Evolution & Human Behaviour

Website:  http://www.science.mcmaster.ca/Psychology/psych3f3/3f3.html

Watch for updates! [indicated by NEW or UPDATE symbol]

When:  Thursdays 19:00-22:00   September 4 - November 27, 2003
Where:  Burke Sciences Building 147

Instructor  Martin Daly  <daly@mcmaster.ca>
TAs  Eric Bressler  <bressle@mcmaster.ca>
      Andrew Clark  <clarkap@mcmaster.ca>
      Daniel Krupp  <kruppdb@mcmaster.ca>

Course content domain

Psychology 3F3 will consider the application of contemporary evolutionary theories and knowledge to the study of human psychology and behaviour, especially social psychology and behaviour. Information about other species will be considered where it sheds comparative light on the human animal. This field is interdisciplinary: students will hear and read about research conducted by psychologists, anthropologists, economists, demographers, sociologists, health scientists and biologists, among others.

While developing an appreciation of how evolutionary thinking informs the study of human psychology and behaviour, you will also improve your critical thinking skills and increase your appreciation of the scientific method's role in the process of discovery.

Required Readings

Required readings will consist of a textbook (in its entirety) and a series of articles and excerpts from the primary literature of the field. The textbook is:


The other assigned readings will be available as .pdf files from the course web-site (and can also be found through their primary sources, as indicated by journal citation, etc.).

Assignments and Grading

Grades will be assigned on the basis of (1) a 3-hour registrar-scheduled final exam, worth 60 % of the total grade, and (2) performance on three term tests, to be held in class on Sept 25, Oct 23 and Nov 13, the best two of which will each count 20 %. Tests and exam may include multiple choice and/or short answer and/or essay questions. (A deferred final exam will not necessarily be of the same format as the original final.)

The term tests will test knowledge and comprehension of lectures prior to the test night and of assigned readings up to and including those scheduled for the test night. There will be no "make-up tests". If you miss one test without medical documentation, your term mark will be based on the other two. If you miss one, or more, and file medical documentation with your Dean of Studies, your grade will be based on the test(s) and exam that you have completed, with appropriate re-weighting.
Grades will be computed out of 100 points and converted to a letter grade as follows:

- 0-49 = F
- 50-52 = D-
- 53-56 = D
- 57-59 = D+
- 60-62 = C-
- 63-66 = C
- 67-69 = C+
- 70-72 = B-
- 73-76 = B
- 77-79 = B+
- 80-84 = A-
- 85-89 = A
- 90-100 = A+

The instructor reserves the right to adjust final marks up or down, on an individual basis, in light of special circumstances and/or the student's total performance in the course.

LearnLink

The assigned readings (other than the textbook) will be available on the class LearnLink site. Open discussion of lecture material and readings will also be available through LearnLink. The TAs will monitor the discussion and reply to questions when appropriate, but you are encouraged to use this forum for open discussion amongst yourselves. LearnLink will also be used for lecture notes and other course-related materials. Everyone registered in the course has access to the link to Psychology 3F3.

E-Mail

All students are expected to have McMaster e-mail accounts, by which we can communicate with you. If you have not yet activated your McMaster e-mail account, please do so. Occasionally, some students find it more convenient to receive e-mail at another address; we will try to accommodate such requests by adding non-McMaster addresses to the class distribution list, but cannot be responsible for messages that are not received by recipients using non-McMaster e-mail addresses.

Policy Reminder

Your attention is drawn to the Statement on Academic Ethics and the Senate Resolutions on Academic Dishonesty as found in the Senate Policy Statements distributed at registration and available in the Senate Office. Any student who infringes one of these resolutions will be treated according to the published policy.

Academic dishonesty consists of misrepresentation by deception or other fraudulent means and can result in serious consequences, e.g. a grade of zero on an assignment, loss of credit with a notation on the transcript (notation reads: “Grade of F assigned for academic dishonesty”), and/or suspension or expulsion from the university. It is your responsibility to understand what constitutes academic dishonesty. For information on the various kinds of academic dishonesty please refer to the Academic Integrity Policy, specifically Appendix 3, at http://www.mcmaster.ca/senate/academic/ac_integrity.htm

Message from the Chair of Psychology

The instructor cannot be responsible for returning long distance calls from students. Any student wishing to reach an instructor is invited to e-mail the instructor.
Required Readings

Required readings will consist of a textbook (in its entirety) and a series of articles and excerpts from the primary literature of the field. The textbook is:

The other assigned readings, listed below, will be available as .pdf files from the course web-site (and can also be found through their primary sources). These items should be read in preparation for the class whose date is in parentheses.

Schedule

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class</th>
<th>G &amp; McB chapters</th>
<th>Other readings</th>
<th>Note</th>
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<td>2 - Sept 11</td>
<td>1 &amp; 2</td>
<td>Reading list item 1</td>
<td>Sept 12 = Drop &amp; Add</td>
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<td>3 - Sept 18</td>
<td>3 &amp; 4</td>
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<td>4 - Sept 25</td>
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