SYLLABUS: PRIMATE COGNITION (FALL 2010)

ANT 310L
Lecture: M/W 10-11 (JGB 2.216)
Discussion: M 9AM, M 4 PM, W 9AM, or F 10 AM (EPS 2.136)

INSTRUCTOR:
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Office Hours: M/W 11-12 & by appt.

TEACHING ASSISTANTS:

Kelsey Ellis
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COURSE DESCRIPTION:
One of the most defining characteristics of the primate order is our extraordinary capacity for learning and retention. This course provides an introduction to non-human primate knowledge of the physical world (space & objects, tools & causality, features & categories, quantities), as well as primate social knowledge (cooperative problem-solving, social strategies, forms of communication, social learning, theory of mind). Non-human primate cognition will be examined within an evolutionary and comparative framework, with emphasis placed on comparing and contrasting non-human primate cognition with that of humans and other taxonomic groups (e.g. birds, cetaceans, carnivores, rodents). This is a lower division course open to all students.
Course Format: Two hours of lecture and one hour of discussion per week.
Prerequisites: None.

Texts:
Pearce, J. 2008. Animal Learning and Cognition: An Introduction, 3rd Edition. London: Taylor and Francis. ***(Required)***

Tomasello, M and J. Call. 1997. Primate Cognition. Oxford: Oxford University Press. ***(Optional)***

Readings:
Additional readings will be provided periodically throughout the course via blackboard, and will be discussed in-class. **IT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO CHECK BLACKBOARD (http://courses.utexas.edu) PRIOR TO EVERY CLASS FOR READINGS & IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENTS!**

COURSE PLAN

This course plan is *tentative.* Topics may be added/eliminated and dates may change based upon instructor evaluation of class progress.

Week	Date	Lecture Topic	Notes
1	**8/25**	Course Intro	**No Discussion This Week!**
2	**8/30**	Introduction to Primates	
	9/1	Introduction to Primates	
3	**9/6**	**No Class; Labor Day**	**No Discussion This Week!**
	9/8	Cognitive Evolution	
4	**9/13**	In-Class Video	
	9/15	In-Class Video	
5	**9/20**	Learning Theory	
	9/22	Tools & Causality	
6	**9/27**	Tools & Causality	
	9/29	Features & Categories	
7	**10/4**	**Exam #1: Covering Lectures Through 9/27**	**30% of Course Grade!**
	10/6	Features & Categories	
8	**10/11**	Numbers & Serial Order	
	10/13	Numbers & Serial Order	
9	**10/18**	Space & Time	
	10/20	Space & Time	
10	**10/25**	Retention/Memory	
	10/27	Social Learning	
11	**11/1**	**Exam #2: Covering Lectures Through 10/25**	**30% of Course Grade!**
	11/3	Culture	
12	**11/8**	Communication & Language	
	11/10	Communication & Language	
12	**11/15**	Social Strategies (e.g. Deception, Cooperation)	
	11/17	Social Strategies (e.g. Deception, Cooperation)	
14	**11/22**	Theory of Mind	
	11/24	Theory of Mind	
15	**11/29**	Course Synthesis	
	12/1	**Exam #3: Covering Lectures Through 11/29**	**30% of Course Grade!**

Complete lecture notes will NOT be provided online. Occasionally, the graphics that will be used during the lecture will be provided ahead of time via blackboard. These will aid note-taking if printed prior to class. Thus, it is essential that you check blackboard regularly!

STATEMENT OF POLICIES

GRADING POLICY:

EXAMS (90%): Three exams will be given. Each exam will be worth 30% of the total course grade.

EXAM DATES:

Oct 4, 2010: Exam #1 (30% of Course Grade)

Nov 1, 2010: Exam #2 (30% of Course Grade)

Dec 1, 2010: Exam #3 (30% of Course Grade)

No final exam will be given. The only exams are on the above three dates. Should you have a conflict with an exam date, you must notify the instructor within the first week of class. Make-up exams or rescheduling will only be allowed in extreme circumstances in accordance with university policies (see below).

PARTICIPATION (10%): Attendance and regular participation in discussion sections & at lectures is required. <u>You must attend only the discussion section for which you are registered.</u>

CREDIT/NO-CREDIT: In order to pass you must be present at all exams.

ADD/DROP/WITHDRAWAL:
For appropriate deadlines, please see your academic advisor. Important dates can also be found at http://registrar.utexas.edu/calendars/10-11/.

Q DROP POLICY
The State of Texas has enacted a law that limits the number of course drops for academic reasons to six (6). As stated in Senate Bill 1231: "Beginning with the fall 2007 academic term, an institution of higher education may not permit an undergraduate student a total of more than six dropped courses, including any course a transfer student has dropped at another institution of higher education, unless the student shows good cause for dropping more than that number."

COURSE EVALUATIONS:
The standard Instructional Assessment and Evaluation form will be used.

RE-GRADING POLICY: You must dispute a grade within one week of receipt. After one week, all grades are final. All disputes must be presented during my office hours, and

you must accompany each dispute with a clear and concise explanation in writing of why a re-grade is necessary.

USE OF BLACKBOARD:
In this class I use Blackboard—at http://courses.utexas.edu —to distribute course materials, to communicate and collaborate online, to post grades, to submit assignments, and to give you online quizzes and surveys. You can find support in using Blackboard at the ITS Help Desk at 475-9400, Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., so plan accordingly.

CLASS WEB SITES AND STUDENT PRIVACY:
Web-based, password-protected class sites will be associated with all academic courses taught at the University. Syllabi, handouts, assignments and other resources are types of information that may be available within these sites. Site activities could include exchanging e-mail, engaging in class discussions and chats, and exchanging files. In addition, electronic class rosters will be a component of the sites. Students who do not want their names included in these electronic class rosters must restrict their directory information in the Office of the Registrar, Main Building, Room 1. For information on restricting directory information, see the General Information Catalog or go to: http://registrar.utexas.edu/catalogs/ug08-10/.

USE OF E-MAIL FOR OFFICIAL CORRESPONDENCE:
Email is recognized as an official mode of university correspondence; therefore, you are responsible for reading your email for university and course-related information and announcements. You are responsible to keep the university informed about changes to your e-mail address. You should check your e-mail regularly and frequently to stay current with university-related communications, some of which may be time-critical. You can find UT Austin's policies and instructions for updating your e-mail address at http://www.utexas.edu/its/policies/emailnotify.php.

UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS HONOR CODE:
The core values of The University of Texas at Austin are learning, discovery, freedom, leadership, individual opportunity, and responsibility. Each member of the university is expected to uphold these values through integrity, honesty, trust, fairness, and respect toward peers and community.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY & SCHOLASTIC DISHONESTY:
All students must abide by the University Code of Academic Integrity. For details see: http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/sjs/acint_student.php. Plagiarism is a serious offense. Though discussion of course topics is encouraged, copying of work in part or full is not permitted. Talking of any kind during exams is also prohibited. If you are unsure of what constitutes plagiarism please see http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/sjs/scholdis_avoid.php. Should plagiarism occur, a zero will automatically be given to both the student who copies and the student who provided the work. Penalties can also include failure of the course and disciplinary action at the university level. Students who violate University rules on scholastic dishonesty (see: http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/sjs/scholdis.php) are

subject to disciplinary penalties, including the possibility of failure in the course and/or dismissal from the University. Since such dishonesty harms the individual, all students, and the integrity of the University, policies on scholastic dishonesty will be strictly enforced. For further information, visit the Student Judicial Services web site http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/sjs/, and the General Information Catalog

DOCUMENTED DISABILITY STATEMENT:
The University of Texas at Austin provides upon request appropriate academic accommodations for qualified students with disabilities. For more information, contact Services for Students with Disabilities at 471-6259 (voice) or 232-2937 (video phone).

RELIGIOUS HOLY DAYS:
By UT Austin policy, you must notify me of your pending absence at least fourteen days prior to the date of observance of a religious holy day. If you must miss a class, an examination, a work assignment, or a project in order to observe a religious holy day, I will give you an opportunity to complete the missed work within a reasonable time after the absence.