

# **PSYCHOLOGY 3F03: EVOLUTION AND HUMAN BEHAVIOUR**

**Spring/Summer 2017**

**Instructor:** Dr. Daniel Brian Krupp ([kruppdb@mcmaster.ca](mailto:kruppdb@mcmaster.ca))

**Where:** Chester New Hall B107

**When:** Tuesdays and Thursdays, from 1:30 to 4:20 pm

**Office Hours:** By appointment only.

## **Course Content**

This course concerns the relevance of evolutionary theory to human behaviour, especially social behaviour. As a consequence, it is an interdisciplinary enterprise: we will cover research drawn from Biology, Psychology, Anthropology, Economics, and Medicine, and will likely touch on other areas of study as well.

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 the 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 three tests, worth 20% each, and one final exam, worth 40%. All tests will be taken during class time. As can be seen below, the tests are scheduled for May 16<sup>th</sup>, May 30<sup>th</sup>, and June 13<sup>th</sup>, and the final exam is scheduled for June 15<sup>th</sup>. The tests will assess your knowledge and comprehension of lectures given and readings assigned prior to the day of the test. The final exam will cover the content of the entire course—lectures, readings, and all.

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/>.

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-, 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 should use e-mail.

### **Course Website**

All students registered in this course have access to the course website, which you can access via Avenue to Learn (<http://avenue.mcmaster.ca>). I will post lecture notes, term test 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 get you 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 class of May 4, etc.).

## **May 2: Introduction**

## **May 4: Evolutionary Theory**

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

## **May 9: Social Evolution Theory (I)**

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.

## **May 11: Social Evolution Theory (II)**

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.

## **May 16: TEST 1 & Kinship (I)**

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.

## **May 18: Kinship (II)**

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.

### **May 23: Sociality Among Nonkin (I)**

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.

### **May 25: Sociality Among Nonkin (II)**

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.

### **May 30: TEST 2 & Sexual Selection (I)**

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

### **June 1: Sexual Selection (II)**

Jones, B. C. (2014). Agreement and individual differences in men’s preferences for women’s facial characteristics. In V. A. Weekes-Shackelford & T. K. Shackelford (Eds.), *Evolutionary Perspectives on Human Sexual Psychology and Behavior*, pp. 87-102.

DeBruine, L. M. (2014). Women’s preferences for male facial features. In V. A. Weekes-Shackelford & T. K. Shackelford (Eds.), *Evolutionary Perspectives on Human Sexual Psychology and Behavior*, pp. 261-275.

### **June 6: Parenting & Family Dynamics**

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.

**June 8: Differences Within Groups**

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

**June 13: TEST 3 & Differences Between Groups**

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

**June 15: FINAL EXAM**