

Comparative Psychology

PSY-6316-D10

Spring 2022



Instructor: Steven T. Brewer, Ph.D.

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Phone: 325-486-6124

Office: A 104 D

Office Hours: M: 10 to 12 p.m.

W: 10 to 2 p.m.

F: 10 to 12 p.m. (virtual)

Or by appointment

Course Information

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 Credits

3 credits

Prerequisite and Co-requisite Courses

none

Prerequisite Skills

Accessing Internet websites (including Blackboard), use of ASU Library resources, and proficiency with Microsoft Word and/or PowerPoint are expectations for Comparative Psychology.

Student Learning Outcomes

Student Learning Outcomes By completing all course requirements, students will be able to:	Assignment(s) or activity(ies) validating outcome achievement:
understand basic evolutionary process	graded forum discussions
Understand the development of basic behavioral neurology	graded forum discussions
Understand the evolution of learning and memory	graded forum discussions
Understand social evolution	graded forum discussions

Course Delivery

This is an online course offering, however, there will be a weekly lecture/discussion component conducted via Zoom. Day and time of the lecture will be determined during the first week after student availability is known. The course material will be delivered via Blackboard Learning Management System and lecture/discussion sessions will be conducted via the video conferencing software platform ZOOM. The course site can be accessed at [ASU's Blackboard Learning Management System.](#)

Required Texts and Materials

Papini, M. R. (2008). Comparative Psychology: Evolution and Development of Behavior 2nd Ed. New York: Taylor and Francis group.

Recommended Texts and Materials

To participate in one of ASU's distance education programs, you need this technology:

- A computer capable of running Windows 7 or later, or Mac OSX 10.8 or later
- The latest version of one of these web browsers: internet Explorer, Firefox, or Safari
- Microsoft Office Suite or a compatible Open Office Suite
- Adobe Acrobat Reader
- High Speed Internet Access
- Ethernet adapter cable required (wireless connections can drop during tests and Collaborate sessions)
- Webcam
- Zoom video conferencing software

Refer to Angelo State University's Distance Education website for further technology requirements: [Angelo State University's Distance Education Website](#)

Topic Outline (Subject to change at the Professor's discretion)

This course will be organized, broadly, around four Modules. Each module will have a weekly quiz and will conclude with a graded forum discussion. There is no quiz the week of discussion (see schedule).

Module 1: (chapters 1 – 6)

Module 2: (chapters 7-9)

Module 3: (chapters 10-12)

Module 4: (chapters 13 & 14)

Week/Date	Chapter Assignments
MODULE 1	Introduction to principles of evolutionary theory/basic behavioral neurology
Week 1 thru 6	Chapters 1 thru 6
MODULE 2	Learning and Cognition
Week 7 Thru 9	Chapters 7, 8, 9
MODULE 3	Development of Behavior
Week 10 thru 13	Chapters 10, 11, 12
MODULE 4	Social Evolution
Week 14 thru 16	Chapters 13 & 14

Graded Forum Discussions

- 1) At the end of each module three to four discussion questions covering the information from that module as forum questions/statements will be presented. The question or statement may occasionally describe a hypothetical situation and ask for a hypothetical response. These “discussions” should be considered mini research papers rather than a casual conversation. The guidelines for what will be expected in the discussion are:
 - You are to select **one** and **only one** discussion topic to answer for each module. Once selected, you will write a logically constructed essay of at least 400 words but not to exceed 700 words. This is not an exercise in opinion wielding. In other words, treat your response like you would a research paper. claim.
 - **Answers must be supported by empirical evidence, from either the book or other reputable (preferably peer reviewed) sources.** Anecdotes are **not evidence**.
 - This is not a creative writing course, so remember that every claim/assertion made in your essay must have a citation or it will be considered unsupported conjecture.
 - Answers are to be submitted as a thread in the discussion forum by 11:59 pm the Sunday of the week in which it is posted. The instructor reserves the right to use plagiarism prevention software. Each answer will be graded based on a total possible point value of 100 (400 possible points).
 - Lastly, you must also comment on at *least* one (1) other students’ answer by noon the following day (Monday)– failure to do so will result in an automatic loss of 20 points. Comments are to be civil and professional in nature and address the substance of the answer (e.g., NOT “I really liked your answer” or “I agree with everything you say”).
- 2) Each week I will post a mini discussion for everyone to engage. These discussions are not graded per se, however there is 100 points in participation/engagement that will be factored into the final grade

Communication

Faculty will respond to email and/or telephone messages within 24 hours during working hours Monday through Friday. Weekend messages may not be returned until Monday.

Written communication via email: All private communication will be done exclusively through your ASU email address. Check frequently for announcements and policy changes. In your emails to faculty, include the course name and number (Comparative Psychology, 6316) in the subject line.

Virtual communication: Office hours and/or advising may be done with the assistance of the telephone, Collaborate, Skype, etc. Additionally, there may be virtual “lecture” sessions through Zoom. This would be exploratory for feasibility. You will receive additional information regarding virtual lecture possibilities.

“Netiquette”: Forum posts should be professional in nature. You will be expected to engage in forum activities with your classmates. The topic of this course can be very polarizing and impassioned, which can result in vigorous conversation which is perfectly acceptable in the context of this class. However, there is no tolerance for hate speech, name calling or ad-hominem attacks. We will engage in respectful conversation at all times.

Evaluation and Grades

Course grades will be determined as indicated in the table below.

Assessment	Percent/Points of Total Grade
Weekly participation	100
Forum Discussions (4@100pts each)	400
Total	500 points (100%)

Grading System

Course grades will be dependent upon completing course requirements and meeting the student learning outcomes.

The following grading scale is in use for this course:

- A = 90.00-100
- B = 80.00-89.99
- C = 70.00-79.99
- D = 60.00-69.99
- F = 0-59.99

Teaching Strategies

Students are expected to be “active learners.” It is a basic assumption of the instructor that students will be involved (**beyond the materials and lectures presented in the course**) discovering, processing, and applying the course information using peer-review journal articles, researching additional information and examples on the Internet, and discussing course material and clinical experiences with their peers. This is especially true of a graduate class.

This is an online class and as such is largely self-paced.

Assignment and Activity Descriptions

Assignment Submission

Any assignment that is not part of the forum discussions MUST be submitted through the Assignments link in the Blackboard site. This is for grading, documenting, and archiving purposes. Issues with technology use arise from time to time. If a technology issue does occur regarding an assignment submission, email me at **steven.brewer@angelo.edu** and attach a copy of what you are trying to submit. **Please contact the IT Service Center at (325) 942-2911 or go to your Technology Support tab to report the issue.** This lets your faculty know you completed the assignment on time and are just having problems with the online submission feature in Blackboard. Once the problem is resolved, submit your assignment through the appropriate link. This process will document the problem and establish a timeline. Be sure to keep a backup of all work.

Late Work or Missed Assignments Policy

Late Work Policy

The course is set up on weekly modules. The week begins on Monday and ends on Sunday. Assignment due dates are shown on the calendar/schedule or posted within Blackboard. Late assignments are not accepted without prior approval of faculty. Faculty reserve the right to deduct points for late assignments that are accepted past the original due date.

General Policies Related to This Course

All students are required to follow the policies and procedures presented in these documents:

- [Angelo State University Student Handbook](#)¹
- [Angelo State University Catalog](#)²

Student Responsibility and Attendance

Online: This class is asynchronous, meaning you do not have to be on-line at a certain time. There are readings which you will have to complete to be able to adequately participate in boards, course projects, reflective logs, etc. Students are expected to engage in course activities and submit work by due dates and times. The hope is that students will make substantive contributions which reflect integration of assigned materials as well as any outside readings as appropriate. Scholarly contribution is an expectation. For planning purposes, this class will probably require a minimum of 6-9 study hours per week on average. I am attempting to

integrate zoom with my teaching style and the online delivery format. Zoom should provide an excellent resource allowing us to meet in a virtual setting much like a face to face course. Graduate classes should be engaging and thought provoking. I hope that each of you engage the material and my lectures with earnest curiosity.

Academic Integrity

Students are expected to maintain complete honesty and integrity in all work. Any student found guilty of any form of dishonesty in academic work is subject of disciplinary action and possible expulsion from ASU.

The College of Health and Human Services adheres to the university's [Statement of Academic Integrity](#).³

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

ASU is committed to the principle that no qualified individual with a disability shall, on the basis of disability, be excluded from participation in or be denied the benefits of the services, programs or activities of the university, or be subjected to discrimination by the university, as provided by the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments of 2008 (ADAAA) and subsequent legislation.

Student Disability Services is located in the Office of Student Affairs, and is the designated campus department charged with the responsibility of reviewing and authorizing requests for reasonable accommodations based on a disability. It is the student's responsibility to initiate such a request by contacting an employee of the Office of Student Affairs, in the Houston Harte University Center, Room 112, or contacting the department via email at ADA@angelo.edu. For more information about the application process and requirements, visit the [Student Disability Services website](#).⁴ The employee charged with the responsibility of reviewing and authorizing accommodation requests is:

Dallas Swafford
Director of Student Disability Services
Office of Student Affairs
325-942-2047
dallas.swafford@angelo.edu
Houston Harte University Center, Room 112

Incomplete Grade Policy

It is policy that incomplete grades be reserved for student illness or personal misfortune. Please contact faculty if you have serious illness or a personal misfortune that would keep you from

completing course work. Documentation may be required. See ASU Operating Policy 10.11 [Grading Procedures](#)⁵ for more information.

Plagiarism

Plagiarism is a serious topic covered in ASU's [Academic Integrity policy](#)⁶ in the Student Handbook. Plagiarism is the action or practice of taking someone else's work, idea, etc., and passing it off as one's own. Plagiarism is literary theft.

In your discussions and/or your papers, it is unacceptable to copy word-for-word without quotation marks and the source of the quotation. It is expected that you will summarize or paraphrase ideas giving appropriate credit to the source both in the body of your paper and the reference list.

Papers are subject to be evaluated for originality. Resources to help you understand this policy better are available at the [ASU Writing Center](#).⁷

Student Absence for Observance of Religious Holy Days

A student who intends to observe a religious holy day should make that intention known in writing to the instructor prior to the absence. See ASU Operating Policy 10.19 Student Absence for [Observance of Religious Holy Day](#)⁸ for more information.

Copyright Policy

Students officially enrolled in this course should make only one printed copy of the given articles and/or chapters. You are expressly prohibited from distributing or reproducing any portion of course readings in printed or electronic form without written permission from the copyright holders or publishers.

Syllabus Changes

The faculty member reserves the option to make changes as necessary to this syllabus and the course content. If changes become necessary during this course, the faculty will notify students of such changes by email, course announcements and/or via a discussion board announcement. It is the student's responsibility to look for such communications about the course on a daily basis.

Title IX at Angelo State University

Angelo State University is committed to providing and strengthening an educational, working, and living environment where students, faculty, staff, and visitors are free from sex discrimination of any kind. In accordance with Title VII, Title IX, the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA), the Campus Sexual Violence Elimination Act (SaVE), and other federal and state laws, the University prohibits discrimination based on sex, which includes pregnancy, and other

types of Sexual Misconduct. Sexual Misconduct is a broad term encompassing all forms of gender-based harassment or discrimination and unwelcome behavior of a sexual nature. The term includes sexual harassment, nonconsensual sexual contact, nonconsensual sexual intercourse, sexual assault, sexual exploitation, stalking, public indecency, interpersonal violence (domestic violence or dating violence), sexual violence, and any other misconduct based on sex.

You are encouraged to report any incidents involving sexual misconduct to the Office of Title IX Compliance and the Director of Title IX Compliance/Title IX Coordinator, Michelle Boone, J.D. You may submit reports in the following manner:

Online: www.angelo.edu/incident-form

Face to face: Mayer Administration Building, Room 210

Phone: 325-942-2022

Email: michelle.boone@angelo.edu

Note, as a faculty member at Angelo State, I am a mandatory reporter and must report incidents involving sexual misconduct to the Title IX Coordinator. Should you wish to speak to someone in confidence about an issue, you may contact the University Counseling Center (325-942-2371), the 24-Hour Crisis Helpline (325-486-6345), or the University Health Clinic (325-942-2171).

For more information about resources related to sexual misconduct, Title IX, or Angelo State's policy please visit: www.angelo.edu/title-ix.

Student Evaluation of Faculty and Course

Students in all programs are given the opportunity to evaluate their courses and the faculty who teach them. Evaluations are most helpful when they are honest, fair, constructive, and pertinent to the class, clinical experience, or course. Faculty value student evaluations, and use student suggestions in making modifications in courses, labs and clinical experiences.

Angelo State University uses the IDEA (Individual Development and Educational Assessment) system administered through Kansas State University for all course evaluations. The Office of Institutional Research and Assessment administers IDEA for the entire university, online and has established a policy whereby students can complete course evaluations free from coercion.

End of Syllabus

¹ <https://www.angelo.edu/student-handbook/>

² <https://www.angelo.edu/catalogs/>

³ <https://www.angelo.edu/student-handbook/community-policies/academic-integrity.php>

⁴ <https://www.angelo.edu/services/disability-services/>

⁵ <https://www.angelo.edu/content/files/14197-op-1011-grading-procedures>

⁶ <https://www.angelo.edu/student-handbook/community-policies/academic-integrity.php>

⁷ https://www.angelo.edu/dept/writing_center/academic_honesty.php

⁸ <https://www.angelo.edu/content/files/14206-op-1019-student-absence-for-observance-of>