**Animal Cognition**

**PSYC461:007 & PSYC592:004 Fall 2018**

Instructor: Doris Bitler Davis, Ph.D. Office hours: Wednesdays 12:00-1:00 pm

Email: dbitler@gmu.edu

**Course Description**

This 3-credit course will explore animal cognition from evolutionary and behavioral perspectives. In addition to the required text, students will read peer-reviewed articles.

**Required and Recommended Materials**

Wynne, C. & Udell, M. (2013). *Animal Cognition (2nd Ed.)*. New York, NY: Palgrave Macmillan.

**Grading**

Grades will consist of the following weighted components

Exam 1 15%

Exam 2 15%

Presentation 10%

Attendance at presentations 12%

Paper topic and outlet 8%

Paper outline 10%

Review Paper 30%

**Cancellations**

If you haven’t already done so, please sign up for Mason Alert emergency notifications at <http://ready.gmu.edu/masonalert/> If the university closes, updates and schedule changes will be available by email and posted on Blackboard.

**Honor Code**

The integrity of the University community is affected by the individual choices made by each of us. Mason has an Honor Code (<http://oai.gmu.edu/the-mason-honor-code-2/>) with clear guidelines regarding academic integrity. Three fundamental and rather simple principles to follow at all times are that: (1) all work submitted be your own; (2) when using the work or ideas of others, including fellow students, give full credit through accurate citations; and (3) if you are uncertain about the ground rules on a particular assignment, ask for clarification. No grade is important enough to justify academic misconduct.

**Disability Accommodations**

If you are a student with a disability and you need academic accommodations, please see me early in the semester, and contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS) at 993-2474 or <http://ods.gmu.edu>. All academic accommodations must be arranged through the ODS.

**Electronic Communication**

Students must use their MasonLive email account to receive important University information, including messages related to this class. See <http://masonlive.gmu.edu> for more information.

**Deadlines:**

Last day to add a class – September 4

Last day to drop a class – September 9

Self-withdrawal period – September 10 to September 30

Selective withdrawal period – October 1 to October 28

**Tentative Schedule**

August 27 Introductions

August 29 Chapter 1: Evolution, Adaptation, Cognition and Behavior

September 3 Labor Day – No class

September 5 Chapter 2: Other Ways of Seeing the World

September 10

September 12 Chapter 3: Concept Formation

September 17

September 19 Chapter 4: Time and Number

September 24

September 26 Chapter 5: Cause and Effect

October 1 **Paper topics due**

October 3 Chapter 6: Reasoning

October 8 Columbus Day – No Class

Monday classes meet Tuesday this week, but we’ll take the day off

October 10

October 15 **Exam 1**

October 17 Chapter 7: Navigation

October 22

October 24 Chapter 8: Social Cognition and Self-Awareness

October 29

October 31 Chapter 9: Social Learning

**Paper outlines due**

November 5

November 7 Chapter 10: Remembering

November 12

November 14 Chapter 11: Animal Communication in the Wild

November 19 Chapter 12: Language

November 21 **Exam 2**

November 26 Student presentations

November 28 Student presentations

December 3 Student presentations

December 5 **Paper due**