

PSYC 205
INTRODUCTION TO COMPARATIVE COGNITION
FALL 2013

Course Details

Instructor: **Mary Olmstead**
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Office Hours: Tuesday 13:00-14:00

TA: Annie Li
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Office Hours: Tuesday 14:00-16:00

Lectures: Wednesday 13:00-14:30
Location: BioSci 1102

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:

- how evolution has shaped cognition.
- how species comparisons can inform discussions of both the function and mechanisms of cognition.
- how experimental techniques, both in the field and in the lab, are used to examine cognitive processes.

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 their own. Lectures will NOT repeated this material in its entirety, but will be devoted to explaining difficult concepts from the course notes and providing supplementary information such as illustrations or figures. 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.

Laboratory Sessions

Laboratory sessions are an integral part of PSYC 205. Students are required to attend all scheduled lab sessions and to complete each assignment as specified in the lab manual. The lab instructors will explain the requirements and marking scheme for each assignment during the first lab session.

Evaluation

In-Class Tests (45%)

There will be 4 in-class tests, each worth 11% of your final mark. If you write all four tests, you will be given 1 extra mark. These tests will consist of 22 multiple choice questions. Thus, each question on the in-class tests will be worth 0.5% of your final mark. All of the test questions will be based on the course notes and related lectures (i.e. not the labs). The material covered on each test is non-cumulative. Thus, test 1 covers material from course notes from lectures 1-2; test 2 from lectures 3-4; test 3 from lectures 5-6; and test 4 from lectures 7-8. Each test will last 30 minutes and must be written during class time. The dates for these tests are listed in the class schedule below. There are no re-writes for the in-class tests. Students who miss two or more in-class tests are required to write the final exam.

OR

Final Exam (45%)

The 3-hour final exam, scheduled during the exam period, will consist of multiple choice and short answer questions (1-2 marks each) from the entire course. The exam is optional for students who have written at least 3 in-class tests. Marks for the exam and in-class tests will be calculated in two ways: 45% from the final exam AND 15% from the in-class tests plus 30% from the final exam. The final mark will be the higher mark of these two calculations.

Students may opt to write the final exam even if they have completed 3 or 4 of the in-class tests. Whichever mark is higher (the final exam or the combined in-class tests) will make up 45% of the final mark. In other words, a final mark can ONLY increase for those students who opt to write the final exam.

Students who are unable to write the final exam during the December exam period due to a serious, extenuating circumstance (with the supporting documentation required as outlined above) must be available to write a deferred exam during the Psychology Department's *Make up Exam period* January 11th/12th, 2013.

Please see the following webpage under "Exam Absence" for additional information: <http://www.queensu.ca/psychology/Undergraduate/psychdepartmentalpolicies.html>

Laboratory Sessions (55% of final mark)

Lab #1:	2.5%
Lab #2:	15%
Lab #3:	2.5%
Lab #4:	6%
Lab #5:	8%
Lab #6:	11%
Presentation	5%
Effort/Participation:	5%

The details for the mark breakdown for each lab are provided in the lab manual.

Request for Academic Accommodation

Students who require academic accommodation for the in-class tests should contact the TA, Annie Li, AS SOON AS POSSIBLE so that these can be arranged for the entire semester. Students who require academic accommodation for the final exam should consult Queen's Disability Service to arrange this process: <http://www.queensu.ca/hcds/ds/students/accommodations.htm>.

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/senateandtrustees/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/2012-2013-calendar/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 the seriousness of these matters, actions which contravene the regulation on academic integrity carry sanctions that can range from a warning or the loss of grades on an assignment to the failure of a course to a requirement to withdraw from the university.

Copyright of Course Material

All of the course material is for the sole use of students registered in PSYC 205. This material shall not be distributed or disseminated to anyone other than students registered in this course. Failure to abide by these conditions is a breach of copyright, and may also constitute a breach of academic integrity under the University Senate's Academic Integrity Policy Statement.

Grading Method

All components of this course will receive letter grades which, for purposes of calculating your course average, will be translated into numerical equivalents using the Faculty of Arts and Science approved scale:

Arts & Science Letter Grade Input Scheme

Assignment mark	Numerical value for calculation of final mark
A+	93
A	87
A-	82
B+	78
B	75
B-	72
C+	68
C	65
C-	62
D+	58
D	55

D-	52
F48 (F+)	48
F24 (F)	24
F0 (0)	0

Lecture Schedule

Sept. 11 th	Chapter 1: History of Comparative Cognition
Sept. 18 th	Chapter 2: Sensory Systems
Sept. 25 th	TEST 1 / Discussion of Labs
Oct. 2 nd	Chapter 3: Memory
Oct. 9 th	Chapter 4: Associative Processes
Oct. 16 th	TEST 2
Oct. 23 rd	Chapter 5: Orientation and Navigation
Oct. 30 th	Chapter 6: Timing and Counting
Nov. 6 th	TEST 3 / Discussion of Oral Presentations
Nov. 13 th	Chapter 7: Choice and Decision Making
Nov. 20 th	Chapter 9: Categorization and Concept Formation
Nov. 27 th	TEST 4 / USAT
Exam Period	FINAL EXAM