

OVERVIEW

Course title: Cal Pokémon Academy

Course number: NST 98

Term: Fall 2019 (CPA 16)

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CAL
POKÉMON
ACADEMY

Course Description

Cal Pokémon Academy celebrates and explores all things Pokémon! CPA covers the complete history of the Pokémon franchise, from popular media to meta-topics like marketing strategy and the competitive circuit. We also discuss social issues within the Pokéverse, then delve into the theoretical science behind your favorite creatures. Whether you're a naïve Youngster or a seasoned Veteran, CPA will help you catch up on two decades of developments, gain a new appreciation for the franchise, and make new friends on your journey to be the very best (like no one ever was).

Time and Location

Tuesdays and Thursdays 7 - 8pm in 2038 VLSB

Methods of Instruction

- **Classes:** Two one-hour blocks per week. Each class focuses on a specific topic and features lectures, icebreakers, and discussion.
 - **Homework:** Assignments are due in class on a weekly basis. They will allow students to engage with the course content in a fun and engaging way. See pages 3-5 for more details.
 - **Readings/Quizzes:** Every week, the instructors will email students a reading quiz with links to interesting articles and videos related to that week's lectures.
 - **Final Project:** At the end of the course, students prepare a group presentation for the rest of the class. More details will be announced partway through the semester.
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Grading Distribution

- **Attendance: 10%.** Class begins on Berkeley Time (10 minutes past the designated hour).
 - Please contact the facilitators ahead of time if you know you'll be tardy or absent
 - Three unexcused tardies = One unexcused absence
 - More than three unexcused absences will result in a No Pass
- **Homework: 25%.** Each assignment is worth 2 points, based on effort.
 - You can earn up to 3 points per assignment; 1 extra credit for extra effort
 - Late assignments will be accepted, but will be worth a maximum of 2 points
 - Each missing assignment at the end of the semester will deduct 10% from your final grade (missing 3 will result in a No Pass)
- **Quizzes: 25%.** Online quizzes will be emailed with required readings on a weekly basis.
 - Usually 2-3 articles, reports, or videos related to the lectures of that week
 - Quizzes should be submitted online before class each Tuesday
 - Missing more than 3 quizzes will result in a No Pass
- **Final: 40%.** An in-class group presentation during the final days of instruction.

SCHEDULE *Subject to Change

Week	Date	Topic	Homework
1	Thu 9/5	First Day: Course introduction and questionnaire	
2	Tue 9/10	Pocket Monsters, Inc.: Origins of the Pokémon franchise	
	Thu 9/12	Like No One Ever Was: Overview of the animated series	
3	Tue 9/17	Poké Mart: Manga and the Trading Card Game	Due: HW1
	Thu 9/19	Generation Gap 1: Core games, Generations 1-2	
4	Tue 9/24	Generation Gap 2: Core games, Generations 3-4	Due: HW2
	Thu 9/26	Generation Gap 3: Core games, Generations 5-6	
5	Tue 10/1	Generation Gap 4: Core games, Generation 7 + Pokémon GO & Let's GO	Due: HW3
	Thu 10/3	Rapid Fire 1: Spinoff games, Generations 1-3	
6	Tue 10/8	Rapid Fire 2: Spinoff games, Generations 4-7	Due: HW4
	Thu 10/10	Super Music Complete: Sounds of the Pokémon franchise	
7	Tue 10/15	Experience Share: Understanding stats, EVs, and IVs	Due: HW5
	Thu 10/17	Super Effective: Mechanics of competitive battling	
8	Tue 10/22	Special Lecture 1: Breeding or Advanced Competitive Battling	Due: HW6
	Thu 10/24	Final Project Group Selection: Team debates	
9	Tue 10/29	Exploring the Pokéverse: Geography of the Pokémon World	Due: HW7
	Thu 10/31	Man and Mon: Sociology of the Pokémon World	
10	Tue 11/5	On the Origin of Pokémon: Pokémon Biology at a glance	Due: HW8
	Thu 11/7	Tall Grass: Ecology of the Pokémon World	
11	Tue 11/12	The Hype is Real: Introduction to the Pokémon fandom	Due: HW9
	Thu 11/14	Final Project Presentations: Day 1	
12	Tue 11/19	Final Project Presentations: Day 2	
	Thu 11/21	Final Project Presentations: Day 3	
13	Tue 11/26	Special Lecture 2: Topic TBD by majority vote	
		Thanksgiving Break!	
14	Thu 12/3	Last Day: Course Evaluations and Fun Stuff	

ASSIGNMENTS

HW1: Draw Yourself (due 9/10)

Draw a picture of yourself as a Pokémon Trainer alongside your favorite Pokémon. It's okay if you're not particularly artistic—just put in the effort! Please do not use lined paper for art assignments.

HW2: Media (due 9/17)

Complete **one** of the following three assignments:

1. **Create a product pitch for TPCI** that showcases a piece of merchandise (visual media, character good, etc.) not currently being distributed. Provide a description and/or drawing of your product, and include information regarding 1) its target audience, 2) how it reinforces the Pokémon brand, and 3) what makes it unique from other Pokémon merchandise.
2. **Design your own TCG card.** Make sure it's something that could reasonably be used in the TCG, and include all the components of an actual card (image, description, etc.). Do not plagiarize others' work. You are free to use online templates, however.
3. **Watch an episode from the official Pokémon anime**—one that you haven't seen before—and **write a short response** telling us the episode title, anime season, a description of the plot, and any reactions or impressions you had while watching it. *At least 150 words. Many episodes are available on Pokemon.com. Do not watch Pokémon Origins or Pokémon Generations!*

HW3: Characters (due 9/24)

Complete **one** of the following two assignments:

1. **Make a recruitment ad** (e.g. poster or brochure) for a villainous team. The team can be from any of the core games or spin-offs.
2. **Come up with a backstory for a Gym Leader, Elite Four member, Champion, or Frontier Brain.** This can be an existing Pokémon character, or one of your own creation. If it's an original character, feel free to draw a picture of them and/or include their Pokémon team! *At least 200 words.*

HW4: Fanwork (due 10/1)

Create a piece of Pokémon fanwork. Examples include cross-fandom artwork, gijinka/fusion drawings, creepypasta, fanart, fanfiction—but anything written, drawn, or otherwise crafted is okay. Be creative! If there's something you want to make that isn't an upcoming assignment, this is your chance.

HW5: Music (due 10/8)

Complete **one** of the following two assignments:

1. **Create a Pokémon parody of an existing song.** Find a song you like and change the lyrics to be Pokémon-themed! You can submit either the lyrics themselves or a recording of yourself performing the song. Please parody a song that is at least 1 minute in length.
2. **Draw or write a response to a Pokémon-related song.** Include why the song appeals to you, as well as what you find interesting about its composition. If you have any background in music theory, sound design, etc., feel free to go all-out! *At least 200 words if written.*

HW6: Competitive Team (due 10/15)

Create a competitive team of six Pokémon, for a battle format of your choice. Be sure to include abilities, move sets, held items, EVs, and natures. Also, include a description of how the team would function—what each Pokémon's roles are, how they could support one another or cover each other's weaknesses, etc. *At least 200 words.*

Do not copy someone else's team outright, but feel free to use online resources (e.g. Smogon) for inspiration. If you're still shaky on competitive battling, contact us.

HW7: Geography (due 10/22)

Complete **one** of the following three assignments:

1. **Create your own region.** Include the locations and names of its cities, landmarks, special attractions, etc. as well as information about the general topography.
2. **Create a travel brochure** for any region or landmark in the Pokémon world. Advertise at least one of its major features, include both textual information and graphics.
3. **Write a blog entry or Yelp review** about your trip to a location in the Pokémon World. Describe the activities and landmarks there, as well as your (made-up) opinion of them. *At least 200 words.*

HW8: Mythology (due 10/29)

Complete **one** of the following two assignments:

1. **Write your own original Pokémon-related myth**, a narrative or ficlet that explores some kind of folklore. Any subject is fine so long as it pertains to the Pokémon world. *At least 200 words.*
2. **Create an artistic rendering of a Pokémon myth.** This could relate to a legendary/mythical Pokémon (e.g. Arceus creating the universe, Regigigas towing the continents), or a regular Pokémon (e.g. Shedinja stealing your soul).

HW9: Biology (due 11/5)

Complete **one** of the following two assignments:

1. **Depict a Pokémon's anatomical system (at least one) in detail**, e.g. skeletal and/or nervous. Clearly label structures and organs. You can trace images of your Pokémon

for reference, but draw the anatomy yourself. You may also use this image in your final project, if applicable.

2. **Write an extended Pokédex entry** for a Pokémon of your choice. Try to focus on biological aspects; you could discuss the Pokémon's habitat, diet, mating process, social behavior, and internal organs, but don't choose a Pokémon that's part of your final project. *At least 300 words.*

READINGS

Week 2: Franchise Overview, Anime

1. "The Ultimate Game Freak." Time Magazine, Nov 22, 1999.
<http://content.time.com/time/magazine/article/0,9171,2040095,00.html>
2. "Indecision 2012 - Oh, the Hermandity!" The Daily Show with Jon Stewart, Dec 5, 2011.
<http://www.cc.com/video-clips/meop9j/the-daily-show-with-jon-stewart-indecision-2012---oh-the-hermandity->
3. Pokémon Generations Episode 1: The Adventure. https://youtu.be/FHxZpk_hvJA

Week 3: Manga, TCG, Gen 1-2

1. Pokémon Adventures, chapters 001-003. <http://www.jb2448.info/index.php?/category/1231>
 - a. (click the chapter to start, then click the right side of the page or use your arrow keys to turn the page)
2. "Top 10 All-Time Strongest TCG Pokemon." TheJWittz, Jul 1, 2017.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9ue-0b18F5w>
3. Super Effective, comics 01-20. <http://www.vgcats.com/super/archives.php>

Week 4: Gen 3-6

1. "Analyzing All of the New Pokémon Mega Evolutions Announced So Far" USGamer, Aug 6, 2014.
<https://www.usgamer.net/articles/analyzing-pokemon-mega-evolutions>
2. "15 Scrapped Pokémon Designs That Were Reworked Entirely." ScreenRant, Aug 25, 2016.
<http://screenrant.com/abandoned-pokemon-designs>

Week 5: Gen 7, Pokémon Go, Spinoffs

1. "Meet the Mastermind Behind this Summer's Pokémon Craze." Time, July 13, 2016.
<http://time.com/4404282/pokemon-go-john-hanke/>
2. "How Pokémon Go changes the geography of cities." Splinter, July 26, 2016.
<http://splinternews.com/how-pokemon-go-changes-the-geography-of-cities-1793860565>

3. "Top 10 Pokémon Spin-Off Games." TheJWittz, Mar 30, 2013.
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G_B7qEYj8AQ

Week 6: Spinoffs 2, Music

1. "How Pokemon's Music Evolved Over Time." IGN, May 27, 2014.
<http://www.ign.com/articles/2014/05/27/how-pokemons-music-evolved-over-time>

Week 7: Competitive Battling

1. "Inside the Twisted World of Competitive Pokemon Battling." IGN, Oct 8, 2013.
<http://www.ign.com/articles/2013/10/08/inside-the-twisted-world-of-competitive-pokemon-battling>
2. "From Artist to Pokémon Champion - Interview with Zoe Lou, Queen of the Oceania International Championship." Trainer Tower, Apr 10, 2017.
<http://www.trainertower.com/from-artist-to-pokemon-champion-interview-with-zoe-lou-queen-of-the-oceania-international-championship/>
3. Lou, Zoe. "A Fairytale Ending: 1st Place Melbourne International Report." Edited by Andy Anderson. Trainer Tower, Apr 10, 2017.
<http://www.trainertower.com/a-fairytale-ending-1st-place-melbourne-international-report/>

Week 8: Special Lecture 1, Debates

1. "Eevee Epigenetics - A Tale of Phenotypic Plasticity." The Biology of Pokémon, April 02, 2016.
<https://pokebiology.wordpress.com/2016/04/02/eevee-epigenetics-a-tale-of-phenotypic-plasticity/>
2. "Cinnabar Island: Rebuilding the Ruins - Ecological Succession." The Biology of Pokémon, April 27, 2016.
<https://pokebiology.wordpress.com/2016/04/27/cinnabar-island-rebuilding-the-ruins-ecological-succession/>

Week 9: Geography, Sociology

1. "10 Weird/Creepy Pokédex Entries: Sun Edition." TheJWittz, Nov 24, 2016.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V8-ty20FtpI>
2. "10 Weird/Creepy Pokédex Entries: Moon Edition." TheJWittz, Dec 7, 2016.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V8-ty20FtpI>
3. Possamai, Adam. "Pokemon and Digimon." Sociology of Religion for Generations X and Y. Routledge, 2016.
<https://books.google.com/books?id=o7bsCwAAQBAJ&lpg=PT38&ots=hKjeTfQ4Wa&dq=sociology%20in%20pokemon%20games&pg=PT38#v=onepage&q=sociology%20in%20pokemon%20games&f=false>

Week 10: Biology, Ecology

1. Read two of the following and write a short response to each:
 - a. <https://pokebiology.wordpress.com/2016/05/04/azurill-the-hermaphrodite-pokemon/>
 - b. <https://pokebiology.wordpress.com/2016/05/27/sexual-dimorphism-in-the-pokemon-world>
 - c. <https://pokebiology.wordpress.com/2016/08/04/alola-form-exeggutor-island-gigantism-at-its-finest-pokemon-sun-and-moon/>
 - d. <https://pokebiology.wordpress.com/2016/08/11/the-feral-cat-problem-the-unfortunate-truth-about-alola-form-meowth-pokemon-sun-and-moon/>
 - e. <https://pokebiology.wordpress.com/2016/09/05/alolan-rattata-a-tale-of-mice-men-and-mongoose/>
 - f. <https://pokebiology.wordpress.com/2017/10/08/a-marowak-graveyard/>

Week 11: Fandom

1. "Pokemon's Burning Questions." GameInformer, Jul 13, 2016.
 - a. <http://www.gameinformer.com/b/features/archive/2012/11/23/pok-233-mon-39-s-burning-questions.aspx>