

Faculty of Health
Department of Psychology
PSYC 4285 3.0 Section M: SEMINAR IN COMPARATIVE COGNITION
Wednesdays/2:30 – 5:30 pm/VH 1158
Winter/2018

Instructor and T.A. Information

Instructor: Dr. Suzanne MacDonald
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Course Prerequisite(s): Course prerequisites are strictly enforced

- HH/PSYC 1010 6.00 (Introduction to Psychology), with a minimum grade of C.
- HH/PSYC 2021 3.00 (Statistical Methods I) or HH/PSYC 2020 6.00 (Statistical Methods I and II)
- HH/PSYC 2030 3.00 (Introduction to Research Methods) or substitutes
- Six credits chosen from HH/PSYC 2210 3.00 (Learning), HH/PSYC 3260 3.00 (Cognition), HH/PSYC 3265 3.00 (Memory), HH/ PSYC 3280 3.00 (Animal Behaviour).
- Students must be in an Honours program in Psychology and have completed at least 84 credits (excluding (EDUC) education courses)

Course Credit Exclusions

Please refer to [York Courses Website](#) for a listing of any course credit exclusions.

Course website: [Moodle](#)

Course Description

This seminar course focuses on the various approaches to the study of cognitive processes in non-human animal species. The course includes the study of memory, problem-solving, concept formation, the representation of time and number and language acquisition in non-human animals.

Program Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this course, students should be able to:

1. Demonstrate in-depth knowledge of comparative cognition.
2. Critically evaluate, synthesize and resolve conflicting results of comparative cognition.
3. Articulate trends in the psychology of comparative cognition.
4. Locate research articles on comparative cognition and show critical thinking about research findings.
5. Express knowledge of comparative cognition in written form.

6. Engage in evidence-based dialogue with course director and peers.
7. Demonstrate an ability to work with others.

Specific Learning Objectives

- Describe and explain key concepts and research findings in animal cognition.
- Distinguish among evolutionary, functional, causal, and developmental questions about behaviour.
- Use library resources to locate current relevant research findings.
- Use APA style.
- Critically evaluate concepts and theories in comparative cognition.
- Summarize the rationale, results and conclusions of a scientific journal article in the field.
- Formulate testable hypotheses about comparative cognition.
- Communicate ideas and research-based evidence orally, through class discussion, a scientific poster presentation and in writing.

Required Text

- **Animal Cognition: Evolution, Behavior and Cognition (2013) by Clive Wynne and Monique Udell (publishers: Palgrave Macmillan)**

The text will be supplemented with scientific journal articles, as relevant.

Course Requirements and Assessment:

Assessment	Date of Evaluation (if known)	Weighting
Assignment 1	January 24, 2018	6%
Assignment 2	January 31, 2018	6%
Assignment 3	February 7, 2018	6%
Assignment 4	February 14, 2018	6%
Assignment 5	February 28, 2018	6%
Poster presentation	March 21/28/April 4	20%
Final paper		50%
Total		100%

Description of Assignments

Assignments will be short (one to two pages, maximum) and based on learning practical skills (library searches, APA style, etc.). The final paper will be either a critical literature review or a research proposal, based on the theories learned in class. The poster presentation will be based on your final paper.

Grading as per Senate Policy

The grading scheme for the course conforms to the 9-point grading system used in undergraduate programs at York (e.g., A+ = 9, A = 8, B+ = 7, C+ = 5, etc.). Assignments and tests* will bear either a letter grade designation or a corresponding number grade (e.g. A+ = 90 to 100, A = 80 to 89, B+ = 75 to 79, etc.)

(For a full description of York grading system see the York University Undergraduate Calendar - [Grading Scheme for 2017-18](#))

Late Work/Missed Tests or Exams

Students with a documented reason for missing a course test, such as illness, compassionate grounds, etc., which is confirmed by supporting documentation (Attending Physician Statement which can be found at:

<http://myacademicrecord.students.yorku.ca/pdf/attending-physicians-statement.pdf> may request accommodation from the Course Instructor. Further extensions or accommodation will require students to submit a formal petition to the Faculty.

FINAL PAPERS MUST BE SUBMITTED ON TIME. LATE PAPERS WILL BE PENALIZED ½ LETTER GRADE PER DAY LATE.

Important New Information Regarding Missed Tests

For any missed tests or late assignments, students **MUST** complete the following online form which will be received and reviewed in the Psychology undergraduate office.

[HH PSYC: Missed Tests/Exams Form](#). Failure to complete the form within 48 hours of the original deadline will result in a grade of zero for the test/assignment.

Add/Drop Deadlines

For a list of all important dates please refer to: [Fall/Winter 2017-18 - Important Dates](#)

	FALL (F)	YEAR (Y)	WINTER (W)
Last date to add a course without permission of instructor (also see Financial Deadlines)	Sept. 20	Sept. 20	Jan. 17
Last date to add a course with permission of instructor (also see Financial Deadlines)	Oct. 4	Oct. 18	Jan. 31
Drop deadline: Last date to drop a course without receiving a grade (also see Financial Deadlines)	Nov. 10	Feb. 9	March 9
Course Withdrawal Period (withdraw from a course and receive a grade of "W" on transcript – see note below)	Nov. 11 - Dec. 4	Feb. 10 - Apr. 6	March 10 - Apr. 6

***Note:** *You may withdraw from a course using the registration and enrolment system after the drop deadline until the last day of class for the term associated with the course. When you withdraw from a course, the course remains on your transcript without a grade and is notated as "W". The withdrawal will not affect your grade point average or count towards the credits required for your degree.*

Academic Integrity for Students

York University takes academic integrity very seriously; please familiarize yourself with [Information about the Senate Policy on Academic Honesty](#).

It is recommended that you review Academic Integrity by completing the [Academic Integrity Tutorial](#) and [Academic Honesty Quiz](#).

Test Banks

The offering for sale of, buying of, and attempting to sell or buy test banks (banks of test questions and/or answers), or any course specific test questions/answers is not permitted in the Faculty of Health. Any student found to be doing this may be considered to have breached the Senate Policy on Academic Honesty. In particular, buying and attempting to sell banks of test questions and/or answers may be considered as “Cheating in an attempt to gain an improper advantage in an academic evaluation” (article 2.1.1 from the Senate Policy) and/or “encouraging, enabling or causing others” (article 2.1.10 from the Senate Policy) to cheat.

Electronic Devices During a Test/Examination

Electronic mobile devices of any kind are not allowed during a test or examination. Students are required to turn off and secure any electronic mobile device in their bag which is to be placed under the chair while a test/exam is in progress. Any student observed with an electronic device during a test/exam may be reported to the Undergraduate Office for a potential breach of Academic Honesty.

Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities

While all individuals are expected to satisfy the requirements of their program of study and to aspire to do so at a level of excellence, the university recognizes that persons with disabilities may require reasonable accommodation to enable them to do so. The [York University Accessibility Hub](#) is your online stop for accessibility on campus. The [Accessibility Hub](#) provides tools, assistance and resources. Policy Statement.

Policy: York University shall make reasonable and appropriate accommodations and adaptations in order to promote the ability of students with disabilities to fulfill the academic requirements of their programs.

The nature and extent of accommodations shall be consistent with and supportive of the integrity of the curriculum and of the academic standards of programs or courses. Provided that students have given sufficient notice about their accommodation needs, instructors shall take reasonable steps to accommodate these needs in a manner consistent with the guidelines established hereunder.

For Further Information please refer to: [York university academic accommodation for students with disabilities policy](#).

Course Materials Copyright Information

These course materials are designed for use as part of the PSCY 4285 course at York University and are the property of the instructor unless otherwise stated. Third party copyrighted materials (such as book chapters, journal articles, music, videos, etc.) have either been licensed for use in this course or fall under an exception or limitation in Canadian Copyright law.

Copying this material for distribution (e.g. uploading material to a commercial third-party website) may lead to a violation of Copyright law. [Intellectual Property Rights Statement](#).

Course Schedule

January 10:	Introduction and history (Chapter 1)
January 17:	Other Ways of Seeing the World (Chapter 2); Library research, reading journal articles, APA style--Assignment 1 handout
January 24:	Concept Formation (Chapter 3): Assignment 1 due
January 31:	Time and number (Chapter 4) , Reasoning (Chapter 6) : Assignment 2 due
February 7:	Spatial memory and navigation (Chapter 7) : Assignment 3 due
February 14:	Paper/presentation help session or zoo trip: Assignment 4 due
February 21:	READING WEEK! No classes
February 28:	Social Cognition, self-awareness (Chapter 8) & Social Learning (Chapter 9) : Assignment 5 due
March 7:	Memory (Chapter 10)
March 14:	Animal Communication (Chapter 11) & Language (Chapter 12)
March 21:	Help session—work on papers and presentations
March 28:	Presentations
April 4:	Presentations: Papers due