

**Comparative Psychology  
(Psych 601)  
Call Number = 18210-1  
Winter Quarter 2008 (5 Credits)**

Instructor: A.C. DeVries

Class meets Tuesdays and Thursdays 12:30-1:48 pm in the LZ02

Office Hours: Thursdays 10:00-11:00 and by appointment. Office: PS 51

Phone: 614.292.7353; Fax: 614.688.4733; E-mail: devries.14@osu.edu

Web Site: <http://www.psy.ohio-state.edu/faculty/devries/>

Course Website: Carmen

The material in the course will be presented in a lecture-style format. The goal of the course is to learn about the basic principles of comparative psychology and animal behavior. Studies of the behavior of different species in the lab and in the field will be discussed. Topics covered in lecture will include orientation, migration, communication, reproduction, parent-offspring interaction, ontogeny of behavior and social organization. The evolutionary and adaptive significance of the mechanisms underlying behavior will be emphasized. Lectures will be posted on Carmen.

**SCHEDULE OF CLASSES**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Tentative Topic</b>	<b>Reading</b>
<b>3 Jan</b>	Introduction, aims, requirements, course overview	
<b>8 Jan</b>	Evolution, Natural Selection, LOA	Chapter 1
<b>10 Jan</b>	Levels of Analysis; birdsong	Chapter 2
<b>15 Jan</b>	Development of Behavior, Genes and Environment	Chapter 3
<b>17 Jan</b>	Neural Mechanisms, Effectors and Receptors, Integration-Central Processing	Chapter 4
<b>22 Jan</b>	Hormones and Behavior	Chapter 5
<b>24 Jan</b>	Hormones and Behavior cont.	Chapter 5
<b>29 Jan</b>	Predator-Prey Interactions	Chapter 6
<b>31 Jan</b>	Evolution of Feeding Behavior	Chapter 7
<b>5 Feb</b>	***** <b>Exam (40%)</b> *****	

<b>7 Feb</b>	Habitat Selection	Chapter 8
<b>12 Feb</b>	Communication (part 1)	Chapter 9
<b>14 Feb</b>	Communication (part 2) Take Home Essays handed out	Chapter 9
<b>19 Feb</b>	Mate Choice	Chapter 10
<b>21 Feb</b>	Mate Choice and Mating Systems	Chapter 10&11
<b>26 Feb</b>	Mating Systems	Chapter 11
<b>28 Feb</b>	Parental Investment	Chapters 12
<b>4 March</b>	Social Groups, Inclusive Fitness Take Home Essays Due (20%)	Chapter 13
<b>6 March</b>	Social Groups and Evolution of Sociality	Chapter 13
<b>13 March</b>	<b>*****FINAL EXAMINATION (40%)***** 11:30-1:18 PM</b>	

Your final grade will be based on examination scores. The midterm and final exams will be weighted equally. % correct: A=90%-100%, B+=85-89%, B=80-84%, C+=79-75%, C=70-74%, D+=65-69%, D=64-60% and F=<59%). The exams will include multiple choice, short answer and essay questions. There are no make-up exams. No extra credit will be awarded.

**Required Reading:** Animal Behavior: An Evolutionary Approach by John Alcock (Eighth Edition; ISBN 0-87893-005-1) **Important!** If you are having difficulty with any of the material, either in lecture or in the readings, then please see the instructor for help. The instructor is here to facilitate your learning, and that means not only giving lectures, but also consulting with you individually. The quarter is very short, so it is critical to seek assistance as soon as you detect a problem.

**Take Home Essays:** Worth 20% of the final grade. This assignment is expected to be independent work. Shared work will result in a zero on the assignment for all involved individuals and will be considered academic misconduct (possibly resulting in formal charges). You may use your textbook and notes in formulating the answers. The answers must be typed (single space 12 point font) and are due at the beginning of class on March 4<sup>th</sup>.

**Academic Misconduct:** All students at The Ohio State University are bound by the Code of Conduct (see [http://studentaffairs.osu.edu/resource\\_csc.asp](http://studentaffairs.osu.edu/resource_csc.asp)) Violations of this code in this class will be dealt with according to the procedures detailed in that code. Specifically, any alleged cases of misconduct will be referred to the Committee on Academic Misconduct.

## **ACCOMMODATIONS FOR DISABLED STUDENTS**

**The policy of The Ohio State University is to provide every reasonable, appropriate, and necessary accommodation to qualified disabled students. Any student who feels s/he may need an accommodation based on the impact of a disability should contact me privately to discuss their specific needs. The student also should contact the Office for Disability Services (614-292-3307; 150 Pomerene Hall; <http://www.ods.ohio-state.edu/welcome.htm> to document disabilities and coordinate reasonable accommodations.**