

Where & When: BSB 147, Thursdays 19:00-22:00, Sept 4 – Nov 28, 2008

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Course Content Domain

This course concerns the relevance of contemporary evolutionary theories and knowledge for understanding human psychology and behaviour, especially social behaviour. The subject matter is interdisciplinary: required readings and lectures will include recent research by anthropologists, biologists, economists, health scientists, and psychologists.

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 understanding and 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 evaluating research-based claims that you encounter elsewhere.

Required Readings

The required readings, listed on syllabus pp 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 and/or via the course web site. Also listed are some additional readings that are 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, and (2) performance on three term tests, to be held in class on Sept 25, Oct 23 and Nov 20, the best two of which will each count 20 %. The formats of these tests and of 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.*

Term tests 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 one 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 acceptable documentation with your Dean of Studies, your grade will be based on the test(s) 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:

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

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. If you prefer to receive e-mail at another address, we will try to accommodate your request, but we cannot be responsible for the non-receipt of messages to students using non-McMaster e-mail addresses.

Neither can the instructors be responsible for returning long distance calls from students. Any student wishing to reach an instructor or a TA should use e-mail.

Course Web Site:

<http://www.science.mcmaster.ca/psychology/index.php/undergraduate-studies/courses/121-psych-3f03e-evolution-and-human-behaviour-term-1-dr-daly-a-dr-wilson.html>

All students registered in this course will have access to a password-limited course folder which you can access under the Psych 3F03E course listing on the departmental web site. We will post lecture notes, term test feedback, and other course-related materials in this folder.

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 revising the following schedule, but if unforeseen circumstances necessitate change(s), you will be notified both in class and by announcement on the course web site. Readings are available to persons registered in the course at that web site; most can also be accessed through the library. Read them *in preparation for* (= before) the class for which they are assigned (that is, read items 1 and 2 before the class of September 11, etc.)..

Class 1, September 4. Introduction to Psychology 3F3: Evolution and human behaviour.**Class 2, Sept 11. Human evolution & the EEA. (Last Drop & add date = Sept 15)**

1. *Excerpt (pp 7-30) from* Salmon C & Symons D (2001) *Warrior lovers: erotic fiction, evolution and female sexuality*. London: Weidenfeld & Nicholson.
2. Cosmides L & Tooby J (1997) *Evolutionary psychology: a primer*. unpublished ms.

Class 3, Sept 18. Sexual selection I. Intrasexual competition.

3. Daly M & Wilson M (1999) Darwinism and the roots of machismo. *Scientific American Presents* 10 (2): 8-14.
4. Chagnon NA (1988) Life histories, blood revenge and warfare in a tribal population. *Science* 239: 985-992.

Class 4, Sept 25. Sexual selection 2. Mate choice.**Term Test 1**

5. Thornhill R & Gangestad SW (1999) Facial attractiveness. *Trends in Cognitive Sciences* 3: 452-460.
6. Little AC, Jones BC, DeBruine LM & Feinberg DR (2008) Symmetry and sexual dimorphism in human faces: interrelated preferences suggest both signal quality. *Behavioral Ecology* 19: 902-908.

Class 5, October 2. Inclusive fitness and kinship.

7. Daly M & Wilson M (1982) Homicide and kinship. *American Anthropologist* 84: 372-378.
8. DeBruine LM (2002) Facial resemblance enhances trust. *Proceedings of the Royal Society of London B* 269: 1307-1312.

Class 6, October 9. Marital relations and partner conflict.

9. Wilson M & Daly M (1992) The man who mistook his wife for a chattel. In J Barkow, L Cosmides & J Tooby, eds., *The adapted mind*. New York: Oxford University Press.

Class 7, October 16. Parental investment and parent-offspring conflict.

10. Haig D (1993) Genetic conflicts in human pregnancy. *Quarterly Review of Biology* 68: 495-532.

Class 8, October 23. Personality & individual differences.**Term Test 2**

11. Lalumière M, Harris GT & Rice ME (2001) Psychopathy and developmental instability. *Evolution & Human Behavior* 22: 75-92.

Class 9, October 30. Sociality among non-relatives.

12. Kosfeld M, Heinrichs M, Zak PJ, Fischbacher U & Fehr E (2005) Oxytocin increases trust in humans. *Nature* 435: 673-676 (and corrigendum)
13. Bateson M, Nettle D & Roberts G (2006) Cues of being watched enhance cooperation in a real-world setting. *Biology Letters* 2: 412-414.
14. Barclay P & Willer R (2007) Partner choice creates competitive altruism in humans. *Proceedings of the Royal Society of London B* 274: 749-753.

Class 10, November 6. Cultural diversity in social responses. (Drop without failure: Nov 7)

15. Henrich J, Boyd R, Bowles S, Camerer C, Fehr E, Gintis H & McElreath R (2001) In search of *Homo economicus*: Behavioral experiments from 15 small-scale societies. *American Economic Review* 91: 73-78.
16. 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, November 13. Emotion & attention as allocation problems.

17. Nesse RM (1990) Evolutionary explanations of emotions. *Human Nature* 1: 261-289.
18. Haselton MG & Buss DM (2000) Error management theory: a new perspective on biases in cross-sex mind reading. *Journal of Personality & Social Psychology* 78: 81-91.
19. Maner JK, Gailliot MT & DeWall CN (2007) Adaptive attentional attunement: evidence for mating-related perceptual bias. *Evolution & Human Behavior* 28: 28-36.

Class 12, November 20. Cognitive processes in evolutionary perspective. Term Test 3

20. McKenzie CRM (2003) Rational models as theories – not standards – of behavior. *Trends in Cognitive Sciences* 7: 403-406.

Class 13, November 27. Review.**General Reference Material of Relevance to this Course (not required)**

- Boyd R & Silk JB (2006) *How humans evolved*. (4th ed.) Norton.
- Buss DM (2008) *Evolutionary psychology*. (3rd ed.) Allyn & Bacon.
- Dawkins R. (1986) *The blind watchmaker*. Longmans.
- Freeman S & Herron JC (2004) *Evolutionary analysis*. (3rd ed.) Prentice Hall.
- Gaulin SJC & McBurney D (2004) *Evolutionary psychology*. (2nd ed.) Pearson.