

Comparative and Physiological Psychology – PSYC 4130

Spring 2019

MWF – 12:20 – 1:10/1:25 – 2:15

Psychology Building, Room 120

Instructor: Allison Howard, Ph.D.

Office: Psychology Building, Room 235

Office Hours: By appointment

Email: amhoward@uga.edu

The course syllabus is a general plan for the course; deviations announced to the class by the instructor may be necessary.

Required Textbooks:

Biological Psychology, 12th or 13th Edition by James W. Kalat

ISBN-10: 1337408204

Are We Smart Enough to Know How Smart Animals Are? by Frans de Waal

ISBN: 978-0393246186

Course Description:

This course will cover the biological bases of human and nonhuman behavior, with emphasis on underlying physiological mechanisms, and on the development, evolution, and function of behavior.

Exams:

Students will complete five exams, with the final exam being cumulative from all course material covered this semester. The best four of those five exam grades will count toward your final grade and the lowest grade will be dropped. No more than one exam will be dropped and no make-up exams will be given. Exams will consist of multiple choice and short answer format questions. Questions will be based on material from class discussions, lectures, readings, activities, and any supplementary resources offered (e.g., eLC material, videos, etc.).

Missing an exam: Make-up exams will not be given. One of the five exam grades will be dropped. If unexpected circumstances should arise causing you to miss an exam, you may drop that grade. I do not advise that you plan to drop any exam.

Arriving late to an exam: You will have the designated class period to complete your exam, even if you arrive late. You will not be allowed to take the exam if you arrive after the first person has turned in the exam.

Podcast and VR Assignments:

Content and instructions for these assignments will be provided in class and on eLC. Both assignments include an in-class experience and discussion component, as well as assigned materials to be reviewed outside of class and a response paper.

Participation/Writing Assignments:

On 15-20 randomly selected days during the semester, I will assign short writing or participation assignments to assess learning and motivate participation. These assignments will relate to the topics

covered in class as well as to the supplemental readings. Writing assignments may be announced during the class period in which they are handed in and cannot be made up. Book discussion days will always involve a short writing assignment to be completed in class and turned in in person. Your writing/participation assignment grade is an important component of success in this course and represents your active participation in our learning community.

Final grade:

Your final grade will consist of a total of 540 points. These points are composed of the four highest exam grades, each worth 100 points, a podcast assignment, a virtual reality assignment, and your participation/writing assignments, together totaling 100 points.

Exam 1: 100 points

Exam 2: 100 points

Exam 3: 100 points

Exam 4: 100 points

Final Exam: 100 points

Podcast Assignment: 20 points

VR Assignment: 20 points

Participation/Writing Assignments: 100 points

Total: 540 points

Letter grades will be assigned according to the following breakdown, with percentage calculated as the total possible points divided by total number of earned points:

A (92.50% and up)	C+ (77.50 - 79.999%)
A- (90.00 - 92.499%)	C (72.50 - 77.499%)
B+ (87.50 - 89.999%)	C- (70.00 - 72.499%)
B (82.50 - 87.499%)	D (60.00 – 69.999%)
B- (80.00 - 82.499%)	F below 60.000

Instructor decisions on grades are final, and once posted, grades will not be changed except in cases of clerical error. Please do not ask me to change your grade or give you extra-credit opportunities. Emails requesting grade inflation or extra credit will not receive a response.

Attendance:

Attendance to class is expected. You are responsible for all class material and in-class announcements whether you are present or not. Your presence in class is likely to impact your performance on exams. In addition, your presence in class is required in order to receive credit for participation. Participation assignments will be unannounced and cannot be made up. There will be many of these assignments and two missed participation assignments will be dropped for all students, regardless of the reason for the absence.

Academic honesty statement:

As a University of Georgia student, you have agreed to abide by the University's academic honesty policy, "A Culture of Honesty," and the Student Honor Code. All academic work must meet the standards

described in “A Culture of Honesty” found at: <https://ovpi.uga.edu/academic-honesty/academic-honesty-policy>. Lack of knowledge of the academic honesty policy is not a reasonable explanation for a violation. Questions related to course assignments and the academic honesty policy should be directed to the instructor.

Disability resources:

If you need special accommodations for this course, please contact the Disability Resource Center (706-542-8719). Inform me of any necessary accommodations as soon as possible. In particular, if your accommodations involve disability-related absences, it is important that I am made aware of your accommodations as early as possible in the semester.

Withdrawal:

The deadline for withdrawing from the course with a grade of withdrawal-passing grade or “WP” is March 21, 2019. A grade of “WP” will only be assigned if the student is passing the course at the time of withdrawal, and only if it conforms to the University of Georgia policy on limited withdrawal-passing grades.

Tentative course schedule

Date	Topic	Kalat readings	Additional Materials
1/9/2019	First day: Introductions, Syllabus, General Info	Intro	
1/11/2019	Biological Psychology	Chapter 1	
1/14/2019	Basics of the neuron, 1	Chapter 1	
1/16/2019	Basics of the neuron, 2	Chapter 2	
1/18/2019	Anatomy: nervous system, cortex	Chapter 3	
1/21/2019	MLK Day: No class		
1/23/2019	Book discussion 1		De Waal Chapters 1 - 3
1/25/2019	Genes, evolution, development & plasticity	Chapter 4	
1/28/2019	Genes, evo, devo & plasticity; Exam 1 review	Chapter 4	
1/30/2019	Exam 1		
2/1/2019	Sensation/Perception & Vision	Chapter 5	
2/4/2019	Vision	Chapter 5	
2/6/2019	Vision	Chapter 5	
2/8/2019	Audition	Chapter 6	
2/11/2019	Book discussion 2		De Waal Chapters 4 - 5
2/13/2019	Audition	Chapter 6	
2/15/2019	Other senses	Chapter 6	
2/18/2019	Other senses	Chapter 6	
2/20/2019	Movement & Exam 2 review	Chapter 7	
2/22/2019	Exam 2		
2/25/2019	Movement	Chapter 7	

2/27/2019	Virtual Reality and sustainability		Information on eLC
3/1/2019	Virtual Reality and sustainability		Information on eLC
3/4/2019	Book discussion 3		De Waal Chapters 6 - 7
3/6/2019	Sleep	Chapter 8	
3/8/2019	Sleep	Chapter 8	
3/11/2019	Spring Break: No class		
3/13/2019	Spring Break: No class		
3/15/2019	Spring Break: No class		
3/18/2019	Internal Regulation	Chapter 9	
3/20/2019	Internal Regulation	Chapter 9	
3/22/2019	Reproduction	Chapter 10	
3/25/2019	Reproduction & Exam Review	Chapter 10	
3/27/2019	Podcast Assignment		Information on eLC
3/29/2019	Podcast Assignment		Information on eLC
4/1/2019	Exam 3		
4/3/2019	Emotion	Chapter 11	
4/5/2019	Learning & Memory/ Podcast Assignment Due	Chapter 12	
4/8/2019	Learning & Memory	Chapter 12	
4/10/2019	Learning & Memory	Chapter 12	
4/12/2019	Cognitive Functions	Chapter 13	
4/15/2019	Cognitive Functions	Chapter 13	
4/17/2019	Cognitive Functions	Chapter 13	
4/19/2019	Psychological Disorders & Book discussion 4	Chapter 14	Articles on eLC
4/22/2019	Psychological disorders	Chapter 14	
4/24/2019	Psychological disorders	Chapter 14	
4/26/2019	Exam 4		
4/29/2019	Review for Final		
5/3/2019	Final Exam for 1:25 section 12-3		
5/8/2019	Final Exam for 12:20 section 12-3		