

Course Outline – Psychology 2210 (530)

Intro to Animal Cognition

School of Behavioural and Social Sciences

In the event of a COVID-19 resurgence during the course that necessitates the course moving away from in-person delivery, course content may be delivered online either synchronously (i.e., at the times indicated in the timetable) or asynchronously (e.g., posted on OWL for students to view at their convenience). There may also be changes to any remaining assessments at the discretion of the course instructor. In the event of a COVID-19 resurgence, detailed information about the impact on this course will be communicated by the Office of the Provost and by the course instructor.

General Information

Course #: Psy 2210B
Section #: 530
Term: *Winter*
Year: 2022-23
Delivery: *in-person*
Course Day and Time: *Monday 2:30-4:30*
Wednesday 2:30-3:30
Course Location: Monday class: BR- 302
Wednesday class: BR - 18

Instructor Information

Name: Caroline Strang
E-mail: cstrang@uwo.ca
Office hours: By appointment
Office location: UH 337

Course Description

An introduction to animal cognition, including topics such as classical and operant conditioning, memory, timing, and categorization.

Antirequisite(s): [Psychology 2280E](#).

Prerequisite(s): A mark of at least 60% in 1.0 credits of Psychology at the 1000 level.

Extra Information: 3 lecture hours.

Required Course Materials

Olmstead, M. C. & Kuhlmeier, V. A. (2015). *Comparative Cognition*. Cambridge University Press

*On week 13 there will be two primary research articles posted on OWL that will serve as the required readings for that week.

Optional Course Materials

Shettleworth, S.J. (2012). *Fundamentals of Comparative Cognition*. Oxford University Press: Oxford.

This book is more concise than the required text, but it gives a very accessible summary of the topics covered in the course.

Learning Outcomes

By the end of the course students should be able to:

- Summarize the history of animal cognition research and recognize its contributions to the fields of psychology, neuroscience and biology.
- Identify the unique challenges of animal cognition research and describe methods used in the discipline to handle those challenges.
- Explain our current understanding of cognition in a number of species and compare the cognition of a variety of species to identify how evolutionary pressures shape cognition in animals.

Brescia Competencies

By the end of this course, among other skills, students should be able to:

- Identifying the contributions of animal cognition research to the field of psychology.
Competencies: Critical Thinking; Inquiry and Analysis.
- Recognize and compare the different experimental approaches used in animal cognition research
Competencies: Critical Thinking; Inquiry and Analysis.
- Describe the fundamental aspects of cognition discussed in the course.
Competencies: Critical Thinking; Inquiry and Analysis; Communication.
- Recognize and compare experimental methodologies use in animal cognition research.
Competencies: Communication; Critical Thinking.
- Identifying the aspects of cognition that are conserved across species.
Competencies: Critical Thinking; Inquiry and Analysis.

Teaching Methodology and Expectations of Students

This course is an introduction to animal cognition and comparative cognition research. It will cover topics from the fundamentals of learning and memory that are the foundation of animal cognition research, as well as current popular research areas such as problem solving and metacognition. Weekly lectures will primarily consist of a PowerPoint lecture, but will also include discussion and in-class activities. It is expected that students will come to class having read the textbook materials and be prepared to give their thoughts on the course material in the form of questions and comments during class.

Copyright and Intellectual Property

PowerPoint lecture slides and notes, lists of readings, in-class activities, assignment guidelines, and other components of the course materials are typically the intellectual property of the instructor. Unauthorized reproduction through audio-recording, video-recording, photographing, sharing on social media, or posting on course-sharing websites is an infringement of copyright and is prohibited. Such action may be considered a Code of Conduct violation and lead to sanctions.

Evaluation

There will be three non-cumulative tests in the course. The first two (Test 1 & Test 2) will take place during the term and count for 25% of the final grade each. The third will take place during the final exam period and count for 30% of the final grade. There will be 9 quizzes throughout the term that will be done on OWL. The quizzes will be on the textbook material that is assigned for that week. The best 8/9 quizzes will count for 4% of the final grade. There will be two thought papers to complete in the term, each worth 6% of the final grade.

Tests

All tests will have a similar format consisting of multiple choice, definitions, and short answer questions.

Quizzes

Quizzes will be timed open book assessments completed on OWL. The quizzes will be entirely based on textbook material and are intended to be part of pre-class preparations.

Thought Papers

Students will complete two thought papers during the term. One must be completed in the first half of the course and can be written on any topic covered in the first half of the course. The second thought paper must be written in the second half of the course on a topic covered in the second half of the course. Each thought paper should be no more than 300 words and consist of original thoughts, questions, and opinions supported by course material.

Evaluation Breakdown:

<u>Component</u>	<u>Weight</u>	<u>Date/ Deadline</u>	<u>Brescia Competencies</u>
Test 1	25%	Feb 6 th In-class	Critical Thinking, Inquiry & Analysis
Test 2	25%	Mar 13 th In-class	Critical Thinking, Inquiry & Analysis
Quizzes	8%	Weeks: 2-4, 6, 8-9, 11-13.	Critical Thinking, Inquiry & Analysis
Thought Papers	12%	First: Feb 15 th Second: Apr 5 th	Critical Thinking, Inquiry & Analysis; Communication
Final Exam	30%	TBA	Critical Thinking, Inquiry & Analysis

Academic Accommodation

For course components worth 10% or more of the total course grade, please see the Academic Policies and Regulations section at the end of this course outline or consult the Academic Calendar.

For course components worth less than 10% of the total course grade, documentation is not required. Whenever possible students should provide notification in advance of due dates or absence. If advance notification is not possible, the course instructor should be contacted within two business days.

Course Content

The course will follow the schedule provided below. The material for later weeks builds on material from previous weeks, so material from early weeks in the course will frequently be revisited in later lectures.

Weekly Organizer:

Class/Week	Date	Lecture	Textbook Readings	Date	Lab
1	Jan 9 th	Introduction	Ch. 1	Jan 11 th	History of comparative cognition
2	Jan 16 th	Sensory systems	Ch. 2 & 3	Jan 18 th	Memory
3	Jan 23 rd	Memory	Ch. 3 & 4	Jan 25 th	Associative processes
4	Jan 30 th	Orientation & Navigation	Ch. 5	Feb 1 st	Orientation & Navigation
5	Feb 6 th	Test 1 (textbook and lecture material for weeks 1-4)	Ch. 6	Feb 8 th	Timing
6	Feb 13 th	Number	Ch. 6 & 7	Feb 15 th	Decision Making Thought paper 1 due
7	Feb 20 th	Reading week		Feb 22 nd	Reading Week
8	Feb 27 th	Causality and tool use	Ch. 8	Mar 1 st	Causality and tool use
9	Mar 6 th	Categories & Concepts	Ch. 9	Mar 8 th	Categories & Concepts

10	Mar 13 th	Test 2 (textbook and lecture material from weeks 6, 8, 9)	Ch. 10	Mar 15 th	Social Cognition
11	Mar 20 th	Social Cognition	Ch. 10 & 11	Mar 22 nd	Prosocial behaviour
12	Mar 27 th	Communication	Ch. 12 & 13	Mar 29 th	Social learning
13	April 3 rd	Complex Cognition	Assigned readings posted on OWL	April 5 th	Complex Cognition Thought Paper 2 due
14	April 10 th	No class			
April Exam Period (Apr 13-30)		Final Exam (30%; Lectures) covers lecture material and textbook from weeks 11-13			

2022-23 BRESCIA UNIVERSITY COLLEGE ACADEMIC POLICIES AND REGULATIONS

1. POLICY REGARDING ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION

The complete policy regarding Accommodation for Illness - Undergraduate Students can be found at https://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?Command=showCategory&PolicyCategoryID=1&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#Page_135

Students who have long-term or chronic medical conditions which may impede their ability to complete academic responsibilities should seek Academic Accommodation through Student Accessibility Services (https://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?Command=showCategory&PolicyCategoryID=1&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#Page_10).

Personal commitments (e.g., vacation flight bookings, work schedule) which conflict with a scheduled test, exam or course requirement are **not** grounds for academic accommodation.

Students who experience an illness or extenuating circumstance sufficiently severe to temporarily render them unable to meet academic requirements may submit a request for academic consideration through the following routes:

1. For medical absences, submitting a **Student Medical Certificate (SMC)** signed by a licensed medical or mental health practitioner;
2. For non-medical absences, submitting **appropriate documentation** (e.g., obituary, police report, accident report, court order, etc.) to their Academic Advisor. Students are encouraged to contact their Academic Advisor to clarify what documentation is acceptable.

Request for Academic Consideration for a Medical Absence

When a student requests academic accommodation (e.g., extension of a deadline, a makeup exam) for work representing 10% or more of the student's overall grade in the course, it is the responsibility of the student to provide acceptable documentation to support a medical or compassionate claim. All such requests for academic accommodation **must** be made through an Academic Advisor and include supporting documentation.

Academic accommodation for illness will be granted only if the documentation indicates that the onset, duration and severity of the illness are such that the student could not reasonably be expected to complete their academic responsibilities. Minor ailments typically treated by over-the-counter medications will not normally be accommodated.

The following conditions apply for students seeking academic accommodation on medical grounds:

1. Students must submit their Student Medical Certificate (SMC) along with a request for relief specifying the nature of the accommodation being requested no later than two business days after the date specified for resuming responsibilities. An SMC can be downloaded from https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf;
2. In cases where there might be an extended absence or serious issue, students should submit their documentation promptly and consult their Academic Advisor for advice during their recovery period;
3. Whenever possible, students who require academic accommodation should provide notification and documentation in advance of due dates, scheduled tests or examinations, and other academic requirements;
4. Students **must** communicate with their instructors **no later than 24 hours** after the end of the period covered by the SMC to clarify how they will fulfil the academic expectations they may have missed during the absence;
5. Appropriate academic accommodation will be determined by the Dean's Office/Academic Advisor in consultation with the course instructor(s). Academic accommodation may include extension of deadlines, waiver of attendance requirements, arranging Special Exams (make-ups), re-weighting course requirements, or granting late withdrawal without academic penalty.

2. ACADEMIC CONCERNS

If you feel that you have a medical or personal challenge that is interfering with your work, contact your instructor and Academic Advisor as soon as possible. Problems may then be documented and possible arrangements to assist you can be discussed at the time of occurrence rather than on a retroactive basis. Retroactive requests for academic accommodation on medical or compassionate grounds are not normally considered.

If you think that you are too far behind to catch up or that your work load is not manageable, you should consult your Academic Advisor (https://brescia.uwo.ca/enrolment_services/academic_advising/book_an_appointment.php). If you consider reducing your workload by dropping one or more courses, this must be done by the appropriate deadlines; please contact your Academic Advisor or see the list of sessional dates in the Academic Calendar (<https://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/SessionalDates.cfm?SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=>).

You should consult with the course instructor and the Academic Advisor who can help you consider alternatives to dropping one or more courses. *Note that dropping a course may affect OSAP eligibility and/or Entrance Scholarship eligibility.*

3. ABSENCES

Short Absences: If you miss a class due to a minor illness or other problems, check your course outline for information regarding attendance requirements and make sure you are not missing a test or assignment. Cover any readings and arrange to borrow notes from a classmate. Contact the course instructor if you have any questions.

Please note that for asynchronous online courses, attendance or participation requirements maybe different than for synchronous or in-person courses.

Extended Absences: If you have an extended absence, you should contact the course instructor and an Academic Advisor. Your course instructor and Academic Advisor can discuss ways for you to catch up on missed work, and arrange academic accommodations if appropriate and warranted.

It is important to note that the Academic Dean may refuse permission to write the final examination in a course if the student has failed to maintain satisfactory academic standing throughout the year or for too frequent absence from the class or laboratory

(https://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?Command=showCategory&PolicyCategoryID=5&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#Page_64).

4. SCHOLASTIC OFFENCES

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence at:

https://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?Command=showCategory&PolicyCategoryID=1&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#Page_20.

Students are responsible for understanding the nature of and avoiding the occurrence of plagiarism and other academic offences. Note that such offences include plagiarism, cheating on an examination, submitting false or fraudulent assignments or credentials, impersonating a candidate, or submitting for credit in any course without the knowledge and approval of the instructor to whom it is submitted, any academic work for which credit has previously been obtained or is being sought in another course in the University or elsewhere. Students are advised to consult the section on Scholastic Discipline for Undergraduate Students in the Academic Calendar.

If you are in doubt about whether what you are doing is inappropriate or not, consult your instructor, the Academic Dean's Office, or the Registrar. A claim that "you didn't know it was wrong" is not accepted as an excuse.

The penalties for a student guilty of a scholastic offence (including plagiarism) include refusal of a passing grade in the assignment, refusal of a passing grade in the course, suspension from the University, and expulsion from the University.

Plagiarism:

Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea or a passage from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing such as footnotes or citations. Plagiarism is a major academic offence.

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com.

Computer-marked Tests/exams:

Computer-marked multiple-choice tests and/or exams may be subject to submission for similarity review by software that will check for unusual coincidences in answer patterns that may indicate cheating. Software currently in use to score computer-marked multiple-choice tests and exams performs a similarity review as part of standard exam analysis.

5. PROCEDURES FOR APPEALING ACADEMIC EVALUATIONS

All appeals of a grade must be directed first to the course instructor. If the student is not satisfied with the decision of the course instructor, a written appeal is to be sent to the School Chair. If the response of the Chair is considered unsatisfactory to the student, they may then submit a written appeal to the Office of the Dean. If the student is not satisfied with the decision of the Dean, they may appeal to the Senate Review Board Academic (SRBA), if there are sufficient grounds for the appeal and if the matter falls within the jurisdiction of the SRBA. For information on academic appeals consult your Academic Advisor or see the Student Academic Appeals – Undergraduate in the Academic Calendar

https://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?Command=showCategory&PolicyCategoryID=1&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#Page_14.

Note that final course marks are not official until the Academic Dean has reviewed and signed the final grade report for the course. If course marks deviate from acceptable and appropriate standards, the Academic Dean may require grades to be adjusted to align them with accepted grading practices.

6. PREREQUISITES

Unless you have either the prerequisites for a course or written Special Permission from the Dean to enroll in it, you will be removed from the course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisite(s).

7. SUPPORT

Support Services

The Brescia University College Registrar's website, with a link to Academic Advisors, is at <http://brescia.uwo.ca/academics/registrar-services/>. Students can access supports through Brescia's Student Life Centre (<http://brescia.uwo.ca/life/student-life/>) and Learning Development & Success at Western (<https://www.uwo.ca/sdc/learning/>).

Mental Health and Wellness

Students may experience a range of issues that can cause barriers to your learning, such as increased anxiety, feeling overwhelmed, feeling down or lost, difficulty concentrating and/or lack of motivation. Services are available to assist you with addressing these and other concerns you may be experiencing. You can obtain information about how to obtain help for yourself or others through **Health & Wellness at Brescia**, https://brescia.uwo.ca/student_life/health_and_wellness/index.php and **Health and Wellness at Western**, http://uwo.ca/health/mental_wellbeing/index.html.

Sexual Violence

All members of the Brescia University College community have a right to work and study in an environment that is free from any form of sexual violence. Brescia University College recognizes that the prevention of, and response to, Sexual Violence is of particular importance in the university environment. Sexual Violence is strictly prohibited and unacceptable and will not be tolerated. Brescia is committed to preventing Sexual Violence and creating a safe space for anyone in the Brescia community who has experienced Sexual Violence.

If you or someone you know has experienced any form of Sexual Violence, you may access resources at https://brescia.uwo.ca/safe_campus/sexual_violence/index.php.

Portions of this document were taken from the Academic Calendar, the Handbook of Academic and Scholarship Policy, and the Academic Handbook of Senate Regulations. This document is a summary of relevant regulations and does not supersede the academic policies and regulations of the Senate of the University of Western Ontario.
