



Psyc 333 Animal Cognition

MTR 2-2:50 pm

Fall 2021 syllabus

Professor:	Dr. Jody Lewis
Office:	SCI D233
In person availability:	Office hours Tues 3-4 pm or by appointment
Online availability:	M-F 9am – 5pm (when not in class)
Ways to contact me:	my office, after class, e-mail, Canvas message, Zoom
e-mail address:	Jody.Lewis@uwsp.edu

Course learning outcomes:

1. Identify the primary cognitive abilities which occur across species
2. Explain how animal cognition research is conducted
3. Discuss how different cognitive abilities work and their adaptive functions
3. Discuss how the knowledge of animal cognition is important for professions in which people work with wild and companion animals

Teaching philosophy and classroom expectations:

- I do not make judgments about a student's character based on their grades/performance in my classes.
- I do care very much about my teaching, how I run a classroom, and will do anything I can to help you get the best possible grade in this course.
- My goal in life is NOT to give busy work, torture students, and make their lives miserable –really, I have better things to do with my time.
- I consider all students adults, which means that I believe that students are able to make decisions for themselves, have a life outside the classroom, and if students need help, they will come to me (I do not chase students around and I don't monitor their attendance closely).
- I think students learn more and get more out of a class when they read the book, in addition to watching lectures, and participate in class.
- I expect that students will ask questions in class if they need more information, clarify what I said, and/or are curious about something
- Learning should be fun and relaxing, but difficult. Very few of us have sponge-like brains, so if you want to learn something you have to work hard.

Class Materials

Text: Olmstead & Kuhlmeier (2015) Comparative Cognition. Cambridge University Press.

Internet Sources: Course material will be provided through Canvas. This will include the syllabus, lecture outlines, outside reading assignments, and anything else I come across that may be interesting and/or useful for class.

Course requirements

Exams: There will be three exams that will cover the textbook, lecture, articles, and any other materials provided in class. I will provide make-up exams with a legitimate, documented excuse and if you contact me within 24 hours of the scheduled exam.

Assignments:

Research assignments: In order to provide students exposure to research in animal cognition, students will read, discuss, and answer questions about 3 research articles over the course of the semester.

Application paper: Students will be asked to apply concepts in animal cognition to practice. In this paper, students will be asked to discuss how research in animal cognition can be used to answer a research question pertinent to companion animals (e.g. pet ownership, veterinary science, animal shelters, animal training) or to captive wildlife (e.g. zoos, rehabilitation). Details of this assignment will be provided in a separate handout.

Late work policies:

- Late assignments will lose 10% of the possible points per day that the assignment is late. Canvas will automatically deduct this in the gradebook.
- Blank or incorrect documents uploaded to Canvas assignments will be considered missing and/or is subject to standard late penalties. Whenever you upload a document to Canvas, check to make sure it is the document you intended to upload.
- If you have extenuating circumstances during the semester which make it difficult for you to complete the work on time (e.g. health issues, family emergencies, deployment, etc.) please contact me right away so we can come up with a plan of action for you so you can finish the semester successfully. Do not wait until several weeks or months after an assignment is due to contact me.

Grading: Your grade is based on the number of points earned in the class.

Point distribution:

Exams (80pts x 3)	240pts	73%
Research assignments (20pts x 3)	60pts	18%
<u>Application paper</u>	<u>30pts</u>	<u>9%</u>
Total	330pts	100%

Letter grade cutoffs:

A	93%-100%
A-	90%-92%
B+	87%-89%
B	83%-86%
B-	80%-82%
C+	77%-79%
C	73%-76%
C-	70%-72%
D+	67%-69%
D	60%-66%
F	<60%

Additional course information

Attendance: Attendance is expected in this class. For an online class, attendance means logging into Canvas on a regular basis and completing assignments on time. If you have extenuating circumstances during the semester which make it difficult for you to complete the work on time (e.g. health issues, family emergencies, deployment, etc.) please contact me right away so we can come up with a plan of action for you so you can finish the semester successfully. Do not wait until several weeks or months after an assignment is due to contact me.

Academic honesty: I do not tolerate violations of academic honesty such as cheating, plagiarism, and copying/buying papers off the internet. You are responsible for understanding and abiding by the university academic standards. Instances of academic dishonesty may result in the failure of the course. Please see Chapter 14, *Student Academic Standards and Disciplinary Procedures* of the UWSP *Community Rights and Responsibilities*. This can be found at <http://www.uwsp.edu/dos/Documents/CommunityRights.pdf>. And the Academic Misconduct Webpage can be found at <http://www.uwsp.edu/dos/Pages/Academic-Misconduct.aspx>

Disability accommodation: Please contact me and Disability Services during the first two weeks of the semester if you are in need of any additional accommodations at 346-3365 or <http://www.uwp.edu/disability>

Religious accommodation: Religious beliefs will be accommodated according to UWS 22.03 as long as you notify me within the first three weeks of the beginning of class of the specific dates on which you will request relief.

Tutoring-Learning Center: The center provides assistance such as group and individual tutoring, help with computer skills, and help with writing papers. They are located in 018 LRC (346-3568). They can also be found at <http://www.uwsp.edu/tlc/>

Withdrawal policy: If you decide you no longer want to take the course you must follow the university procedures for officially dropping the course. If you stop attending and do not officially drop the course you will receive an F in the course. See the Registration and Records webpage for information about when the last day is to drop a course (click on Registration Dates and Information). <http://www.uwsp.edu/reg-rec/>

Legal actions I am required to report: According to federal and state laws, and university guidelines I am required to report acts of criminal or offensive nature that occur both within and outside of class. This includes acts of sexual harassment and assault, bias and hate crimes, illicit drug use, and acts of violence. Any disclosure or description of these incidents – both current and in the past – may be reported to the Dean of Students office (<http://www.uwsp.edu/dos/>) or the local authorities.

Equality, fairness, and respect: I do everything in my power to treat everyone equally, fairly, and with respect regardless of their race, ethnic group, socioeconomic status, gender, sexual preference, sexual identity, religion, age, weight, political ideology and opinions, profession, and anything else under the sun.

Lecture copyright. Lecture materials and recordings are protected intellectual property at UW-Stevens Point. Students in this course may use the materials and recordings for their personal use related to participation in this class. Students may also take notes solely for their personal use. Students may not copy or share lecture materials and recordings outside of class, including posting on internet sites or selling to commercial entities. Unauthorized use of these copyrighted lecture materials and recordings constitutes copyright infringement and may be addressed under the university's policies, UWS Chapters 14 and 17, governing student academic and non-academic misconduct.

Tentative Schedule

DATES	TOPICS	READINGS	DUE DATES
Foundations			
Sept 2	Syllabus		
Sept 6, 7, 9	Definitions, history, concepts	Ch. 1	
Sept 13, 14, 16	Research methods in animal cognition		
Sept 20, 21, 23	Ecology and evolution	Ch. 1	
Sept 27, 28, 30	Cognition, the brain, and evolution		RA #1 in class activity Sept 30 due to Canvas Oct 1 by 5pm
Oct 4, 5, 7	Animal welfare and ethics		Exam 1 Oct 7 In class SCI D230
Basic processes			
Oct 11, 12, 14	Associative learning –classical conditioning	Ch. 4	
Oct 18, 19, 21	Associative learning –operant conditioning	Ch. 4	
Oct 25, 26, 28	Animal training and Captive animal enrichment		RA #2 in class activity Oct 28 due to Canvas Oct 29 by 5pm
Nov 1, 2, 4	memory	Ch. 3	Exam 2 Nov 4 In class SCI D230
Complex processes			
Nov 8, 9, 11	Sensation and Perception	Ch. 2	
Nov 15, 16, 18	Communication	Ch. 12	
Nov 22, 23 (no class 25 th)	Communication		RA #3 in class activity Nov 22 due to Canvas Nov 24 by 5pm
Nov 29, 30, Dec 2	Social competence –consciousness and theory of mind	Ch. 10	
Dec 6, 7, 9	Social and observational learning	Ch. 13	Application paper due to Canvas Dec 10 by 5pm
	Final: Wed, Dec 15 2:45-4:45		Exam 3 In class SCI D230