

# PSY362H1 F

## Animal Cognition

### Fall 2024 Syllabus

#### Course Meetings

##### PSY362H1 F

Section	Day & Time	Delivery Mode & Location
LEC0101	Thursday, 2:00 PM - 5:00 PM	In Person: SS 1088

Refer to ACORN for the most up-to-date information about the location of the course meetings.

#### Course Contacts

**Instructor:** Professor Kaori Takehara-Nishiuchi

**Email:** [kaori.nishiuchi@utoronto.ca](mailto:kaori.nishiuchi@utoronto.ca)

**Office Hours and Location:** Virtual, by appointment only

**Additional Notes:** The primary contact method is via the Quercus email function. Please do not send emails to my utoronto email account. If you have questions about the lecture content, please ask them during the lectures, post them on “Discussions” in Quercus, or email me via Quercus. If you need to discuss any other issues and concerns, please make an appointment for a virtual individual meeting by sending a request via the Quercus email function. I will try my best to reply to emails within three business days.

#### Course Overview

This course is an introduction to the study of the cognitive capacity of animals other than humans. Topics include perception, memory, number concepts, spatial navigation, social communication, and tool use.

#### Course Learning Outcomes

By the end of this course, I hope you will acquire a theoretical and experimental framework for understanding and evaluating research on various cognitive processes using animal models.

**Prerequisites:** None

**Corequisites:** None

**Exclusions:** None

**Recommended Preparation:** None

**Credit Value:** None

## Course Materials

Textbook: Cognition, Evolution, and Behavior, Second Edition by Sara Shettleworth (2010)  
Oxford University Press

## Marking Scheme

Assessment	Percent	Details	Due Date
Term Test 1	25%		2024-10-03
Term Test 2	25%		2024-10-24
Term Test 3	25%		2024-11-28
Research Report	25%		2024-11-07

**Term Tests:** Term Tests will ask questions about topics covered during the lecture. The grade will be posted in Quercus within two weeks of the test. TA will hold an office hour to view the marked tests within a week after the grade has been posted. Any questions about the grading should be asked by sending an email via the Quercus email function within two weeks of the date the grades were released. Please specify which questions you are concerned about in the email and why. If your concerns are reasonable, I will schedule an individual meeting to re-evaluate your answers to the questions. Note that the re-evaluation may lower your mark.

**Research Report:** Three topics in animal cognition/comparative psychology are still the subject of intense debate.

1. Do animals other than humans have episodic memory?
2. Do animals other than humans have a theory of mind?
3. Do animals other than humans have a cognitive map?

In this assignment, you will write a short review of existing research findings on one of the above-listed questions. The report should be organized in the following format:

- Introduction (1 page)

Explain the cognitive process in question (e.g., what is episodic memory/theory of mind/cognitive map?).

- Your answer to the question (one sentence)

Decide whether your answer to the question is yes or no.

- Justification of your answer (5 pages)

By using PubMed (<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed>) and APA PsychNet (<http://www.apa.org/pubs/databases/psycnet/>), find at least five primary research articles that

support your answer. You need to find papers that were not introduced during the lecture and summarize each paper roughly on one page. Each summary must start with 2-3 sentences that explain what type of evidence this paper provides to support your answer.

Your papers should be 6-7 pages (double-spaced, not including references) with the list of references in APA format. Please use 12-point font and 1-inch margins. Include a cover page with your name, **student number**, and the title of your report. The report must be submitted to the Assignment section in Quercus by 2:00 pm on November 7th.

### **Late Assessment Submissions Policy**

Research report must be submitted to Quercus by 2 pm on November 7th. Late penalty has been specified in the subsequent section.

## **Course Schedule**

<b>Week</b>	<b>Description</b>
<b>Week 1</b> September 5th	Overview of the course, Primer (Chapter 1)
<b>Week 2</b> September 12th	Perception, Attention, and Discrimination (Chapters 3, 6)
<b>Week 3</b> September 19th	Learning and memory (Chapters 4, 5, 7)
<b>Week 4</b> September 26th	Spatial cognition (Chapter 8)
<b>Week 5</b> October 3rd	<b>Term test 1</b>
<b>Week 6</b> October 10th	Timing, Numerical Competence, Decision-making 1 (Chapters 9-11)
<b>Week 7</b> October 17th	Decision-making 2, Planning, Tool-use (Chapter 11)
<b>Week 8</b> October 24th	<b>Term test 2</b>
<b>Week 9</b>	Social intelligence

November 7th	(Chapter 12) <b>Research report due</b>
<b>Week 10</b> November 14th	Social learning (Chapter 13)
<b>Week 11</b> November 21st	Communication and language (Chapter 14)
<b>Week 12</b> November 28th	<b>Term test 3</b>

## Policies & Statements

### Attendance

I expect students to attend every lecture. Lectures will cover the assigned chapters in the textbook; however, they will also contain additional materials that will deepen your understanding of the course content. The test will include questions on anything mentioned during the lectures, regardless of whether it is from the textbook or not. Lecture slides will be posted on the “Files” tab in Quercus on the day of the lectures.

### Late/Missed Assignments

#### Missed tests

You will lose all the marks assigned to a test if you miss it. If you have legitimate excuses, such as a documented family emergency and documented illness, the documents need to be submitted within one week of the missed test. In this case, the score for the other tests will be used to substitute for the score for the missed test. The mark for the written assignment cannot be used as a substitute for the mark for the missed test. Therefore, if you miss all three tests, you will receive a mark of zero for the test component. There will be no make-up test.

#### Penalties for Lateness

Research report must be submitted to Quercus by 2 pm on November 7<sup>th</sup>. The request for the deadline extension should be accompanied by legitimate excuses and must be submitted three business days before the actual deadline. The penalty for late submission without a pre-approved extension is a reduction by 10% of the maximum mark applicable for each assignment for each business day that the assignment is late (the clock starts at 2:01 pm on November 7<sup>th</sup>). Therefore, an assignment submitted more than ten business days after the deadline will have a mark of zero recorded for that assignment.

## **Religious Accommodations**

As a student at the University of Toronto, you are part of a diverse community that welcomes and includes students and faculty from a wide range of cultural and religious traditions. For my part, I will make every reasonable effort to avoid scheduling tests, examinations, or other compulsory activities on religious holy days not captured by statutory holidays. Further to University Policy, if you anticipate being absent from class or missing a major course activity (such as a test or in-class assignment) due to a religious observance, please let me know as early in the course as possible, and with sufficient notice (at least two to three weeks), so that we can work together to make alternate arrangements.

## **Students with Disabilities or Accommodation Requirements**

Students with diverse learning styles and needs are welcome in this course. If you have an acute or ongoing disability issue or accommodation need, you should register with Accessibility Services (AS) at the beginning of the academic year by visiting <https://studentlife.utoronto.ca/departments/accessibility-services/>. Without registration, you will not be able to verify your situation with your instructors, and instructors will not be advised about your accommodation needs. AS will assess your situation, develop an accommodation plan with you, and support you in requesting accommodation for your course work. Remember that the process of accommodation is private: AS will not share details of your needs or condition with any instructor, and your instructors will not reveal that you are registered with AS.

## **Specific Medical Circumstances**

If you become ill and it affects your ability to do your academic work, consult me right away. Normally, I will ask you for documentation in support of your specific medical circumstances. This documentation can be an Absence Declaration (via ACORN) or the University's Verification of Student Illness or Injury (VOI) form. The VOI indicates the impact and severity of the illness, while protecting your privacy about the details of the nature of the illness. If you cannot submit a VOI due to limits on terms of use, you can submit a different form (like a letter from a doctor), as long as it is an original document, and it contains the same information as the VOI (including dates, academic impact, practitioner's signature, phone and registration number). For more information on the VOI, please see <http://www.illnessverification.utoronto.ca>. For information on Absence Declaration Tool for A&S students, please see <https://www.artsci.utoronto.ca/absence>. If you get a concussion, break your hand, or suffer some other acute injury, you should register with Accessibility Services as soon as possible.

## **Academic Integrity**

All suspected cases of academic dishonesty will be investigated following procedures outlined in the [Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters](https://governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/secretariat/policies/code-behaviour-academic-matters-july-1-2019) (<https://governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/secretariat/policies/code-behaviour-academic-matters-july-1-2019>). If you have questions or concerns about what constitutes appropriate academic behaviour or appropriate research and citation methods, please reach out to me. Note that you are expected to seek out additional information on academic integrity from me or from other

institutional resources. For example, to learn more about how to cite and use source material appropriately and for other writing support, see the U of T writing support website at <http://www.writing.utoronto.ca>. Consult the Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters for a complete outline of the University's policy and expectations. For more information, please see [A&S Student Academic Integrity \(https://www.artsci.utoronto.ca/current/academic-advising-and-support/student-academic-integrity\)](https://www.artsci.utoronto.ca/current/academic-advising-and-support/student-academic-integrity) and the [University of Toronto Website on Academic Integrity \(https://www.academicintegrity.utoronto.ca\)](https://www.academicintegrity.utoronto.ca).

## **Generative artificial intelligence tools**

The use of generative artificial intelligence (AI) tools, including ChatGPT and other AI writing assistants, for the completion of or to support the completion of any assignments in this course is prohibited. Representing an idea that was AI-generated as one's own idea may be considered an academic offense in this course.

## **Equity, Diversity and Inclusion**

The University of Toronto is committed to equity, human rights and respect for diversity. All members of the learning environment in this course should strive to create an atmosphere of mutual respect where all members of our community can express themselves, engage with each other, and respect one another's differences. U of T does not condone discrimination or harassment against any persons or communities.

## **Course Materials, including lecture notes**

Course materials are provided for the exclusive use of enrolled students. These materials should not be reposted, shared, put in the public domain, or otherwise distributed without the explicit permission of the instructor. These materials belong to your instructor, the University, and/or other sources depending on the specific facts of each situation and are protected by copyright. Students violating these policies will be subject to disciplinary actions under the Code of Student Conduct.

## **Quercus Info**

This Course uses the University's learning management system, Quercus, to post information about the course. This includes posting readings and other materials required to complete class activities and course assignments, as well as sharing important announcements and updates. New information and resources will be posted regularly as we move through the term. To access the course website, go to the U of T Quercus log-in page at <https://q.utoronto.ca>. SPECIAL NOTE ABOUT GRADES POSTED ONLINE: Please also note that any grades posted are for your information only, so you can view and track your progress through the course. No grades are considered official, including any posted in Quercus at any point in the term, until they have been formally approved and posted on ACORN at the end of the course. Please contact me as soon as possible if you think there is an error in any grade posted on Quercus.

## **Mental Health and Well-Being**

Your mental health is important. Throughout university life, there are many experiences that can impact your mental health and well-being. As a University of Toronto student, you can access

free mental health and wellbeing services at Health & Wellness (<https://studentlife.utoronto.ca/department/health-wellness/>) such as same day counselling, brief counselling, medical care, skill-building workshops, and drop-in peer support. You can also meet with a Wellness Navigation Advisor who can connect you with other campus and community services and support. Call the mental health clinic at 416-978-8030 ext. 5 to book an appointment or visit <https://uoft.me/mentalhealthcare> to learn about the services available to you.

You can also visit your College Registrar to learn about the resources and supports available: <https://www.artsci.utoronto.ca/current/academic-advising-and-support/college-registrars-offices>

If you're in distress, you can access immediate support: <https://uoft.me/feelingdistressed>

### **Departmental Guidance for Undergraduate Students in Psychology**

The Department of Psychology recognizes that, as a student, you may experience disruptions to your learning that are out of your control, and that there may be circumstances when you need extra support. Accordingly, the department has provided a [helpful guide](#) to clarify your and your instructor's responsibilities when navigating these situations. This guide consolidates Arts & Science Policies for undergraduate students in one place for your convenience. As an instructor in the department, I will frequently consult with these recommendations when providing you with support, and I recommend that you also consult it to learn more about your rights and responsibilities before reaching out to me.