

PSYCHOLOGY 3F03: EVOLUTION AND HUMAN BEHAVIOUR

Winter 2018

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When: Mondays, from 7:00 pm to 10:00 pm
Where: HSC 1A1

Office Hours: By appointment only.

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, 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, worth 5% each (for a total of 60%), and one final exam, worth 40%. The quizzes will be administered online through Avenue to Learn, and the final exam will be administered by the Registrar's Office. As can be seen below, the quizzes are scheduled for each of the first twelve weeks of class (i.e. from the week of January 8 until and including the week of April 2). The quizzes will be made available online every Friday at 6:00AM and will close the next morning, on Saturday at 6:00AM. You will have 20 minutes to complete each quiz once you open it. They will assess your knowledge and comprehension of the lectures given and readings assigned prior to the day of the quiz. The final exam will cover the content of the entire course—lectures, readings, and all. Both the weekly quizzes and the final exam will be *cumulative*.

Because the quizzes are written online, I strongly recommend that you use a stable and reliable Internet connection, such as the one available to you on campus. If you do encounter a connection issue during a quiz, please take a screen shot of your answers, ensuring that your name is contained within the borders of the image, and email it to me.

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, 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 the instructor or the TAs 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 (in other words, read Gregory (2009) before the quiz on January 12 and Marshall (2015) and Hamilton (1963) before the class of January 15, etc.).

January 8/12: Introduction/Quiz 1

Gregory, T. R. (2009). Understanding natural selection: Essential concepts and misconceptions. *Evolution Education Outreach*, 2, 156-175.

January 15/19: Social Evolution Theory/Quiz 2

Chapter 1 of Marshall, J. A. R. (2015). *Social evolution and inclusive fitness theory*. Princeton University Press.

Hamilton, W. D. (1963). The evolution of altruistic behavior. *American Naturalist*, 97, 354-356.

January 22/26: Social Evolution Theory/Quiz 3

Cosmides, L., & Tooby, J. (n.d.). *Evolutionary psychology: A primer*. Unpublished manuscript.

Excerpt from Salmon, C., & Symons, D. (2001). *Warrior lovers: Erotic fiction, evolution and female sexuality*. London: Weidenfeld & Nicolson.

January 29/February 2: Kinship/Quiz 4

Daly, M., Salmon, C., & Wilson, M. (1997). Kinship: The conceptual hole in psychological studies of social cognition and close relationships. In J. A. Simpson & D. T. Kenrick (Eds.), *Evolutionary social psychology* (pp. 265–296). Hillsdale, NJ, England: Lawrence Erlbaum Associates, Inc.

Daly, M., & Wilson, M. I. (1996). Violence against stepchildren. *Current Directions in Psychological Science*, 5, 77–80.

February 5/9: Kinship/Quiz 5

Krupp, D. B., DeBruine, L. M., & Jones, B. C. (2011). Cooperation and conflict in the light of kin recognition systems. In C. A. Salmon & T. K. Shackelford (Eds.), *The Oxford Handbook of Evolutionary Family Psychology* (pp. 345–364). New York: Oxford University Press.

DeBruine, L. M. (2002). Facial resemblance enhances trust. *Proceedings of the Royal Society, Series B: Biological Sciences*, *269*, 1307–1312.

February 12/16: Sociality Among Nonkin/Quiz 6

Barclay, P., & Van Vugt, M. (2015). The evolutionary psychology of human prosociality: Adaptations, byproducts, and mistakes. In D. A. Schroeder & W. G. Graziano (Eds.), *The Oxford Handbook of Prosocial Behaviour* (pp. 37-60). New York: Oxford University Press.

Barclay, P., & Willer, R. (2007). Partner choice creates competitive altruism in humans. *Proceedings of the Royal Society, Series B: Biological Sciences*, *274*, 749–753.

February 19: Mid-term Recess (No Class, Quiz, or Readings)

February 26/March 2: Sociality Among Nonkin/Quiz 7

West, S. A. et al. (2006). Cooperation and the scale of competition in humans. *Current Biology*, *16*, 1103–1106. *The “Supplemental Data” page is optional.

DeScioli, P., Massenkoff, M., Shaw, A., Petersen, M. B., & Kurzban, R. (2014). Equity or equality? Moral judgments follow the money. *Proceedings of the Royal Society B: Biological Sciences*, *281*, 20142112.

March 5/9: Sexual Selection/Quiz 8

Daly, M., & Wilson, M. (1999). Darwinism and the roots of machismo. *Scientific American Presents*, *10*, 8–14.

March 12/16: Sexual Selection/Quiz 9

Roberts, S. C., Havlicek, J., Flegr, J., Hruskova, M., Little, A. C., Jones, B. C., Perrett, D. I., & Petrie, M. (2004). Female facial attractiveness increases during the fertile phase of the menstrual cycle. *Proceedings of the Royal Society, Series B: Biological Sciences (Supplement)*, 271, S270–S272.

DeBruine, L. M., Jones, B. C., Crawford, J. R., Welling, L. L. M., & Little, A. C. (2010). The health of a nation predicts their mate preferences: cross-cultural variation in women's preferences for masculinized male faces. *Proceedings of the Royal Society, Series B: Biological Sciences*, 277, 2405–2410.

March 19/23: Parenting & Family Dynamics/Quiz 10

Wilson, M., & Daly, M. (1992). The man who mistook his wife for a chattel. In J. H. Barkow, L. Cosmides, & J. Tooby (Eds.), *The adapted mind* (pp. 289–322). New York: Oxford University Press.

Sear, R. (2016). Beyond the nuclear family: An evolutionary perspective on parenting. *Current Opinion in Psychology*, 7, 98-103.

March 26/30: Differences Within Groups/Quiz 11

Buss, D. M. (2009). How can evolutionary psychology successfully explain personality and individual differences? *Perspectives on Psychological Science*, 4, 359–366.

April 2/6: Differences Between Groups/Quiz 12

Yamagishi, T., Hashimoto, H., & Schug, J. (2008). Preferences versus strategies as explanations for culture-specific behavior. *Psychological Science*, 19, 579–584.

April 9: Review