

Psychology 3F03E *Evolution & Human Behaviour* June-August, 2009

Where & When: MDCL Rm 1309, Tuesdays & Thursdays, 18:30-21:30, June 23–Aug 4, 2009

Instructor: Dr. Marian Wong <wongma@mcmaster.ca>

Course Content

This course concerns the relevance of contemporary evolutionary theories and knowledge for understanding human psychology and behaviour, especially social behaviour. The field is interdisciplinary: students will read and hear about research by psychologists, anthropologists, economists, demographers, sociologists, health scientists, and biologists.

While developing an appreciation of the ways in which evolutionary thinking can inform the study of human psychology and behaviour, you will also gain experience in evaluating primary research reports. Ideally, you will thereby acquire a more critical grasp of the relationships among research methods, data, and interpretations, and this critical capability will assist you in constructing a research-based project at the end of the course

Required Readings

The required readings, listed on syllabus pages 2-3 below, are articles and excerpts from both primary research literature and more elementary sources. You are responsible for *all* of these readings, which can be accessed online through the McMaster library e-journals portal or via the course web site. Also listed below (syllabus page 3 bottom) is additional reading that is not required but may be helpful.

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, (2) one mid-term test, to be held in class on July 7, worth 30 % of the total grade, and (3) one 5-minute oral presentation of a potential research-based project, worth 10% of the total grade. The test and the final exam may include multiple choice and/or short answer and/or essay questions. A deferred final exam will not necessarily be of exactly the same format as the original final exam.

The mid-term test will assess 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 the test without documentation acceptable to your faculty's Dean of Studies, your term mark will be based on the other two; if you do file suitable documentation with your Dean of Studies, your grade will be based on the test and exam that you completed, with appropriate re-weighting. For further information about missed work, medical exemptions (including the McMaster medical certificate), exam conflicts, and deferred exams, see < <http://www.science.mcmaster.ca/~associatedean/services/services.html> >

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.

e-mail

All students should have McMaster e-mail accounts, by which we can communicate with you. Some students find it more convenient to receive e-mail at another address and we will try to accommodate their requests, but we 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/univsec/policy/AcademicIntegrity.pdf> >.

Schedule of Topics and Required Readings

We do not anticipate making revisions to the following schedule. If, however, unforeseen circumstances necessitate change(s), you will be notified both in class and by announcement email. All the readings assigned below will be available in that folder; they should be read in preparation for (= *before*) the class for which they are assigned (that is, read items 1 and 2 before the class of June 25th, etc.).

Class 1, June 23rd. Introduction to Psychology 3F3: Evolution and human behaviour.

Class 2, June 25th. Optimal foraging.

1. Bird R (1999). Cooperation and conflict: The behavioural ecology of human sexual division of labour. *Evolutionary Anthropology* 8: p65-75.
2. Bickel WK et al (2004) Risk sensitive foraging theory elucidates risky choices made by heroine addicts. *Addiction* 99: p855-861.

Class 3, June 30th. Human life history.

3. Clutton-Brock TH & Isvaran K (2007). Sex differences in ageing in natural populations of vertebrates. *Proceedings of the Royal Society of London Series B* 274: p3097-3104.
4. Wilson M & Daly M (1997). Life expectancy, economic inequality, homicide, and reproductive timing in Chicago neighbourhoods. *British Medical Journal*: 314: p1271–1274.
5. Mulder MB (1998). The demographic transition: are we any closer to an evolutionary explanation. *Trends in Ecology & Evolution* 13: p266-270.

Class 4, July 2nd. Sexual selection and mating systems

6. Mulder MB (1990). Kipsigis women's preferences for wealthy men: evidence for female choice in mammals? *Behavioral Ecology & Sociobiology*, 27: p255-264.
7. Schuiling GA (2004). Death in Venice: the homosexuality enigma. *Journal of Psychosomatic Obstetrics & Gynecology* 25: p67-76.

Class 5, July 7th. Sexual selection and intrasexual conflict

Night of mid-term test

8. Daly M & Wilson M (1999) Darwinism and the roots of machismo. *Scientific American Presents* 10 (2): 8-14.
9. Kilgallon SJ & Simmons LW (2005). Image content influences men's semen quality. *Biology Letters* 1: p253-255.

Class 6, July 9th. Sexual selection and mate choice

10. Thornhill R & Gangestad SW (1999). Facial attractiveness. *Trends in Cognitive Sciences* 3: p452-460.
11. Feinberg DR et al (2005). The voice and face of a woman: One ornament that signals quality. *Evolution and Human Behaviour* 26: p398-408.
12. Buston PM & Emlen ST (2003). Cognitive processes underlying human mate choice: The relationship between self-perception and mate preference in Western society. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* 100: p8805-8810.

Class 7, July 14th. Parent-offspring conflict

13. Daly M & Wilson M (1985). Child abuse and other risks of not living with both parents. *Ethology & Sociobiology* 6: p197-210 (available on course site).
14. Cronk L (2007). Boy or girl: gender preferences from a Darwinian point of view. *Reproductive BioMedicine Online* 15: p23-32.

Class 8, July 16th. Cooperation amongst kin

15. DeBruine LM (2005). Trustworthy but not lust-worthy: Context-specific effects of facial resemblance. *Proceedings of the Royal Society of London Series B* 272 : p919-922
16. Stewart-Williams S (2007). Altruism among kin vs non kin: effects of costs of help and reciprocal exchange. *Evolution and Human Behaviour* 28: p193-198.

Class 9, July 21st. Cooperation amongst non-kin

17. Milinski M et al (2006). Stabilizing the earth's climate is not a losing game: Supporting evidence from public goods experiment. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* 103: p3994-3998.
18. Henrich J et al (2006). Costly punishment across human societies. *Science* 312: p1767-1770.

Class 10, July 23rd. The adaptive significance of individual and cultural variation

19. Lalumière M, Harris GT & Rice ME (2001) Psychopathy and developmental instability. *Evolution & Human Behavior* 22: p75-92.
20. Cohen D, Nisbett RE, Bowdle BF & Schwarz N (1996) Insult, aggression, and the southern culture of honor: an "experimental ethnography". *Journal of Personality & Social Psychology* 70: 945-60.

Class 11, July 28th Preparation of presentations for research-based projects.

Class 12, July 30th Oral presentations of research-based projects.

Class 13, August 4th Final exam.

General Reference Material Related to this Course (not required)

Buss DM (2008) *Evolutionary psychology*. (3rd ed.) Allyn & Bacon.