

You will self-organize into Teams of 4\* (or be assigned to one) and will sign up for a presentation date

Presentations will be **Week 10** (Tues & Thurs) and at **FINAL** (Tues, March 17, 11:30-2:30, HSS 1128A)

ALL class members are required to attend, whether you are presenting or not

Grade will be a combination of Professor and Peer Ratings

Each TEAM . . .

- will be given 20 minutes to present your species to the class, including questions & discussion
- will decide for itself *how* to present (powerpoint, show-and-tell, theater, etc.!)
  - However, some sort of visual representation of your creature, in its habitat, is required.

Your species can have ANY configuration of traits as long as it . . .

- has a large, mammalian-ish brain
- is socio-cognitively complex
- makes sense in its environment (which may or may not exist on planet Earth)

The critical components that you must specify for your species include . . .

- 1) Multiple, ecologically-relevant sensory systems**, including some cross-modal integration
- 2) Morphology** (body shape, size, texture, etc.) that is adapted to its environment & enables sensory-motor coordination
- 3) Feeding strategies**, for locating, identifying, and processing resources. These strategies will . . .
  - suit embodied affordances, per morphology, sensori-motor coordination, dietary needs, etc. (e.g. to collect sufficient, varied nutrition to support large brain)
  - adapt to changes in resource availability (e.g. diurnal, seasonal, requiring extraction etc.)
  - be shaped in part by social factors (cooperation, competition, rank, gender, tradition, etc.)
- 4) Socio-cognitive complexity**, providing illustrative examples of social strategies/organization, and some account of their cognitive demands.
- 5) Associated developments in appropriate brain areas**
  - including Brainstem, Limbic System, Sensory Cortex, Higher Cortex

Your presentation will be scored on the basis of how well you . . .

- Meet the above 5 criteria
- Create a ***coherent & relevant*** mix of traits
- Demonstrate your imagination & understanding of class concepts!

\*NOTE: If a Team feels that any member did not make an equal contribution, please let Dr. Johnson know.