

**Psychology 473**
**Evolution and Human Behavior**
**Winter 2021**

<b>Instructor:</b>	Christopher Sears, Ph.D.	<b>Lecture Location:</b>	Online (Zoom)
<b>Phone:</b>	403-220-2803	<b>Lecture Days/Time:</b>	MWF 2:00 pm
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<b>Office Hours:</b>	By Appointment		

**Course Description**

An examination of the scientific synthesis of evolutionary biology and modern psychology, which offers a novel approach to such issues as short-term and long-term human mating strategies, short-term sexual strategies, conflict between the sexes, parental investment, aggression, and social dominance.

**Course Learning Outcomes**

The Department of Psychology is committed to student knowledge and skill development. The table below lists the key learning outcomes for this course, the program-learning outcomes they facilitate (see <https://live-arts.ucalgary.ca/psychology/about#program-learning-outcomes>), and the expected level of achievement.

Course Learning Outcomes	Assessment Methods	PLO(s)	Level(s)
Describe the key principles of evolution	Multiple choice question assignment	1	C
Describe the major stages and events of human evolution	Multiple choice question assignment	1	C
Consider the biological, psychological, and social bases of behaviour and cognition	Thought papers		A
Reflect on human cultural differences, similarities, and possible alternatives	Thought papers	2, 4	A
Think critically on differences between men and women's cognition and the possible origins of these differences	Thought papers	2	A
Write clear and concise thought papers on several different topics related to the course material	Thought papers	1, 4	A
Research and write a major paper on a topic related to the course	Research paper	1, 4	A

Notes. PLOs = Program-Learning Outcomes: 1 = demonstrate knowledge of psychological sciences, 2 = think critically and solve problems, 3 = conduct research and analyze data, 4 = communicate effectively, 5 = demonstrate information literacy, 6 = understand and implement ethical principles in a diverse world, 7 = apply psychological knowledge and skills, 8 = Demonstrate multicultural competence and awareness of issues related to equity, diversity,\* and inclusion. Level of PLO achievement facilitated by this course: I = introductory, C = competency, A = advanced.

## **Acknowledgments and Respect for Diversity**

Our classrooms view diversity of identity as a strength and resource. Your experiences and different perspectives are encouraged and add to a rich learning environment that fosters critical thought through respectful discussion and inclusion. The Department of Psychology would also like to acknowledge the traditional territories of the people of the Treaty 7 region in southern Alberta. The City of Calgary is also home to Métis Nation of Alberta, Region III.

## **Course Format**

Lectures will be taught live via Zoom during each scheduled class as per the course schedule below and will be recorded and posted to D2L after class.

## **Prerequisites**

Psychology 300, 301, and admission to the Psychology major or Honours program.

## **Required Text**

The text for this course *Evolutionary Psychology: The New Science of the Mind* (6<sup>th</sup> Edition) by David Buss. The text is available in the bookstore.

## **Assessment Methods**

Note: All assignments are to be submitted electronically (via D2L).

### 1. Multiple choice questions (20%)

You will create 10 multiple choice questions that could be used for an exam in this course. Your questions will test material from chapters 1 and 2 of the text. Details on this assignment will be provided on the first day of class. Your 10 multiple choice questions are due February 10 by 11:59 pm. Assignments submitted after the due date will be penalized 10% per day unless a late submission has been previously approved.

### 2. Thought papers (40%)

You will write 2 thought papers in this course. You can choose your own topics or you can choose from a list of preapproved topics. Each thought paper is worth 20% of the final grade and each will be between 8-10 pages in length (double-spaced, with 12-point font and 1-inch page margins, including the title page and References page). Additional details will be provided the first day of class. Your first thought paper is due February 26 by 11:59 pm. Your second thought paper is due March 24 by 11:59. Thought papers submitted after these deadlines will be penalized 10% per day unless a late submission has been previously approved.

### 3. Research paper (40%)

You will write a research paper on a topic of your choice. Papers should be between 15-20 pages, including the title page, abstract page, and References page (double-spaced, with 12-point font and 1-inch page margins). Additional details will be provided the first day of class. Your topic must be approved by March 1. Your research paper is due April 15 by 11:59 pm. Papers submitted after the due date will be penalized 10% per day unless a late submission has been previously approved.

## University of Calgary Academic Integrity Policy

Academic integrity is the foundation of the development and acquisition of knowledge and is based on values of honesty, trust, responsibility, and respect. We expect members of our community to act with integrity.

Research integrity, ethics, and principles of conduct are key to academic integrity. Members of our campus community are required to abide by our institutional code of conduct and promote academic integrity in upholding the University of Calgary's reputation of excellence. It is your responsibility to ensure that you have read and are familiar with the student academic misconduct policy: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-academic-misconduct-policy.pdf>.

## Department of Psychology Criteria for Letter Grades

Psychology course instructors 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

Date	Lecture Topic
M Jan 04	<i>Winter term begins (block week January 4-8)</i>
M Jan 11	<i>Start of Classes – No class today</i>
W Jan 13	Putting Things into Context (lecture)
F Jan 15	Putting Things into Context (lecture)
M Jan 18	Foundations of Evolutionary Psychology (chp. 1 and 2)
W Jan 20	Foundations of Evolutionary Psychology (chp. 1 and 2)
R Jan 21	<i>Last day to drop Winter Term half-courses</i>
F Jan 22	<i>Last day to add or swap a course; Foundations of Evolutionary Psychology (chp. 1 and 2)</i>
M Jan 25	Problems of Survival (chp. 3)
W Jan 27	Problems of Survival (chp. 3)
F Jan 29	<i>Fee payment deadline for Winter Term fees; Problems of Survival (chp. 3)</i>
M Feb 1	Problems of Survival (chp. 3)
W Feb 3	Women's Long-Term Mating Strategies (chp. 4)
F Feb 5	Women's Long-Term Mating Strategies (chp. 4)
M Feb 8	Women's Long-Term Mating Strategies (chp. 4)
W Feb 10	Women's Long-Term Mating Strategies (chp. 4); Multiple choice questions due
F Feb 12	Men's Long-Term Mating Strategies (chp. 5)
M Feb 15	<i>Alberta Family Day</i>
Feb 14-20	<i>Term Break, No Classes (University if Open, Except on Alberta Family Day)</i>
M Feb 22	Men's Long-Term Mating Strategies (chp. 5)
W Feb 24	Men's Long-Term Mating Strategies (chp. 5)
F Feb 26	Short-Term Sexual Strategies (chp. 6)
M Mar 1	Short-Term Sexual Strategies (chp. 6)
W Mar 3	Short-Term Sexual Strategies (chp. 6)
F Mar 5	Short-Term Sexual Strategies (chp. 6)
M Mar 8	Short-Term Sexual Strategies (chp. 6)
W Mar 10	Conflict Between the Sexes (chp. 11)
F Mar 12	Conflict Between the Sexes (chp. 11)
M Mar 15	Conflict Between the Sexes (chp. 11)
W Mar 17	Conflict Between the Sexes (chp. 11)
F Mar 19	Conflict Between the Sexes (chp. 11)
M Mar 22	Status, Prestige, and Social Dominance (chp. 12)

W Mar 24	Status, Prestige, and Social Dominance (chp. 12)
F Mar 26	Status, Prestige, and Social Dominance (chp. 12)
M Mar 30	Status, Prestige, and Social Dominance (chp. 12)
W Mar 31	Problems of Parenting (chp. 7)
F Apr 2	<i>Good Friday, University Closed</i>
M Apr 6	Easter Monday, University Closed
W Apr 7	Problems of Parenting (chp. 7)
F Apr 9	Problems of Parenting (chp. 7)
M Apr 12	Problems of Parenting (chp. 7)
W Apr 14	Final Thoughts (lecture)
R Apr 15	<i>Last day of classes, last day to withdraw from winter courses</i>
Apr 19-29	<i>Final Exam Period</i>

### **Absence from a Test/Exam**

Makeup tests/exams are **NOT** an option without the approval of the instructor. Students who miss a test/exam have 48 hours to contact the instructor to request a makeup test/exam. It is the instructor's discretion if they will allow a make-up 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. Once approved by the instructor, a makeup test/exam must be written within 2 weeks of the missed test/exam on a day/time scheduled by the instructor. If a student cannot write their final exam on the date assigned by the Registrar's Office they need to apply for a deferred exam: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/exams/deferred-exams>.

### **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 makeup exam because of conflicting travel plans (e.g., flight bookings) will NOT be considered by the department. Students are advised to wait until the final examination schedule is posted before making any travel arrangements. If a student cannot write their final exam on the date assigned by the Registrar's Office, they need to apply for a deferred exam: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/exams/deferred-exams>. Students with an exceptional extenuating circumstance (e.g., a family emergency) should contact the Department of Psychology (psyugrd@ucalgary.ca).

**Reappraisal of Graded Term Work** <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/i-2.html>

**Reappraisal of Final Grade** <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/i-3.html>

### **Academic Accommodations**

Students seeking an accommodation based on disability or medical concerns should contact Student Accessibility Services; SAS will process the request and issue letters of accommodation to instructors. For additional information on support services and accommodations for students with disabilities, visit [www.ucalgary.ca/access/](http://www.ucalgary.ca/access/). Students who require an accommodation in relation to their coursework based on a protected ground other than disability should communicate this need in writing to their Instructor. The full policy on Student Accommodations is available at <http://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy.pdf>.

### **Academic Misconduct**

For information on academic misconduct and its consequences, please see the University of Calgary Calendar at <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k.html>

### **Instructor Intellectual Property**

Course materials created by course instructors, including course outlines, presentations and posted notes, labs, case studies, lecture videos, and assignments and exams, are the intellectual property of the instructor. These materials may NOT be reproduced, distributed, revised, published, or copied without the explicit consent of the professor. The lecture videos posted in D2L are the instructor's intellectual property and may not be posted on other websites or shared in any way without the instructor's written permission. The posting of course materials to third party websites (such as note-sharing sites) without permission is prohibited. Sharing of extracts of these course materials with other students enrolled in the course at the same time may be allowed under fair dealing.

### **Copyright Legislation**

All students are required to read the University of Calgary policy on Acceptable Use of Material Protected by Copyright ([www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/acceptable-use-of-material-protected-by-copyright.pdf](http://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/acceptable-use-of-material-protected-by-copyright.pdf)) and requirements of the copyright act (<https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/C-42/index.html>) to ensure they are aware of the consequences of unauthorized sharing of course materials (including instructor notes and lecture slides, exams, electronic versions of textbooks, lecture videos, etc.). Students who use material protected by copyright in violation of this policy may be disciplined under the Non-Academic Misconduct Policy.

### **Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy**

Student information will be collected in accordance with typical (or usual) classroom practice. Students' assignments will be accessible only by the authorized course faculty. Private information related to the individual student is treated with the utmost regard by the faculty at the University of Calgary

### **Student Support and Resources**

<https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/registration/course-outlines>

**Important Dates**

The last day to drop this course with no “W” notation **and still receive a tuition fee refund is Thursday, January 21, 2021**. Last day add/swap a course is **Friday, January 22, 2021**. The last day to withdraw from this course is **Thursday, April 15, 2021** <https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/academic-schedule.html>