllabus-policy/uf-syllabus-policy-links/>.)

The above link will direct you to webpages that provides information on:

- Attendance and make-up policies
- DRC information
- Assigning grade points

- Gator Evals
- Honesty policy
- In-class recording
- Academic and wellness resources

\*Note the contents of this syllabus may be changed during the semester. If changes are made to this syllabus there will be an announcement via email and/or Canvas. It is your responsibility to check your university email and Canvas announcements on a daily basis.

**DUE DATES AND SCHEDULE CAN BE FOUND IN CANVAS**