30473-COMPARATIVE PSYCHOLOGY  Spring Semester, 2017
Mauricio R. Papini (SWR 336, 817-257-6084, m.papini@tcu.edu).
TA: Shannon Conrad (shannon.conrad@tcu.edu).
TR, 15:30-16:50, WIN 228.
Course's web site: http://personal.tcu.edu/papini/comparative/comparative.htm

Outline

Jan/17-31: Animal evolution (5 lectures).
Tentative video: “What is the evidence for evolution”
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IIEoO5KdPvg (11:21 min)
Reading assignments: Papini, chapters 2 and 3.

Feb/2 - FIRST EXAM: Class material (lectures, videos, etc.) and reading assignments.

Feb/7-21: Brain-behavior evolution (5 lectures).
Tentative video: “The origin of the brain”
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6RbPQG9WTZM (9:29 min)
Reading assignments: Papini, chapters 5 and 6.

Feb/23 - SECOND EXAM: Class material and reading assignments.

Feb/28-Mar/21: Learning and cognition (5 lectures).
Tentative video: A recreation of Clever Hans’ behavior
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_Nza20_I5qQ (5:49 min)
Tentative video: "How to train a brain"
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qG2SwE_6uVM (11:49 min)
Tentative video: “Kanzi: An ape of genius”
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dBUHWoFnuB4 (14:56 min)
Reading assignments: Papini, chapters 8 and 9.

Mar/23- THIRD EXAM: Class material and reading assignments.

Mar/28-Apr/11: Behavioral development (5 lectures).
Tentative video: "Bird brains"
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZRz7Xwi1ypU (13:03 min)
Tentative video: “Harlow’s studies on dependency in monkeys”
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OrNBEhzjg8I (6:07 min)
Reading assignments: Papini, chapters 10, 11, and 12.

Apr/13 - FOURTH EXAM: Class material and reading assignments.

Apr/18-May/2: Primate evolution (5 lectures).
Tentative video: “Where and when did humans evolve?”
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K4S2qJboi4I (5:27 min)
Tentative video: “In search of human origins Lucy”
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ju-HoJtPkJ8 (7:27 min)
Tentative video: “The analysis of Ardiptihicus ramidus”
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EC9aIth1ah4 (9:59 min)
Reading assignment: Papini, chapters 13 (pp. 642-654) and 14 (complete).

FINAL EXAM and MAKE-UP EXAMS:
Graduating and non-graduating students:
3:00-5:30 pm, Tuesday, May 9: Class material and reading assignment.

Objectives
The main goal is to provide you with knowledge about the factors that contribute to the evolution and development of brain-behavior relationships. You will learn a basic vocabulary and a set of concepts and theories that will enable you to appreciate the importance and scope of comparative psychology. This course is organized around five fundamental topics: evolutionary theory, brain evolution, animal learning and cognition, behavioral development, and primate evolution.

Textbooks

Exams
There will be 5 exams, each worth a maximum of 40 points (maximum total points in exams: 200; see below). In terms of reading material, there will be no overlap between the exams. There will be no comprehensive final. Each exam will involve 40 multiple-choice questions, each with 4 alternatives, only one correct alternative per question, and each question will be worth 1 point.

Missing Exams
Make-up exams will be given immediately after the final exam (see above for date).

Exam Requirements
The following will be required during an exam in this course:

1. **PERSONAL PROPERTY** (backpacks, clothing, etc.): All personal property/items will be on the floor next to you or at the front of the room.

2. **LEAVING THE ROOM**: Once you are in possession of an exam, you will not be permitted to leave the room until you complete the test.

3. **FOOD/DRINKS**: No food or drinks are allowed in the classroom.
(4) **ADJACENT EXAMS**: Resist the temptation to look at others’ exams and protect your own exam from being viewed by others.

(5) **COMPUTERS, PHONES, WATCHES**: You must turn off your computer, and put your phones and watches away in a pocket or backpack.

(6) **HATS**: You are not allowed to wear hats during an exam.

(7) **EXAM**: Under no circumstances may exam questions or any part of an exam be removed, reproduced, and/or disclosed by any means (hard copy, verbally, electronically, etc.) to any person or entity.

Failure to comply with these instructions may result in the immediate termination of the exam and an assignment of a zero score for that exam. The Dean’s office will also be notified of the violation.

**Extra Points**

For each hour of participating in research through SONA, two points will be added to your final course score, up to a maximum of 5 hours or 10 extra points. Instructions on how to register for participation in experiments (SONA system) can be found here:

http://psychology.tcu.edu/current-undergraduate-students/sona-systems/

**Grading**

Your final score will be the sum of the scores obtained in the 5 exams plus the extra points (maximum extra points: 10). Thus, a student who scores the maximum number of points will have a final score of 210 (200 from exams plus 10 from extra points). Letter grading from your final score:

- A: 180-210 points.
- B: 160-179 points.
- C: 140-159 points.
- D: 120-139 points.
- F: below 120 points.

**Attendance Policy**

This course has a total of 30 meetings of which 5 are allocated to the exams. Attendance in the remaining 25 lectures will be monitored. It is recommended that you attend all the lectures since this course depends heavily on material presented in class. It is unlikely that you will obtain a C or better grade if you miss more than 20% of the 25 lectures (that’s about 5 absences in the entire semester). Here is evidence of the correlation between attendance and grades from several courses offered over the past several years. Notice that attendance accounts for 82% of the variance in grades. I may add that I found strong correlations like this one in my other courses, suggesting that this is probably true for most of the courses you take at TCU.
Concern about Grade Inflation

New data on grade inflation shows that there is a general trend across both public and private schools toward higher grades over the period ranging between 1991 and 2007 (see www.gradeinflation.com for more information). This trend is not apparently present in community colleges. Notice in the graph given below that this trend is especially robust in private schools, like TCU. Although there are several interpretations of these results, if the trend continues, soon a diploma from a private school may be worth less than one from a public school in the job market. Whether or not this would be fair is irrelevant to your professional future. TCU was not sampled for the research represented in this figure, but, as a private school, its graduates may be affected anyway. I provide this information so that you become aware of a potential problem.

Students with Disabilities

If you require accommodation for a disability (physical, learning, or otherwise), please contact the Coordinator of Academic Services for Students with Disabilities. Once I have received a letter from the Coordinator’s office that outlines need-specific accommodations, we can then implement fair procedures targeted to your learning requirements.
Academic Misconduct

In order to encourage and preserve the honor and integrity of the academic community, TCU expects its students to maintain high standards of personal and scholarly conduct. Academic misconduct includes the following acts:

A. Cheating
   1. Copying from another student’s test paper, lab report, other report, or computer files and listings.
   2. Using, during any academic exercise, material and/or devices not authorized by the person in charge of the test.
   3. Collaborating with or seeking aid from another student during a test or a lab without permission.
   4. Knowingly using, buying, selling, stealing, transporting, or soliciting in its entirety or in part, the contents of a test or other assignment unauthorized for release.
   5. Substituting for another student, or permitting another student to substitute for oneself, to take a test or other assignment or to make a presentation.

B. Plagiarism
   The appropriation, theft, purchase, or obtaining by any means another’s work, and the unacknowledged submission or incorporation of that work as one’s own offered for credit. Appropriation includes the quoting or paraphrasing of another’s work without giving credit therefore.

C. Collusion
   The unauthorized collaboration with another in preparing work offered for credit.

D. Abuse of resource materials
   Mutilating, destroying, concealing, or stealing such materials.

E. Computer misuse
   Unauthorized or illegal use of computer software or hardware through the TCU Computer Center or through any programs, terminals, or freestanding computers owned, leased, or operated by TCU or any of its academic units for the purpose of affecting the academic standing of a student.

F. Fabrication and falsification
   Unauthorized alteration or invention of any information or citation in an academic exercise.

G. Multiple submissions
   The submission by the same individual of substantial portions of the same academic work (including oral reports) for credit more than once in the same or another class without authorization.

H. Complicity in academic misconduct
   Helping another to commit an act of academic misconduct.

All instructors or proctors shall have the right to examine materials in the student’s possession during quizzes, examination, and/or laboratory sessions. In instances of cheating during an examination or other classroom or laboratory activity or exercise, the instructor shall have the
right to suspend the student(s) credit for the examination or exercise. Faculty may impose the following sanctions for academic misconduct:

1. Grant no credit for the examination or assignment in question (treated as a missed assignment).

2. Assign a grade of F (or a zero) for the examination or assignment in question.

3. Recommend to the dean that the student be dropped immediately from the course with a grade of F. This grade cannot be changed by student-initiated withdrawal.

Also note that the dean of the college may enforce specific sanctions. Procedures for handling cases of alleged academic misconduct have been carefully drawn to protect the rights of individual students and to safeguard the University’s commitment to academic integrity.