

Psychology 503 B (473)**Evolution and Behaviour****Fall 2014**

Instructor:	Dr. Victoria Smith	Lecture Location:	1328
Phone:	403-220-3969	Lecture Days/Time:	M 12:00-14:50
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Office:	2506H		
Office Hours:	M 11:00-11:50 (or available over email)		

Course Description and Goals**"Nothing in biology makes sense except in the light of evolution"** Theodosius Dobzhansky

This course will deal with the ultimate (rather than proximate) explanations of human behaviour. The course material will be presented from the perspective that the behaviour of *Homo sapiens* (like all animals) is the product of their evolutionary history. Converging evidence from a variety of disciplines have led to the framework for this course. First, human nature can be defined as the set of universal, species-typical information processing programs that operate beneath the surface of expressed cultural variability. Second, this collection of cognitive programs evolved in the Pleistocene to solve the adaptive problems regularly faced by our hunter-gatherer ancestors - such as mate selection, language acquisition, co-operation, and sexual infidelity.

Prerequisites

Psychology 200 – Principles of Psychology I

Psychology 201 – Principles of Psychology II

Psychology 312 – Experimental Design and Quantitative Methods for Psychology

Antirequisites

Not open to students with credit in Psychology 377

Required Text

1) The Adapted Mind, Barkow, Cosmides and Tooby (Eds), 1992, Oxford University Press

2) Guns, Germs and Steel, Jared Diamond, 1999, Norton

3) 473 Readings and Essays (Posted on Desire2Learn)

The textbooks are available at the RDC Bookstore.

Evaluation

Essay #1, Due Sept. 22

Essay #2, Due Sept. 29

Midterm Take-Home Exam, Due Oct. 20

Essay #3, Due Oct. 27

Best 4 Essays, 7.5% each

Best 4 Essays, 7.5% each

15%

Best 4 Essays, 7.5% each

Essay #4, Due Nov. 3	Best 4 Essays, 7.5% each
Essay #5, Due Nov. 17	Best 4 Essays, 7.5% each
Major Essay, on approved topic of your choice, Due Dec. 5	25%
Final Take-Home Exam, Due Dec. 12	25%
Class Participation	5%

The hardcopy of the Minor Essays and Take-Home Midterm Exam will be due at the start of the class in which it is due (at 12:00). Late Minor Essays or Midterm Exam will be docked 10% per day including weekends, with the first 10% being docked once the lecture starts that day. Emailed Minor Essays and Midterms will **NOT** be accepted.

The Major Essay and Take-Home Final Exam will be due, by email, by 16:00 (4pm) on the day it is due. Late Major Essay or Final Exam will be docked 10% per day including weekends, with the first 10% being docked if the completed document is not received by 4pm the day it is due.

Best of 4 Minor Essays, 7.5% each

For each student, the best marks from 4 Minor Essays will be used to calculate the final grade. In other words, the essay with the lowest mark will be dropped from the final mark calculation.

Each minor essay should be your personal critique of each assigned chapter (see below). For 3 of the 5 marks, you must clearly and precisely explain what the author has written and the principle they were trying to get across. In order to obtain the final 2 of the 5 marks, you must either credit or discredit the principle the author has enlightened AND justify your contribution with examples. Your essays must be **NO LONGER** than **three** typed pages. APA style is **NOT** a requirement for this course (i.e. choose your own font (must be at least size 10), margin widths, etc., but make sure it is readable).

1) Choose **ONE** of “Intelligent design: The faith that dare not speak its name.” by J.A. Coyne **OR** “The hoax of intelligent design and how it was perpetrated” by D.C. Dennett, From J. Brockman (Ed) “Intelligent Thought: Science versus the Intelligent Design Movement”. 2006. Vintage. Posted on Desire2Learn. **DUE September 22.**

2) Choose **ONE** of “Chapter 5” **OR** “Chapter 6” by J. Diamond, From “Guns, Germs and Steel”. **DUE September 29.**

3) Choose **ONE** of “Chapter 7” **OR** “Chapter 8” by J. Diamond, From “Guns, Germs and Steel”. **DUE October 27.**

4) Choose **ONE** of “Chapter 9” **OR** “Chapter 11” by J. Diamond, From “Guns, Germs and Steel”. **Due November 3.**

5) “Human Equity is Contingent Fact of History” From S.J. Gould, The Flamingo’s Smile. 1985. Norton. Posted on Desire2Learn. **DUE November 17.**

Department of Psychology Grade Distribution Policy

The distribution of grades in Psychology courses (the percentage of A grades, B grades, etc.) will be similar to the distribution of grades in other courses in the Faculty of Arts. The Department monitors the grade distributions of 200-, 300-, and 400-level courses in the Faculty to ensure that the grade distributions in Psychology courses are comparable. Based on these reviews, students can expect that 1)

up to 30% of grades in 200- and 300-level psychology courses will be “A” grades (A+, A, and A-), and 2) up to 40% of grades 400-level psychology courses will be “A” grades.

Department of Psychology Criteria for Letter Grades

Psychology professors use the following criteria when assigning letter grades:

A+ grade: *Exceptional Performance.* An A+ grade indicates near perfect performance on multiple choice and short answer exams. For research papers/essays/course projects/presentations, an A+ grade is awarded for exceptional work deserving of special recognition and is therefore not a common grade.

A, A- Range: *Excellent Performance.* Superior understanding of course material. Written work is very strong in terms of critical and original thinking, content, organization, and the expression of ideas, and demonstrates student’s thorough knowledge of subject matter.

B Range: *Good Performance.* Above average understanding of course material. Written work shows evidence of critical thinking and attention to organization and editing but could be improved in form and/or content.

C Range: *Satisfactory Performance.* Adequate understanding of course material. Knowledge of basic concepts and terminology is demonstrated. Written work is satisfactory and meets essential requirements but could be improved significantly in form and content. Note: All prerequisites for courses offered by the Faculty of Arts must be met with a minimum grade of C-.

D range: *Marginally meets standards.* Minimal understanding of subject matter. Written work is marginally acceptable and meets basic requirements but requires substantial improvements in form and content. Student has not mastered course material at a level sufficient for advancement into more senior courses in the same or related subjects.

F grade: *Course standards not met.* Inadequate understanding of subject matter. Written work does not meet basic requirements. Student has not demonstrated knowledge of course material at a level sufficient for course credit.

Grading Scale

A+	96-100%	B+	80-84%	C+	67-71%	D+	54-58%
A	90-95%	B	76-79%	C	63-66%	D	50-53%
A-	85-89%	B-	72-75%	C-	59-62%	F	0-49%

As stated in the University Calendar, it is at the instructor’s discretion to round off either upward or downward to determine a final grade when the average of term work and final examinations is between two letter grades.

To determine final letter grades, final percentage grades will be rounded up or down to the nearest whole percentage (e.g., 89.5% will be rounded up to 90% = A but 89.4% will be rounded down to 89% = A-).

Tentative Lecture Schedule

Note: the rate at which lecture content is covered will vary depending on the extent of student questions and discussion!

Date	Topic/Activity/Readings/Due Date	Source(s)
W Sep 3	Fall Semester Starts	
M Sep 8	Lecture begins. Lecture 1 – Evolutionary Psychology within Science. Pregnancy “Sickness”. Evolutionary Approach to the Study of Human Behaviour.	Notes and AM pg 19- 34, Ch 8
M Sep 15	Lecture 2 – Multiple Explanations of Behaviour. Nature vs Nurture.	Notes and AM pg 35-49
F Sep 19	Last day to drop full courses (Multi-term) and Fall Term half courses. No refunds for full courses (Multi-term) or Fall Term half courses after this date.	
M Sep 22	Last day to add or swap full courses (Multi-term) and Fall Term half courses. Last day for change of registration from audit to credit or credit to audit. Lecture 3 – Natural Selection / Genes / Heredity / Behaviour. Adaptations. Essay #1 Due	Notes
F Sep 26	Fee payment deadline for Fall Term full and half courses.	
M Sep 29	Lecture 4 – Fitness / Inclusive Fitness. Sociality, Altruism and Aggression. Essay #2 Due	Notes
M Oct 6	Lecture 5 – Evolution of <i>Homo sapiens</i> / Evolution of Human Psychology. Evolution as a Metatheory for Psychology. Darwin’s Contributions. Major Essay Proposal Due	Notes
M Oct 13	Thanksgiving Day, College closed No lectures.	
M Oct 20	Lecture 6 – Reproduction / Sex / Gender. Midterm Exam Due	Notes and AM
M Oct 27	Lecture 7 – Sperm Competition. Female Orgasm. Essay #3 Due	Notes
M Nov 3	Lecture 8 – Mate Competition / Mate Choice. Essay #4 Due	Notes and AM Ch 5,6
M Nov 10	Reading Days. No lectures.	
T Nov 11	Remembrance Day (Observed). College Closed No lectures.	
M Nov 17	Lecture 9 – “The Human Face” Essay #5 Due	
M Nov 24	Lecture 10 – Jealousy / Incest Taboos. Why Men have viewed Women as Property.	Notes and AM Ch 7
M Dec 1	Lecture 11 –Cognitive Adaptations for Social Exchange. Landscape Preferences.	AM Ch 3, 15
W Dec 3	Fall Term Lectures End.	
F Dec 5	Last day to withdraw with permission from Fall Term half courses. Major Essay Due	
Dec 8-13	Fall Term Exam Period. Dec. 12 Final Exam Due	

Reappraisal of Grades

A student who feels that a piece of graded term work (e.g., term paper, essay, test) has been unfairly graded, may have the work re-graded as follows. The student shall discuss the work with the instructor within 15 days of being notified about the mark or of the item's return to the class; no reappraisal of term work is permitted after the 15 days. If not satisfied, the student shall immediately take the matter to the Head of the department offering the course, who will arrange for a reassessment of the work within the next 15 days. The reappraisal of term work may cause the grade to be raised, lowered, or to remain the same. If the student is not satisfied with the decision and wishes to appeal, the student shall address a letter of appeal to the Dean of the faculty offering the course within 15 days of the unfavourable decision. In the letter, the student must clearly and fully state the decision being appealed, the grounds for appeal, and the remedies being sought, along with any special circumstances that warrant an appeal of the reappraisal. The student should include as much written documentation as possible.

Plagiarism and Other Academic Misconduct

Intellectual honesty is the cornerstone of the development and acquisition of knowledge and requires that the contribution of others be acknowledged. Consequently, plagiarism or cheating on any assignment is regarded as an extremely serious academic offense. Plagiarism involves submitting or presenting work in a course as if it were the student's own work done expressly for that particular course when, in fact, it is not. Students should examine sections of the University Calendar that present a Statement of Intellectual honesty and definitions and penalties associated with Plagiarism/Cheating/Other Academic Misconduct.

Academic Accommodation

It is the student's responsibility to request academic accommodations. If you are a student with a documented disability who may require academic accommodation and have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre, please contact their office at 403-220-8237. Students who have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre are not eligible for formal academic accommodation. You are also required to discuss your needs with your instructor no later than 14 days after the start of this course.

Absence From A Test/Exam

Makeup tests/exams are NOT an option without an official University medical excuse (see the University Calendar). A completed Physician/Counselor Statement will be required to confirm absence from a test/exam for health reasons; the student will be required to pay any cost associated with this Statement. Students who miss a test/exam have 48 hours to contact the instructor and to schedule a makeup test/exam. Students who do not schedule a makeup test/exam with the instructor within this 48-hour period forfeit the right to a makeup test/exam. At the instructor's discretion, a makeup test/exam may differ significantly (in form and/or content) from a regularly scheduled test/exam. Except in extenuating circumstances (documented by an official University medical excuse), a makeup test/exam must be written within 2 weeks of the missed test/exam.

Travel During Exams

Consistent with University regulations, students are expected to be available to write scheduled exams at any time during the official December and April examination periods. Requests to write a make-up exam because of conflicting travel plans (e.g., flight bookings) will NOT be considered except under

exceptional circumstances. Students are advised to wait until the final examination schedule is posted before making any travel arrangements.

Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIP) Act

The FOIP legislation disallows the practice of having student's retrieve tests and assignments from a public place. Therefore, tests and assignments may be returned to students during class/lab, or during office hours, or via the Department Office (Admin 255), or will be made available only for viewing during exam review sessions scheduled by the Department. Tests and assignments will be shredded after one year. Instructors should take care to not link students' names with their grades, UCIDs, or other FOIP-sensitive information.

Evacuation Assembly Point

In case of an emergency evacuation during class, students must gather at the designated assembly point nearest to the classroom. The list of assembly points is found at

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints>

Please check this website and note the nearest assembly point for this course.

Student Organizations

Psychology students may wish to join the Psychology Undergraduate Students' Association (PSYCHS). They are located in Administration 170 and may be contacted at 403-220-5567.

Student Union VP Academic: Phone: 403-220-3911

suvpaca@ucalgary.ca

Student Union Faculty Rep.: Phone: 403-220-3913

socialscirep@su.ucalgary.ca

Student Ombudsman's Office

The Office of the Student Ombudsmen provides independent, impartial and confidential support for students who require assistance and advice in addressing issues and concerns related to their academic careers. The office can be reached at 403-220-6420 or ombuds@ucalgary.ca (<http://www.su.ucalgary.ca/services/student-services/student-rights.html>).

Important Dates

The last day to drop this course with no "W" notation and **still receive a tuition fee refund** is **Friday, September 19, 2014**. Last day for registration/change of registration is **Monday, September 22, 2014**. The last day to withdraw from this course is **December 5, 2014**.