

Psychology 3F03
Evolution & Human Behaviour Fall 2016

Where: Health Science Centre (HSC) Room 1A1

When: Mondays & Thursdays 9:30-10:20, and Tuesdays - 10:30-11:20

Instructors:

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Office Hours: Mondays 11:00-12:00, Psychology Complex (PC) room 407 or by appointment.

Course Content

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 are articles and excerpts from both primary research literature and more elementary sources, listed below. Students are responsible for *all* of these readings, which, unless otherwise noted, can be accessed through the McMaster library. In the rare event that the reading is not available online, you may have to physically go to the library to find it.

Recording of lectures

Recording of lectures is permitted. Posting any lecture, audio recording, video, photograph, other similar media or part thereof to the internet on public and/or private websites or apps is strictly prohibited and will result in automatic failure of the course.

Assignments and Grading

Grades will be assigned on the basis of three 50 minute in-class tests. The first test is worth 20% of your grade. The second test and third test are each worth

15% of your grade, and a registrar-scheduled final exam, worth 50 % of the total grade. All tests exams will include multiple choice, true/false, matching, and/or any other question type we can ask using a multiple-choice response format. The in-class tests are not cumulative, but the final exam is cumulative.

There will be no "make-up tests". 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 test(s) 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/>. "You may submit a maximum of 1 Academic Work Missed request per term. It is YOUR responsibility to follow up with your Instructor immediately (NORMALLY WITHIN TWO WORKING DAYS) regarding the nature of the accommodation.

If you are absent for reasons other than medical reasons, for more than 3 days, or exceed 1 request per term you MUST visit your Associate Dean's Office (Faculty Office). You may be required to provide supporting documentation."

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.

Schedule of Topics and Required Readings

There is no textbook for this course. All readings are available either on the course website, on the University's Library Website, and Google Scholar, or physically at the university's libraries. We will not give you the papers, nor should you share them with each other. Part of the assignment is learning how to find a paper on the library's website. Any students caught sharing papers will be considered to be academically dishonest.

The schedule of topics and required readings are available on the course website. Please check often. Any changes to this document will be announced in class and noted on the internet.

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 telephone calls from students. Any student wishing to contact an instructor should use e-mail. Please use formal English letter writing style when writing emails to the instructors. Emails starting with colloquial phrases like, “Yo prof” or “Hey”, or using some form of writing typically used in sms messages, 1337, etc. are not acceptable in an academic environment. We expect that at the 3rd year of university, all students will be able to communicate in a professional manner.

Course Web Site

All students registered in this course have access to the course website which you can access under the Psych 3F03 course listing on the departmental web site, or via avenue.mcmaster.ca. We will post lecture notes, term test feedback, and other course-related materials in this folder. Lecture slides are prepared with care and are often being improved upon until the minute class begins. We will do our best to get you the slides before class begins, but we 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. If you have read this far in the syllabus, email your name and student ID number to the instructors with the heading “I read the entire syllabus” to receive one point of extra credit on your final grade for the course. 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>

Gaming/Social Networking Policy

We do not really care if you use your computer to play games, social network, etc during class as long as you are quiet and respectful to your other classmates. It is your money and your decision as an adult, but you may not take away from the educational experience of your classmates. As soon as that happens, we will take appropriate disciplinary action, which could include confiscation of digital devices for the class period, removal from the course, or worse. Having said that, Pokemon Go (and other similar games at the instructor’s discretion) is forbidden during class time. You can come back to the classroom at any time

when we there is not a class on and catch them all. I also recommend Bayfront Park to catch all of your aquatic Pokemon.

Reading List 3F03 2016– Evolution & Human Behaviour

Week 1 – History of Evolution and Human Behaviour

Sept 6-9

- Cosmides & Tooby Evolutionary Psychology: A Primer.
<http://www.cep.ucsb.edu/primer.html>
- Daly, M., & Wilson, M. I. (1999). Human evolutionary psychology and animal behaviour. *Animal Behaviour*, 57(3), 509-519.

Week 2 - Modern Evolutionary Theory

Sept 12-15

- Gregory, T. R. (2009). "Understanding Natural Selection: Essential Concepts and Common Misconceptions". *Evolution: Education and Outreach* 2 (2): 156–175. doi:10.1007/s12052-009-0128-1.
- Mayr, E. (1997). The objects of selection. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, 94(6), 2091-2094.

Week 3 Sexual Selection

Sept 19-22

- Trivers, R. (1972). Parental investment and Sexual Selection. – available online at McMaster's library as a chapter in the e-book: Trivers, R. L. (2002) *Natural Selection and Social Theory: Selected Papers of Robert L. Trivers. (Evolution and Cognition Series)* Oxford University Press, Oxford. ISBN 0-19-513062-6
 - The chapter may or may not have an introduction. This is not part of the required reading

Week 4 Test – No reading

Sept 26-29

Week 5 - Evolution and human mating 1

Oct 3-6

- Wilson, Margo, and Martin Daly. "Competitiveness, risk taking, and violence: The young male syndrome." *Ethology and sociobiology* 6.1 (1985): 59-73.
- Little, A. C., Jones, B. C., & DeBruine, L. M. (2011). Facial attractiveness: evolutionary based research. *Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society B: Biological Sciences*, 366(1571), 1638-1659.

Week 6 – Reading Week – No Reading

Oct 10-13

Week 7 The evolution of human mating 2

Oct 17-20

- Gavrilets, S., & Rice, W. R. (2006). Genetic models of homosexuality: generating testable predictions. *Proceedings of the Royal Society B: Biological Sciences*, 273(1605), 3031-3038.
- Gangestad, S. W., & Thornhill, R. (2008). Human oestrus. *Proceedings of the Royal Society B: Biological Sciences*, 275(1638), 991-1000.

- Geary, D. C., Vigil, J., & Byrd-Craven, J. (2004). Evolution of human mate choice. *Journal of sex research*, 41(1), 27-42.

Week 8 - Evolutionary Origins

Oct 24-26

- Dixson, A. F. (1997). Evolutionary perspectives on primate mating systems and behavior. *Annals of the New York Academy of Sciences*, 807(1), 42-61.
- Thornhill, Randy, and Karl Grammer. "The body and face of woman: One ornament that signals quality?." *Evolution and Human Behavior* 20.2 (1999): 105-120.

Week 9 – Test 2 No Reading

Oct 31-Nov 3

Week 10 –Language & Medicine

Nov 7-10

- Christiansen, M. H., & Kirby, S. (2003). Language evolution: Consensus and controversies. *Trends in cognitive sciences*, 7(7), 300-307.
- Pika, S., Liebal, K., Call, J., & Tomasello, M. (2005). Gestural communication of apes. *Gesture*, 5(1-2), 41-56.
- Williams, G. C., & Nesse, R. M. (1991). The dawn of Darwinian medicine. *Quarterly Review of Biology*, 1-22.

Week 11 – Inclusive Fitness

Nov 14-17

Hamilton, W. D. (1964). The genetical evolution of social behaviour.

II. *Journal of theoretical biology*, 7(1), 17-52.

Week 12

Nov 21-24

Trivers, R. L. (1971). The evolution of reciprocal altruism. *Quarterly review of biology*, 35-57.

- Henrich, J., McElreath, R., Barr, A., Ensminger, J., Barrett, C., Bolyanatz, A., ... & Ziker, J. (2006). Costly punishment across human societies. *Science*, 312(5781)

Week 13 Test 3 - No Reading

Nov 28 – Dec 1

Week 14 – Dec 5 -6 No Reading

Exam Review