In winter term, 2007, the focus of this seminar will be the relevance of kinship to human and nonhuman social behaviour. Kinship has long been a central concept in cultural anthropology, and, at least since Hamilton (1964), in animal behaviour as well, yet it has been neglected by social psychologists. We will examine theories and research from evolutionary biology, behavioural ecology, anthropology, and other social sciences in order to develop a broad view of kinship's importance and to begin to address how that importance is manifested in psychology and behaviour.

Registrants will include both undergraduate and graduate students. Prerequisites are such that students will be assumed to be familiar with some relevant science, including the concepts of genetic relatedness and inclusive fitness. For the first few weeks, there will be weekly reading assignments that must be done before class, so that students are prepared to discuss the papers. Everyone is expected to take part in discussions, but because we anticipate about 25 registrants, it will not be possible to schedule substantial individual seminar presentations. Graded assignments will thus be partly teamwork and partly individual, as detailed below.

Before the mid-semester break, you will write two critiques of published papers. You will also form small teams that will investigate a topic in more detail and will (after the break) collectively present a seminar to the class, reviewing present knowledge and discussing potential future research directions. For each seminar, certain audience members (randomly assigned) will submit written evaluations of the presentation to the instructors, who will anonymize these evaluations and return them to the research team; each class member will provide one such peer evaluation. Then each team member will write a research proposal in the form of a grant application. Although we expect the teams to have collaborated in their investigations of the literature and to have shared ideas, these proposals will be
individual papers, with each class member imagining him- or herself to be the Principal Investigator and the other team members to be co-investigators.

You will be provided with more detailed prescriptions of these tasks well before having to undertake them, and the full reading list will be available early in the term.

Assigned readings and other class materials will be available on a password-only website.

Course Evaluation:

The marks for students enrolled in Psychology 4R3 will be computed as follows:

- First written critique of a published paper: 10 %
- Second written critique: 15 %
- Team seminar presentation (same grade for all team members): 15 %
- Written evaluation of one seminar presented by classmates: 10 %
- Grant proposal: 40 %
- Class participation: 10 %