



Department of Psychological Sciences

PSYC 2110 | Intro to Comparative Psychology

Course Catalog Description: Animal and human behavior from a comparative point of view. Includes the study of methodology, and classification of behavior patterns, as well as the origin of these patterns. **Credit Hours:** (3). **Prerequisite(s):** PSYC 1101 with a grade of C or above.

Important Information: Passing this course with a D or higher, or other ***Biological*** Basis of Behavior option, is a requirement to receive a Psychology Major or Minor. Additionally, be aware that this class will feel like an Animal Biology class. All psychology is tied to biology: genes, bodily processes, and their interaction with the environment.

Contact | Professor Fulton

Hello! I'm Professor Fulton.

Contact me by email: marviene.fulton@charlotte.edu

- Always include the course section number in your email (2110-002)
- I respond to emails Mon-Fri 9am to 6pm.
 - If I have not responded directly to you *or I've not sent out a class announcement that contains the response* within 30 hours, feel free to email again.
- Please read the syllabus and assignment instructions closely before reaching out to me. Most answers to your questions are in this document or on Canvas.
- Use the Expected Digital Conduct instructions when composing your email. I provide it on Canvas in the Start Here module.
- Do not contact me about absences unless you are seeking a SASS verification. If you need notes, ask a classmate.

Virtual Open-door Office Hours: Wed 1:15 to 2:15, unless posted otherwise on Canvas's homepage. Login with your UNC Charlotte email to join the zoom. Zoom info on Canvas.

Virtual Appointments – Available upon request. We can meet one on one via Zoom by appointment. Login with your UNC Charlotte email to join the zoom.

Class | Meeting Times

Tue & Thu 11:30 AM – 12:45 AM
Colvard Building, Room 4123

Required Materials

1. The course textbook is included as part of the Niner Course Pack program. However, no access codes are needed; a used book will work.

ISBN-13: 978-0197564912
Title: Animal Behavior
Author: Dustin R. Rubenstein
Publisher: Sinauer Associates is an imprint of Oxford University
Edition: 12th
Date: April 13, 2022

2. You are required to have an internet-capable device to access Canvas and participate in this course during and outside of class. A smartphone or tablet will work for lecture, but you will need a laptop with Respondus Lockdown Browser for Exams.
 - It is your responsibility to ensure that your devices work well in advance of any due date. *Contact IT for assistance.*
 - You are required to participate in Poll Everywhere *during class*. A smartphone or tablet is fine.
 - You are required to provide yourself with a properly set up and working computer, webcam, microphone, and UNC Charlotte testing software to take the first two exams online, outside of class.
 - You are required to set up Lockdown Browser with Respondus in advance and on your own. More About Respondus is in the Start Here Module on Canvas.
 - The [library will loan you a laptop](#) for free, but you need to ensure the librarian fixes the Lockdown Browser / Respondus Monitor to work with screen recording. It rarely already works.
 - You will need a pre-tested laptop with Lockdown browser to take the final in class. It needs to have Lockdown working, but not the camera.
3. Two Scantrons, Blue books, and pencils are required as back-up on Final Exam Day in case your laptop does not work. A LIMITED number of physical copies will be available in case of emergencies. Contact me in advance if you prefer a physical copy or I may not have enough for students who opt to not bring a laptop.

Course Objectives

By the end of this course, you should be able to:

- Use evolutionary theory, including the mechanisms of natural selection and sexual selection, to explain behavior.
- Describe the importance and impact of foundational and cutting-edge animal behavior research and its findings.
- Analyze the adaptive value of behavioral traits, especially by employing the Cost-Benefit approach.
- Employ a multilevel analysis and integrative approach to link behavior to genetic, neural, physiological, and ecological and social environments.
- Show how the examination of animal behavior gives insight into human behavior; and how the examination of human behavior gives insight into animal behavior.

Grading & Feedback

Follow the "Syllabus" link on the left side of the Canvas page to see every assignment's due date. A tentative schedule is provided at the end of this syllabus. *You NEED a laptop to take your Final exam in class!*

Course Element	Percentage
Documentary 1 – Transcript+ Assignment	5%
Documentary 2 – Summary+ Assignment	10%
Animal Observation 1 – Domestic Animal	10%
Animal Observation 2 – Wild Animal	10%
Module Practice Questions (15 MPQs)	15%
Exam 1 – Online (Module 1 to 5)	15%
Exam 2 – Online (Module 6 to 10)	15%
Final – In Class, with your own laptop, during Finals Week. Mostly Module 11 to 15.	20%
Total	100%

Extra Credit Opportunities	Percentage
Constructive Feedback 1	.5%
Constructive Feedback 2	.5%
Constructive Feedback 3	.5%
Total Possible	1.5%

I use a standard grading scale, **without rounding**: A 100% to 90.0%, B = 89.9% to 80.0%, C = 79.9% to 70.0%, D = 69.9% to 60.0%, F = 59.9% to 0.0%

I only round up the final grade for failing students that have completed all assignments. Email me if you need to take advantage of it. For everyone else: 1.5% extra credit is easily earned, and you only need a D for diploma credit. Therefore, I will not round up non-failing grades.

Assignment Category Details

Documentary Assignments (15%)

You will watch two documentaries and complete fill in the blank and short essay questions. Afterward, you will copy your answers into a canvas assignment to submit it. The first is 5% of your grade and the second is 10% of your grade.

Animal Observation Reports (20%)

You will do two animal observation reports. These are not book reports. You will observe an animal, much like a field biologist. Your first report is on a domestic animal, the second is on a wild animal. Each are worth 10% of your grade.

Module Practice (15%)

All 15 modules have module practice questions. You can take the Module Practice Questions *unlimited times* until access closes. The highest grade is kept. Each module practice is 1% of your grade.

Exams (15%, 15%, 20%)

There are 3 exams (not just 2!). The first two exams are 15% of your grade, each. The third, your final, is cumulative and is 20% of your grade.

- All exams require Lockdown Browser. Your first two exams also require Respondus Monitor. It is your responsibility to ensure it is working properly *ahead of time*.
- The first two exams are given online and will be open for multiple days.
 - You have unlimited time to complete them during one, uninterrupted sitting.
 - Exam 1 and 2 are non-cumulative, cover 5 Modules each, and are 50 to 75 multiple choice, matching, fill in the blank, and short essay questions.
- The Final, Exam 3, is in class during finals week.
 - You will need to bring a laptop that has been PREVIOUSLY TESTED AND IS VERIFIED AS WORKING WITH THE TEST MONITORING SOFTWARE to class that day.
 - You will need to bring a scantron, blue book, and #2 pencil as back-up for your laptop
 - The final will have 75 to 100 multiple choice and fill in the blank / short essay questions. It will be cumulative, but mostly the modules since the last exam.

Feedback About Your Work

Observation Reports: Feedback on the Domestic Animal Observation reports will be available in time to use on the Wild Animal Observation report. Both have very detailed rubrics. An example of the first report is on Canvas.

Documentaries: Canvas does not grade the documentaries perfectly. You will probably have entries that need manual credit. I will give you credit and ensure you have the correct answers in time to study for the exam.

Module Practice Questions: Grading is done automatically by Canvas. The weekly module practices will not show you correct answers since it is unlimited attempts, but it will show you any notations I have attached to answer choices.

Feedback on your Feedback. I do not respond to every person, but I do read them all!

Exams: You will have a short time after the exam is graded to view the questions and answer choices. Some exam questions / answers have feedback embedded.

Late Work and Make-Ups

Module Practice Questions: These are due weekly, but you can turn them in with no penalty until exam day. When access closes, they will not be reopened. You have from the day the module opens until the day before the exam to turn them in. I will not take Module Practices after you take the exam for them. Their purpose is to prepare you for the exams. It is YOUR responsibility to plan your workload. My set-up allows flexibility for adult lives, which inherently allows procrastination. I am catering to responsible adults that need flexibility.

Documentary & Observation assignments: I will not take these late because they are open the first day of class. When access to them closes, they will not be reopened. *Do*

them early if there is any chance, for any reason, you may not be able to do them closer to their due date.

Exams: This course has two online exams that are open multiple days. Your final is in class, during finals week, and cannot be rescheduled after missing it. However, should you need to reschedule Exam 1 or 2 before *or after* missing an online exam, you can. Here is the policy:

Your online exam is considered late after the due date, even if access to the exam is open. The short extra access time to the exam, after the 11:59 pm due date, has a 5% late penalty. It will be applied manually. After your access closes, you must reach out to me *immediately* if you plan to make up an Exam, with or without a SASS verification.

With SASS Verification:

- You are required to reach out to me as soon as you can to let me know a SASS letter is being requested.
- You are required to reach out again within 48 hours after the SASS clears to schedule the exam ASAP.
 - For SASS verified appointments: No penalty to take the exam early or to take it up to two days after it was scheduled.
 - Since these are appointments and not uncontrollable events you are required to reschedule it a week *before* missing the exam.
 - For SASS verified uncontrollable events right before or during the exam: No penalty for rescheduling the exam *as soon as possible*.

Without SASS: You can reschedule one of the first two exams, at my discretion

- You can take the exam a day or two early without penalty if you schedule it a week or more in advance.
- If you reach out to me **more than a week before the exam** – you can take it up to 3 days *after* the due date with a 15% penalty **a day**
- If you reach out **the week of or after** missing the exam – you can take it up to 2 days *after* the due date with a 25% penalty **a day**

Course Policies

Syllabus Revision

The class schedule, requirements, standards, and any information provided in this syllabus may be modified at any time. Notice of changes will be announced on Canvas, in class (for in-person courses), and by emailed notification from Canvas (if you have those turned on!). Those changes will be reflected in an updated syllabus posted on the course website at <https://canvas.charlotte.edu>.

UNC Charlotte Workload Policy

Students are expected to work 1500 minutes outside of class for each **one** semester hour of credit. Each 1 credit hour corresponds to **a minimum** of 100 minutes of out of class work per week. This is a 3-credit course.

- According to UNCC policy: you are expected to do a minimum of 300 minutes (5 hours) of out of class work every week for 15 weeks of lecture in a 3-credit course.
- Some weeks will be busier than others, but they will balance out with less demanding ones. *The busiest part of the semester is during the first 5 weeks.*

General Conduct & Mutual Respect

On Canvas, in the Start Here module, please read the page “Expected Conduct & Netiquette.” You are expected to be professional and courteous in all interactions.

Everyone associated with my course is expected to engage with each other respectfully. This includes students, teacher’s assistants, and me. Unwelcome conduct directed toward another person based upon that person’s actual or perceived race, actual or perceived gender, color, religion, age, national origin, ethnicity, disability, or veteran status, or for any other reason, may constitute a violation of [University Policy 406](#), The Code of Student Responsibility. Any student suspected of engaging in such conduct will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct. You should expect that if your conduct during class discussions seriously disrupts the atmosphere of mutual respect I expect in this class, you will not be permitted to participate further. You may be asked to leave.

Suspicious Behavior, Cheating, & Plagiarism

ALL activities must be in your own words. Plagiarism will be handled on a case-by-case basis. Possible consequences include being reported to the Division of Student Affairs, getting a zero for the assignment, or receiving only partial credit, at my discretion.

For *suspicious behavior* during examinations that may intentionally or unintentionally give you the opportunity to cheat (which you may or may not have taken advantage of):

- You may receive partial credit or a zero. You may be allowed to take a different version of the test to receive full credit– at my discretion.
- Alternative test versions may have all different questions and be in an entirely different format than the original exam, including more fill in the blanks and essay questions.

Cheating *will* be reported to the Division of Student Affairs. I will follow the university’s code: <http://legal.charlotte.edu/policies/up-407>. Penalties can include (but are not limited to) receiving a zero on the assignment, receiving a 10% deduction in the class grade, total course failure, or expulsion from the university. Regardless of the penalty, the violation will be on your record.

Copyright Notice and Recording

My lectures and course materials, including presentations, tests, exams, outlines, and similar materials, are protected by copyright. I am the exclusive owner of copyright in those materials I create. You may not, nor may you knowingly allow others to reproduce or distribute lecture notes and course materials publicly without my express written consent. This includes providing materials to commercial course material suppliers. Students who publicly distribute or display or help others publicly distribute or display copies or modified copies of an instructor’s course materials may be in violation of University Policy 406, The Code of Student Responsibility, or University Policy 407, Code of Student Academic Integrity. Similarly, you own copyright in your original papers and exam essays. If I am interested in posting your answers or papers on the course web site, I will request your written permission.

Electronic video, image capture, and/or audio recording is not permitted during class, whether conducted in person or online, unless the student obtains permission from the instructor. If permission is granted, any distribution of the recording is prohibited. Students with specific electronic recording accommodations authorized by the Office of Disability Services do not require instructor permission; however, the instructor must be notified of any such accommodation prior to recording. Any distribution or sharing of such recordings is prohibited.

Student Support

Be sure to take advantage of the wealth of free resources and support available at UNC Charlotte students. Some of the resources available to you include the University Writing Resource Center, University Counseling Center, and the J. Murrey Atkins Library.

Mental Health Help

- [University Counseling Center](#) 704-687-0311

Academic Help

- [University Center for Academic Excellent](#) | (704) 687 7837 | uncc-ucae@charlotte.edu
- [University Writing Resources Center \(WRC\)](#) | 704-687-1899 | wrchelp@charlotte.edu

Disability Support Services

Students seeking accommodation for disabilities must first consult with the Office of Disability Services and follow the instructions of that office for obtaining accommodations. The Office of Disability Services works with current undergraduate and graduate students along with prospective students to ensure equal access to UNC Charlotte's campus and educational programs. Please visit the Office of Disability Services at for additional resources, email questions to disability@charlotte.edu, or call 704-687-0040 (tty/v) for more information.

Select University Policies

All university policies can be found at <https://legal.charlotte.edu/policies/university-policies>. Please check Canvas for a few select policies that I feel are important to note. The link is at the bottom of the Course Info page in the Start Here module.

Tentative Schedule for Assignments

Rely on the Canvas module assigned due dates and know my late policy. Planning your workload and meeting deadlines is your responsibility.

Wk	Date	Main Lecture Topic	Deliverables
1	Aug-20 Tue	Mod 1 - Chpt 1 - Intro to Comp Psych	8/21 Wed - Introduce Yourself Discussion Board
	Aug-22 Thu	Mod 1 conti	8/23 Fri - MPQ 1
2	Aug-27 Tue	Mod 2 - Chpt 2 - Song Learning Case study	8/28 Wed - Documentary 1 What Darwin Never Knew
	Aug-29 Thu	Mod 2 conti	8/30 Fri - MPQ 2

3	Sep-3 Tue	Mod 3 - Chpt 3 - Dev & Molecular Basis of Behavior	
	Sep-5 Thu	Mod 3 conti	9/6 Fri - MPQ 3 9/9 Mon - Domestic Animal Observation
4	Sep-10 Tue	Mod 4 - Chpt 4 & 5 - Neural Physiological & Endocrine Basis	9/11 Wed - Extra Credit Feedback 1
	Sep-12 Thu	Mod 4 conti	9/13 Fri - MPQ 4
5	Sep-17 Tue	Mod 5 - Chpt 6 & 7 - Predators Food Territoriality & Migration	
	Sep-19 Thu	Mod 5 conti	9/20 Fri - MPQ 5 9/23 Mon - EXAM 1, ONLINE
6	Sep-24 Tue	Mod 6 - Chpt 8 - Principles of Communication	
	Sep-26 Thu	Mod 6 conti	9/27 Fri - MPQ 6
7	Oct-1 Tue	Mod 7 - Complex Communication	
	Oct-3 Thu	Mod 7 conti	10/4 Fri - MPQ 7 10/7 Mon - Documentary 2 Why Sex
8	Oct-8 Tue	Mod 8 - Chpt 9 - Reproductive Behavior	
	Oct-10 Thu	Mod 8 conti	10/11 Fri - MPQ 8
9	Oct-15 Tue	NO CLASSES	10/14 Mon - Extra Credit Feedback 2
	Oct-17 Thu	Mod 9 - Chpt 10 - Mating Systems	FYI 10/17 Thu - Last Day to Withdraw
10	Oct-22 Tue	Mod 9 conti	10/23 Wed - MPQ 9
	Oct-24 Thu	Mod 10 - Chpt 11 - Parental Care	
11	Oct-29 Tue	Mod 10 conti	10/30 Wed - MPQ 10
	Oct-31 Thu	Mod 11 - Chpt 12 - Principles of Social Evolution & Altruism	11/4 Mon - EXAM 2, ONLINE
12	Nov-5 Tue	Mod 12 - Chpt 13 - Social Behavior & Reciprocity	
	Nov-7 Thu	Mod 12 conti	11/8 Fri - MPQ 11
13	Nov-12 Tue	Mod 13 - Emotions Self Awareness & Empathy	11/11 Mon - Wild Animal Observation
	Nov-14 Thu	Mod 13 conti	11/15 Fri - MPQ12
14	Nov-19 Tue	Mod 14 - Play Learning & Culture	
	Nov-21 Thu	Mod 14 conti	11/22 Fri - MPQ 13
15	Nov-26 Tue	Mod 15 - Chpt 14 - Human Behavior	11/26 Tue - MPQ 14
	Nov-28 Thu	NO CLASSES - Break 11/27 to 11/30	
16	Dec-3 Tue	Mod 15 conti + review	12/4 Wed - MPQ 15 12/4 Wed - Extra Credit Feedback 3
	Dec-5 Thu	NO CLASSES - Reading Day	
17	Dec-10 Tue	Final 11:00 to 1:30 pm: Cumulative, & IN CLASS on your laptop	FINAL (Exam 3) is IN CLASS. Prepare a laptop & test it ahead of time!