

Psy 435
Seminar in Comparative Psychology
Dr. Pynn
Spring 2004
Take home Exam #2

Choose 3 of the 4 to answer. 20 points each. DO NOT ANSWER THE QUESTION IF YOU WERE ON THE TEAM THAT PRESENTED THE TOPIC. For each of the questions you answer, refer to each of the readings assigned by the team as well as the handout. Be sure to cite when you are referring to these sources by including the author name or “handout” in ()s. How you organize your essay is up to you. **Please write 3 typed double-spaced pages for each question. This section is worth 60 points total.**

1. Discuss the research on consciousness in non-human animals. Be sure to address the following points in your response:

- Distinguishing the terminology that is used to describe different aspects of consciousness
- Describing the methodology that is used as well as the criticisms and adaptations to traditional means of assessing self recognition/self awareness
- Evidence for consciousness in non-human animals
- Evolutionary significance of this topic to comparative psychologists

2. Discuss the research on social structure and hierarchy in human and non-human animals. Be sure to address the following points in your response:

- Distinguishing terminology, basic patterns of social structure and examples of species, including homo sapiens, in these categories
- Social dominance theory and its relevance to current theoretical conceptualizations of social hierarchy. Evaluate the empirical evidence presented to support/refute social dominance theory.
- Why is the topic of social structure and hierarchy significant for biologists, psychologists, and sociologists?

3. . Discuss the research on non-human animal emotions. Be sure to address the following points in your response:

- Distinguishing terminology used by researchers
- Describing the tensions between researchers who study non-humans (soft vs. hard science, behaviorist vs. ethologists, parsimony in explanations, etc.)
- Discuss the evidence of animals’ emotions presented in the readings and on the video we watched; point out conflicting interpretations of the data

4. Discuss the research on dolphins. Be sure to address the following points in your response:

- Research in different domains (e.g., language, numerosity, social behavior, etc.)
- Louis Hermann’s research on dolphin cognition and social behavior
- Dolphin therapy (please critically evaluate the abstracts in the handout).

Each of the following questions are 13.3 points each. **You must answer each question. Please write between 1-2 typed double-spaced pages for each question (NO MORE!). This section makes up the remaining 40 points.**

1. You are planning to conduct a research project on predators/prey in non-human animals. In a few sentences, briefly describe the objectives of the study you will do. Next, using the terminology/concepts relayed in the lecture, discuss some considerations that you will have as you begin planning your research project.

2. You are planning to conduct a research project on social learning in non-human animals. In a few sentences, briefly describe the objectives of the study you will do. Next, using the terminology/concepts relayed in the lecture, discuss some considerations that you will have as you begin planning your research project.

3. Describe some of the major research findings in the JCP article that you analyzed (cat progressive elimination strategy OR cat vocalization). Next, describe a variation that you would do as an experiment on this subject. What information will your study add/improve upon?