Comparative Psychology  
(PSY 6316-010)  
Fall 2018  
W 3—5:50 pm  
A 213

**Instructor:** Steven T. Brewer, Ph.D.  
**Office:** A 104D

**Email:** steven.brewer@angelo.edu  
**Phone:** (325)486-6124

**Office Hours:**  
M & W: 1:00 – 3:00  
T: 2:15 – 3:15  
R: 10:00 – 1:00  
F: 10:00 – 12:00 (virtual);  
Or by appointment


**Course Description:** This course is an introduction to comparative behavior between human and non-human animals with a consideration for the conservation of behavior across species. Focus will be given to the evolutionary process and its influence on neurology, learning and cognition, behavior (generally) and social behavior especially among primates.

**Course Objectives:**  
1. Learn fundamental principles, generalizations, or theories  
2. Develop specific skills and competency needed to understand behavioral research through an evolutionary and/or comparative lens.

**Student Learning Outcomes:**  
By the end of this course, you should:  
1. Have a basic understanding of the evolutionary model.  
2. Have a basic understanding of how evolution has shaped biology and behavior.
Course Policies, Procedures and Format

Readings
It is expected that each student will have the required reading completed before the class during which we will discuss the material (see course schedule). Some material in the text may be challenging upon first read, but lectures and discussions will be easier and more advantageous if you have read the assigned reading.

Policies/Expectations
1. Students are expected to take responsibility for their success in this course. You are encouraged to be active participants in the education process by asking questions and being alert in class and actively engaging the material in both formats.

2. If you have any concerns related to this class, you are encouraged to speak with your instructor in a timely manner. As a general rule, you should raise any issues within one week of receiving a grade or completing a given project.

3. Students will be expected to access the Blackboard online classroom on a regular basis for announcements, course materials, assignments, and grades.

4. The instructor reserves the right to use plagiarism prevention software.

Class Sessions
1. The majority of the class will be lecture.
2. Class attendance/engagement is mandatory. This is a graduate level class and as such you are expected to attend each class and contribute to class discussions and activities. In order to have meaningful class discussions it is expected that you will come to class having read the assigned materials.
3. You MUST take your own notes in class in order to pass.
4. Media presentations and demonstrations may be used to help illustrate the concepts being discussed.
5. Classes may include discussions, group projects, films, and activities.
6. Questions and comments are always welcome!

*DISCLAIMER:* This class may examine ideas and material that some students may find disagreeable, evolution specifically. While I encourage students to evaluate information independently this class treats evolution as factual and no more controversial than saying water is wet. If students are unable or unwilling to tolerate other perspectives in light of their own value systems and in the context of the class, then they are encouraged to speak with the instructor regarding their concerns and may wish to reconsider their enrollment in the course. Should you have any questions, concerns, or suggestions at any time during the semester, please feel free to contact me.
Communication
1. Email is the best way to contact your instructor.
2. All emails should include “PSY 6316” in the subject line.
3. All emails should include your first and last name.
4. Emails will typically be answered within 24 hours (excluding weekends and holidays), if an email is not answered within 24 hours please verify the email address and speak with your instructor during office hours or the next class period.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY: Angelo State University expects its students to maintain complete honesty and integrity in their academic pursuits. Students are responsible for understanding the Academic Honor Code, which is available on the web at http://www.angelo.edu/forms/pdf/honorc5.pdf. Any violation of academic honesty may result in course failure.

Tutoring:
The ASU Tutor Center is located in the Library C301 (3rd floor). Tutoring is free to all ASU students.

Disabilities:
Persons with disabilities which may warrant academic accommodations must contact the Student Life Office, Room 112 University Center (325-942-2191), in order to request such accommodations prior to any accommodations being implemented. You are encouraged to make this request early in the semester so that appropriate arrangements can be made.

METHOD OF ASSESSING LEARNING OUTCOMES:

Exams: There will be two exams for this course. A mid-term and a final
Exams will most likely consist of a combination of short answer/essay type questions. Exam material will come from class material as well as the book.

Make up policy for exams: Make up exams will ONLY be allowed for emergency situations (in other words, a doctor’s appointment is not an emergency). It is the student’s responsibility (BY EMAIL WHEN POSSIBLE) to contact the professor within 24 hours to reschedule. Failure to do so will result in a zero on the exam. Make up exams will be scheduled at the convenience of the instructor and will be scheduled as quickly as possible.
Discussions/Participation: Every class session will involve some lecture by me over assigned reading material (book) and discussion of articles related to an assigned topic. Each week a general topic will be assigned for the following week’s discussion. It is expected that each student will bring a peer reviewed article that engages the assigned discussion in some fashion. Students will receive an overall discussion participation grade worth 100 points in total.

Course Point Distribution:  
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Exams (2): 200 pts.</th>
<th>(100 pts. Each)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Discussion/Participation</td>
<td>(100 pts)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Possible Points:</td>
<td>300</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Final Grades:  
A: 90-100%  
B: 80-89%  
C: 70-79%  
D: 60-69%  
F: <60%

Tentative Schedule*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Chapter</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8-29</td>
<td>Syllabus/Introduction (topic: can non-human animals be self-reflective? Support your position)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9-5 thru 10-17</td>
<td>Principles of Evolutionary Theory/Behavioral Neurology</td>
<td>1 - 6</td>
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<tr>
<td>10-24</td>
<td>Mid-term</td>
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<tr>
<td>10-31 Thru 12-5</td>
<td>Learning and cognition/development of behavior/social evolution</td>
<td>7-14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12-12</td>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>3:30 to 5:30 pm</td>
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</tbody>
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* Syllabus is subject to change at the discretion of the instructor*