

**SYLLABUS**  
**PSYCHOLOGY 3F03: Evolution and Human Behaviour**  
**Department of Psychology, Neuroscience, and Behaviour**  
**McMaster University**  
**Summer Term I, 2012**

**Course time and location:**

Tuesdays & Thursdays, 6:30-9:30pm, KTH/B124

April 30-June 15, 2012

**Instructor:**

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Office hours: By appointment only

**Please note:** This syllabus, including scheduling, topic order, topics themselves, and assessment strategy, is subject to change. You will be informed of any changes in class and on our *Avenue to Learn* website.

**Course Description**

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. You will thereby acquire a more critical grasp of the relationships among research methods, data, and interpretations, and this capability will assist you in evaluating research-based claims that you encounter elsewhere.

**Readings**

There is no textbook for this course. The required readings are articles and excerpts from both primary research literature and more elementary sources. Students are responsible for all of these readings, which, unless otherwise noted, can be accessed through the McMaster library online. It is recommended that you use Web of Knowledge, which can be accessed through the University's Library Website (<http://library.mcmaster.ca/>). You will be tested on readings even if their content is not discussed in class. You are expected to know the key concepts of the papers, including motivation, methods, results, and interpretation. You will not be required to memorize trivial details.

**Assessment**

Grades will be assigned on the basis of (1) a 3-hour in-class final exam, worth 50 % of the total grade, and (2) performance on two in-class tests, to be held in class on **Tuesday May 15** and **Tuesday May 29**, each of which will each count 25% of the final mark. 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. Term tests and the final exam may include multiple choice and/or short answer and/or essay questions.

### **Missed Tests**

There will be no make-up tests under any circumstances. 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/>. A deferred final exam will not necessarily be of the same format as the original final exam.

### **Final Grade Calculation**

Grades will be computed out of 100 points using the McMaster Grading system. 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.

### **Communication Policy**

Any student wishing to contact the instructor should use e-mail. All e-mail must be sent from a McMaster e-mail account. E-mails must use proper grammar and spelling. I cannot guarantee that I will receive all voice mail messages. The instructor is not responsible for returning long distance calls from students. To ensure a proper response from your instructor, include your full name and student number in each email to your instructor.

### **Policy on the Recording of Lectures**

No student is permitted to record lectures in this class unless they have appropriate documentation (e.g. from SAS) that they require this service. Those with permission to record lectures may not share their recording with others. Any infraction of this policy will be harshly dealt with.

### **A note on Dates and Deadlines**

The instructor and university reserve the right to modify elements of the course during the term. The university may change dates and deadlines for any or all courses in extreme circumstances. If either type of modification becomes necessary, reasonable notice and communication with the students will be given with an explanation and the opportunity to comment on changes. It is the responsibility of the student to check their McMaster email and course websites weekly during the term and to note any changes.

### **Academic Integrity**

Academic dishonesty is to knowingly act or fail to act in any way which results or could result in unearned academic credit or advantage. Any student who infringes one of these resolutions will be treated according to the published policy. This behavior will result in serious consequences, e.g., a grade of zero (0) on an assignment, loss of course credit with a notation on the transcript ("grade 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 academic dishonesty, please refer to Mac's Academic Integrity Policy, at <http://www.mcmaster.ca/academicintegrity>.

## SCHEDULE OF TOPICS AND READINGS

### Topic 1. Introduction to the Course \*No reading\*

### Topic 2. Human Evolutionary Psychology

Geary, D.C., Vigil, J., Byrd-Craven, J. (2004). Evolution of human mate choice. *Journal of Sex Research*, 41, 27-42.

Cosmides, L. & Tooby, J. (1997). Evolutionary psychology: a primer. unpublished ms.  
<http://www.psych.ucsb.edu/research/cep/primer.html>

### Topic 3. Intrasexual Competition

Campbell, A. (2004). Female competition: Causes, constraints, content, and contexts. *Journal of Sex Research*, 41, 16-26.

Mazur, A., Booth, A. (1998). Testosterone and Dominance in Men. *Behavioral and Brain Sciences*, 21, 353-363. \*You are not responsible for reading the Open Peer Commentary beginning on page 363

### Topic 4. Mate Choice

Feinberg, D.R. (2008). Are human faces and voices ornaments signaling common underlying cues to mate value? *Evolutionary Anthropology*, 17, 112-118.

Haselton, M.G., Gildersleeve, K. (2011). Can men detect ovulation? *Current Directions in Psychological Science*, 20, 87-92.

### Topic 5. Inclusive Fitness

Daly, M. & Wilson, M. (1982). Homicide and kinship. *American Anthropologist*, 84, 372-378.

DeBruine, L.M. (2002). Facial resemblance enhances trust. *Proceedings of the Royal Society of London B* 269, 1307-1312.

### Topic 6. Marriage & Conflict

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.  
<http://voiceresearch.mcmaster.ca/lectures/w&d%20chattel.pdf>

### Topic 7. Parent-Offspring Conflict

Schlomer, G.L., Guidice, M. D., & Ellise, B.J. (2011). Parent-offspring conflict theory: An evolutionary framework for understanding conflict within human families. *Psychological Review*, 118, 496-521.

### **Topic 8. Altruism**

Bateson, M., Nettle, D., & Roberts, G. (2006). Cues of being watched enhance cooperation in a real-world setting. *Biology Letters*, 2, 412-414.

Barclay, P. & Willer, R. (2007). Partner choice creates competitive altruism in humans. *Proceedings of the Royal Society of London B*, 274, 749-753.

### **Topic 9. Darwinian Medicine**

Andrews, P. W., & Thomson, Jr., J. A. (2009). The bright side of being blue: Depression as an adaptation for analyzing complex problems. *Psychological Review*, 116, 620-654.

### **Topic 10. Language & Cognition**

Rosen, M.L., & Lopez, H.H. (2009). Menstrual cycle shifts in attentional bias for courtship language. *Evolution and Human Behavior*, 30, 131-140.

Hauser, M.D., Chomsky, N., Fitch, W.T. (2002). The faculty of language: What is it, who has it, and how did it evolve? *Science*, 298, 1569-1579.