**Psy 331.03 Advanced Laboratory in Operant Conditioning**

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**Study guide Week 13: Canine Cognition**

[**Cooper, et al. (2003). Clever hounds: Social cognition in the domestic dog (Canis familiaris).**](https://about.illinoisstate.edu/vfdouga/files/2021/01/Clever_hounds_social_cognition_in_the_do.pdf)

1. What is social cognition? What is social cognition in dogs?
2. Do dogs have social cognition skills? How did these skills develop over the centuries?
3. How did domestication and breeding alter social skills and social cognition in dogs?
4. How does a dog’s life experience affect its social skills?
5. List and briefly describe the various experimental methodologies used to investigate cognition and social cognition in dogs?
6. What recommendations for studying social cognition do the authors suggest?

[**Scandurra, Mongillo, Marinelli, Aria and D'Aniello (2016)**](https://about.illinoisstate.edu/vfdouga/files/2019/10/conspecific-social-learning-by-adult-dogs-in-a-training-context.pdf)

1. What is observational learning, and how does one demonstration observational learning with a dog?
2. Describe the procedures used in the study. What were the 2 parts of the study, and what was the importance of each?
3. What were the outcomes of each phase of the study? Was observational learning demonstrated? Why or why not?
4. Is observational learning an effective training tool for dog trainers? Why or why not?

**Things to think about:**

1. Do you think that modeling could be used to train dogs rather than relying only on operant conditioning and classical conditioning?

2. Why are dogs able to read human emotions? What does this get them?

3. Why would animals that are more closely bonded to humans be less willing to work on a problem for a long period of time than a dog that is less closely bonded?