

Where & When: JHE 376, Wednesdays 19:00-22:00, Sept 16 – Dec 2, 2009

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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 18 required readings are articles and excerpts from both primary research literature and more elementary sources, listed below. Students are responsible for *all* of these readings, which can be accessed online through the McMaster library and/or via the course web site.

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 30, Oct 28 and Nov 25, the best two of which will each count 20 %. 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 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> >

Term tests 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 the same format as the original final exam.

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 contact an instructor or a TA should use e-mail.

Course Web Site

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

I anticipate no changes in the course schedule below. If unforeseen circumstances require changes, they will be announced both in class and on the course web page.

Readings are available to persons registered in the course at its web site; most can also be accessed through the library. They must be read *in preparation for* (i.e. *before*) the class for which they are assigned (in other words, read items 1 and 2 *before* the class of Sept 23, etc.).

Class 1, September 16. Introduction to Psychology 3F3: Evolution and human behaviour.

Class 2, Sept 23. Human evolution & the EEA. (Last Drop & add date = Sept 21)

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 30. Sexual selection 1. Intrasexual competition. Term Test 1

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, October 7. Sexual selection 2. Mate choice.

5. Thornhill R & Gangestad SW (1999) Facial attractiveness. *Trends in Cognitive Sciences* 3: 452-460.
6. Ober C, Weitkamp L, Cox N, Dytch H, Kostyu D & Elias S (1997) HLA and mate choice in humans. *American Journal of Human Genetics* 61: 497-504.

Class 5, October 14. 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 21. 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 28. Parental investment and parent-offspring conflict. Term Test 2.

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

Class 8, November 4. Sociality among non-relatives.

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

Class 9, November 11. Cognitive processes in evolutionary perspective.

14. McKenzie CRM (2003) Rational models as theories – not standards – of behavior. *Trends in Cognitive Sciences* 7: 403-406.
15. Maner JK, Gailliot MT & DeWall CN (2007) Adaptive attentional attunement: evidence for mating-related perceptual bias. *Evolution & Human Behavior* 28: 28-36.

Class 10, November 18. Diversity between groups: Culture, ecology and genes.

16. 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.
17. 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 25. Diversity within groups: Personality and evolution. Term Test 3.

18. Buss DM (2009) How can evolutionary psychology successfully explain personality and individual differences? *Perspectives on Psychological Science* 4: 359-366.

Class 12, December 2. Review.