**Psy 480 Animal Cognition**

**Fall 2020**

**Dr. Val Farmer-Dougan**

*Please answer each of the following as completely as possible. You may use your notes, lectures and readings, and discuss with one another. Each answer should be approximately 2 pages in length. The Test is due on 10/29/2020 by midnight-ish.*

1. Culturally transmitted information regarding migration, food resources, social behavior, and so on, appear to be a common phenomenon in the animal world. “Cumulative cultural evolution” suggests that each generation augments culturally transmitted information with information gained from their own experience. Give an example of culturally transmitted behavior in one of the species of animals we have studied, and an example of cumulative cultural evolution in animals. Is this cultural transmission of information genetic, learned, or both? Finally, how might this type of cumulative cultural evolution occur in humans?
2. You are to give a talk to a group of ranchers and biologists who have gathered to hear plans for managing wolves in and around a national park. Your topic is to explain how animals may be “prewired” to behave in certain ways, how cultural transmission and learning can affect these behaviors, and ways to manage inappropriate and appropriate “wolf” behaviors using cognitive and behavioral psychology.
3. Do all animals have basic abilities to see, hear and perceive tactile information or are animals “Specialized for their environment”? Give examples from the readings to support your position(s).
4. Many people have learned that a) classical conditioning is separate from operant conditioning; b) that most animals cannot learn concepts, count, or reason, and c) animals have only a rudimentary concept of time and number. Using evidence from our readings (and your own knowledge), write a “blog” article for the general public debunking what they have learned about these topics.
5. Anthropomorphism and androcentrism are inherent pitfalls when studying animals. In addition, most of us have a belief that we are superior to animals in our perceptual and cognitive abilities. Given these issues, how has this class demonstrated that we CAN study animals in a scientific way and what has surprised you most about animal cognition and behavior?