

Psychology 382
Comparative Psychology
Fall 2008
Monday-Friday 9:00-9:50 am; AB-4, Room 205

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Course Description: Psychology 382 deals with the interactions of animals' structures, behaviors, and the environment and how these animals adapt to changing conditions to ensure immortality. Topics include habitat selection, navigation, predation, avoiding predation, reproductive strategies, and social behaviors.

Learning objectives:

1. to gain an understanding of the mechanisms of evolution and the emergence of anatomical diversity;
2. to investigate anatomical differences in the phyletic tree;
3. to see how these differences result in behavioral changes;
4. to investigate specialized adaptations to environmental stimuli;
5. to examine differences in

social behaviors,
habitat selection,
migration,
territoriality,
predation and antipredatory behaviors,
reproductive strategies, and
communication

among various organisms.

Grade Policy

There will be four exams in this course and your grade will be determined by the total number of points accumulated on three of four classroom exams. If you miss an examination, you may take a make-up of that examination, but beware, you may take only one make-up exam during the semester AND you must take that make-up exam within three class days.

Your grade will be based upon the following schema:

A=360-400; B=320-359;
C=280-319; D=240-279; F=let's not even go there

Attendance Policy:

You are expected to attend every class. If you miss six classes, your final grade will drop by one letter grade. If you miss 10 classes, your grade will drop by two letter grades. If you miss 12 classes, you will receive an F for this course.

Notice to a person with a disability:

It is the policy of Sam Houston State University that no individual otherwise qualified shall, solely by reason of his or her disability, be excluded from the participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any academic program or activity. Students with a disability which affects their academic performance are expected to arrange for a conference with the instructor as soon as possible. This is so that appropriate strategies can be considered to ensure participation and achievement opportunities are not impaired since there will be no retroactive accommodation.

Study Tips: The best advice on how to study for this course is to read the material beforehand, listen attentively to the lecture, then review the material very soon after each class has ended. In addition, student with academic difficulty should contact the SAM Center.

Syllabus

Text: Greenberg, G. & Haraway, M. M. (2002). Principles of Comparative Psychology. New York: Allyn & Bacon.

Date	Topic	Reading
August 25-27	Zoological Classification and Mechanisms of Evolution	Ch: 1
August 29 Sep 10	The Development of Behavior Classifications and adaptations	Ch: 2
Sep 12	Test 1	
Sep 15-22	Behavioral Organization Stimuli and cyclical variations Ecological variations	Ch: 2
Sep 24- Oct 6	Habitat selection, territoriality, navigation	Ch: 3
October 8	Test 2	
Oct 10-17	Feeding	Ch: 4
Oct 20-27	Predation and antipredator behaviors	Ch: 8
Oct 29- Nov 7	Reproductive Strategies	Ch: 7
Nov 10	Test 3	
Nov 12-17	Ecology of communication	Ch: 6
Nov 19- Dec 1	Social Behaviors costs and benefits	Ch: 5
Dec 3-10	Evolution as applied to human behavior	Ch: 9,10
TBA	Final Exam	