



UNIVERSITY OF
CALGARY

Department of Psychology
Psychology 473 (L01) – Evolutionary Psychology
Winter 2009

Instructor:	Dr. G. Campbell Teskey	Lecture Location:	SH 280
Phone:	220-4962	Lecture Days/Time:	Tues and Thurs 9:30-10:45
Email:	gteskey@ucalgary.ca		
Office:	A16		
Office Hours:	TBA		

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.

Required Texts can be found in the bookstore

- 1) The Adapted Mind, Barkow, Cosmides and Tooby (Eds), 1992, Oxford University Press
- 2) The Selfish Gene, Dawkins, New Edition, 1989, Oxford University Press
- 3) Guns, Germs and Steel, Jared Diamond, 1999, Norton
- 4) 473 Readings and Essays
Posted on Blackboard

Evaluations

Essay #1, due Jan. 20 th	Best 4 Essays 7.5% each
Essay #2, due Feb. 3 rd	Best 4 Essays 7.5% each
Essay #3, due Feb. 12 th	Best 4 Essays 7.5% each
Mid-term Take Home Exam, due Feb.24 th	20%
Essay #4, due Mar. 10 th	Best 4 Essays 7.5% each
Essay #5, due Mar. 24 th	Best 4 Essays 7.5% each
Major Essay, on <u>approved</u> topic of your choice, due Apr. 17 th	25%
Final Take Home Exam, due Apr. 23 rd .	25%

The hardcopy of the minor essays, take home exams and major essay will be due by the time the Psychology Main Office closes (4:00). Late exams and the major essay will be docked 10% per day including weekends. **Make sure your exams and reports are date stamped**, and leave it in the drop-off box located on the counter in Room A275. E-mailed assignments will **NOT** be accepted.

Best 4 Minor Essays, 7.5% each

For each student, the best marks from 4 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 4 of the 7.5 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 3.5 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, margin widths ect, 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 Blackboard. **DUE January 20th.**

2) Choose **ONE** of “Chapter 5” **OR** “Chapter 6” by J. Diamond, From Guns, Germs and Steel. **DUE February 3rd.**

3) Choose **ONE** of “Chapter 7” **OR** “Chapter 8” by J. Diamond, From Guns, Germs and Steel. **DUE February 12th.**

4) Choose **ONE** of “Chapter 9” **OR** “Chapter 11” by J. Diamond, From “Guns, Germs and Steel.” **DUE March 10th.**

5) “Human Equality is a Contingent Fact of History” From S.J. Gould, The Flamingo's Smile. 1985. Norton. Posted on Blackboard. **DUE March 24th.**

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-).

Lecture Schedule

Jan 5 – 9, 2009	Block Week
Tues Jan 13	Evolutionary Psychology within Science. Pregnancy “Sickness”
Thurs Jan 15	Evolutionary Approach to the Study of Human Behaviour.
Tues Jan 20	Multiple Explanations of Behaviour Essay #1 Due
Thurs Jan 22	Nature vs Nurture
Tues Jan 27	Natural Selection / Genes / Heredity / Behaviour
Thurs Jan 29	Adaptations
Tues Feb 3	Fitness / Inclusive Fitness Essay #2 Due
Thurs Feb 5	Sociality, Altruism and Aggression
Tues Feb 10	Game Theory and Evolutionary Stable Strategies
Thurs Feb 12	Evolution as a Metatheory for Psychology Essay #3 Due
Tues Feb 17	Feb 15-22 Reading Week – no classes
Thurs Feb 19	Feb 15-22 Reading Week – no classes
Tues Feb 24	Darwin’s contributions Mid-term Exam Due
Thurs Feb 26	Landscape Preferences
Tues Mar 3	Reproduction / Sex / Gender
Thurs Mar 5	Reproduction / Sex / Gender
Tues Mar 10	Reproduction / Sex / Gender Essay #4 Due
Thurs Mar 12	Sperm Competition
Tues Mar 17	Female Orgasm
Thurs Mar 19	Mate Competition / Mate Choice
Tues Mar 24	“The Face” Essay #5 Due
Thurs Mar 26	Jealousy / Incest Taboos
Tues Mar 31	Why Men have viewed Women as Property
Thurs Apr 2	Do we have a Rape-specific Adaptation
Tues Apr 7	Homicide
Thurs Apr 9	Cognitive Adaptations for Social Exchange
Tues Apr 14	Language
Thurs Apr 16	Overview Last day to allocate bonus credit for research participation
Fri Apr 17	Last day to withdraw from Winter Session half courses Major Essay Due
Thurs Apr 23	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. 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 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.

Course Credits for Research Participation

Students in most psychology courses are eligible to participate in Departmentally approved research and earn credits toward their final grades. A maximum of two credits (2%) per course, including this course, may be applied to the student's final grade. Students earn 0.5% (0.5 credits) for each full 30 minutes of participation. The demand for timeslots may exceed the supply in a given term. Thus, students are not guaranteed that there will be enough studies available to them to meet their credit requirements. Students should seek studies early in the term and should frequently check for open timeslots. Students can create an account and participate in Departmentally approved research studies at <http://ucalgary.sona-systems.com>. The last day to participate in studies and to assign or reassign earned credits to courses is **April 16, 2009**.

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 220-5567.

Student Union VP Academic: Phone: 220-3911 suvpaca@ucalgary.ca
Student Union Faculty Rep.: Phone: 220-3913 socialscirep@su.ucalgary.ca

Important Dates

The last day to drop this course and still receive a fee refund is **January 23, 2009**. The last day to withdraw from this course is **April 17, 2009**.