PSYCHOLOGY 3F03: EVOLUTION AND HUMAN BEHAVIOUR

Spring/Summer 2018

Instructor: Dr. Daniel Brian Krupp (kruppdb@mcmaster.ca)
When: Tuesdays and Thursdays, from 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm
Where: T13 (“Preliminary Laboratory Building”), room 127

Office Hours: By appointment only.

Important Note: The instructor reserves the right to modify elements of the course and will notify students accordingly (in class and on the course website).

Course Content

As the name implies, this course is about human behaviour—especially social behaviour—in the light of evolutionary theory. We will pursue an interdisciplinary enterprise, covering research drawn from Biology, Psychology, Anthropology, Economics, Criminology, and Medicine, among other areas of study.

The goals of the course are twofold. First, you will form a greater appreciation for the place of evolutionary thinking in human psychology and behaviour. Second, you will learn about methodological approaches to the study of human behaviour, from theoretical development to empirical testing. Having met these goals, you will ideally develop critical faculties that enable you to judge the quality of claims about human psychology and behaviour that you might encounter outside of this classroom.

Required Readings

Students are responsible for all of the readings listed in the Schedule and Readings section, below. These readings are available through the course website.

Grading

Grades will be assigned on the basis of twelve quizzes, equally weighted and worth a total of 40%, and one final exam, worth 60%. The quizzes and the final exam will be administered in class, possibly on Avenue to Learn, on paper, or by another option. As can be seen below, the quizzes are scheduled for every class from May 3 until June 12. Both the quizzes and the final exam will be cumulative, assessing your knowledge and comprehension of the lectures given and readings assigned. The quizzes and final exam will begin at the beginning of each class, so please arrive promptly, as extra time will not be given.

There will be no “make-up” quizzes. If you file acceptable documentation online with the McMaster Student Absence Form (MSAF) or with your Dean of Studies, your final grade will be based on the quizzes and exam that you completed, with appropriate re-weighting.
of the final exam. For further information about missed work, medical exemptions, exam conflicts, and deferred exams, see http://mcmaster.ca/msaf/.

Quizzes 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-, and <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.

Email

All students should have McMaster e-mail accounts. If you prefer to receive e-mail at another address, I will try to accommodate your request, but I cannot be responsible for the non-receipt of messages to students using non-McMaster e-mail addresses. Neither can I be responsible for returning long distance calls from students. Any student wishing to contact me should use e-mail.

Course Website

All students registered in this course have access to the course website, which you can be found via Avenue to Learn (http://avenue.mcmaster.ca). I will post lecture notes, quiz feedback, and other course-related materials on this site. Lecture slides are prepared with care and are often being improved upon until the minute class begins. I will do my best to post the slides before class begins, but I cannot guarantee this will happen. Slides are not a replacement for taking notes.

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/policy/Students-AcademicStudies/AcademicIntegrity.pdf
SCHEDULE AND 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 website. Readings are available to persons registered in the course at its website on Avenue; most can also be accessed through the library. They should be read before the class for which they are assigned.

May 1: Introduction


May 3: Social Evolution Theory and Quiz 1


May 8: Social Evolution Theory and Quiz 2


May 10: Kinship and Quiz 3


May 15: Kinship and Quiz 4


**May 17: Sociality Among Nonkin and Quiz 5**


**May 22: Sociality Among Nonkin and Quiz 6**


**May 24: Sexual Selection and Quiz 7**


**May 29: Sexual Selection and Quiz 8**


May 31: Parenting & Family Dynamics and Quiz 9


June 5: Differences Within Groups and Quiz 10


June 7: Differences Between Groups and Quiz 11


June 12: Review and Quiz 12

June 14: Final Exam