

CBH3003: Comparative Psychology

Instructor:

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Afraid of his own shadow

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. 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. 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.
 - c. Uploading the wrong document.
- 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 (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 basis 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 course website, office hours, 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.

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

The texts for this course are as follows:

Principles of Animal Behavior

ISBN: 9780393920451

Author: Dugatkin

Edition: 3rd

Publisher: Norton

Text can be ordered to the UF bookstore. New and used copies are also sold through online stores (e.g. Amazon.com).

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 have to 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.

Make up and late work

NO MAKE-UPS WILL BE GIVEN ON ANY MATERIAL FOR THIS COURSE, except for university excused absences with adequate documentation (i.e. doctor's note). Documentation should be provided at least 7 hours 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, tests, etc.). Individual assignments that are marked in canvas as such are allowed to be up to 24 hours late but will have a penalty of 3 pts.

Assignment can be found and turned in on Canvas. Instructions for the assignment will be found on Canvas two 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 200 points available in this course.

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

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 (although I do round up when appropriate).

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 any course material that was graded less than a week before the end of class, in that case you will need to email your dispute on or before the last day of classes. Disputes will **NOT** be accepted after their due date. If you want to dispute a grade you will need to write a paragraph explaining the dispute 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 reference to material or instruction. Then send a private email with this information to the course email address.

Students with special needs

If you are a student with a disability and would like to request disability-related accommodations, you are encouraged to contact the Disability Resource Center as early in the semester as possible. The Disability Resource Center is located in 001 Building 0020 (Reid Hall). Their phone number is 392-8565.

In-class recording

Students are allowed to record video or audio of class lectures. However, the purposes for which these recordings may be used are strictly controlled. The **only allowable purposes** are

- (1) for personal educational use,
- (2) in connection with a complaint to the university, or
- (3) as evidence in, or in preparation for, a criminal or civil proceeding.

All other purposes are prohibited. Specifically, students may **not publish recorded** lectures without the written consent of the instructor. A “class lecture” is an educational presentation intended to inform or teach enrolled students about a particular subject, including any instructor-led discussions that form part of the presentation, and delivered by any instructor hired or appointed by the University, or by a guest instructor, as part of a University of Florida course. A class lecture does not include lab sessions, student presentations, clinical presentations such as patient history, academic exercises involving solely student participation, assessments (quizzes, tests, exams), field trips, private conversations between students in the class or between a student and the faculty or lecturer during a class session. Publication without permission of the instructor is prohibited. To “publish” means to share, transmit, circulate, distribute, or provide access to a recording, regardless of format or medium, to another person (or persons), including but not limited to another student within the same class section. Additionally, a recording, or transcript of a recording, is considered published if it is posted on or uploaded to, in whole or in part, any media platform, including but not limited to social media, book, magazine, newspaper, leaflet, or third party note/tutoring services. A student who publishes a recording without written consent may be subject to **a civil cause of action instituted** by a person injured by the publication and/or discipline under UF Regulation 4.040 Student

Honor code

It is important that you understand that I am not willing to give a passing grade to those who do not abide by the UF honor code. Any student who cheats or helps another student cheat will receive an **E (Fail)** in this class. When students enroll at the university, they commit themselves to the standard drafted and enacted by students.

Preamble: In adopting this honor code, the students of the University of Florida recognize that academic honesty and integrity are fundamental values of the university community. Students who enroll at the university commit to holding themselves and their peers to the high standard of honor required by the honor code. Any individual who becomes aware of a violation of the honor code is bound by honor to take corrective action. The quality of a University of Florida education is dependent upon community acceptance and enforcement of the honor code.

Honor Pledge: *We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honesty and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code.*

On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied:

"On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment."

It should be clear that academic dishonesty, such as cheating, is NOT tolerated at the University of Florida. Cheating is defined in the University Handbook, and it is the student's responsibility to be familiar with its many forms (including plagiarism). If there is a suspected academic honesty violation, the Student Honor Code Procedures will be followed.

*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 on a daily basis.

Course evaluations

Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. Guidance on how to give feedback in a professional and respectful manner is available at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/students/>. Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens, and can complete evaluations through the email they receive from GatorEvals, in their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals, or via <https://ufl.bluer.com/ufl/>. Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/>.

Sexual Harassment

Sexual Harassment is not tolerated in this class, in the Department of Psychology, or at the University of Florida. Sexual harassment includes: the inappropriate introduction of sexual activities or comments in a situation where sex would otherwise be irrelevant. Sexual harassment is a form of sex discrimination and a violation of state and federal laws as well as of the policies and regulations of the university. All UF employees and students must adhere to UF's sexual harassment policy which can be found here: <https://hr.ufl.edu/forms-policies/policies-managers/sexual-harassment/>. Please review this policy and contact a university official if you have any questions about the policy. As mandatory reporters, university employees (e.g., administrators, managers, supervisors, faculty, teaching assistants, staff) are required to report knowledge of sexual harassment to UF's Title IX coordinator. For more information about UF's Title IX office see: <https://titleix.ufl.edu/>. You can also complete a Sexual Harassment Report online (Title IX) at: <https://titleix.ufl.edu/title-ix-reporting-form/>.

DUE DATES AND SCHEDULE CAN BE FOUND ON THE NEXT PAGE