

PSYC410

Evolutionary Psychology: Mon/Wed 10am-11:20am (STB 146)

Instructor: Professor Azim Shariff

Office hours: Monday/Wednesday 11:20am-12pm, or by appointment

Office: Straub 329

Email: shariff@uoregon.edu (please put "410" in the subject line)

TA:

Office hours:

Office

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Class Format: In order to facilitate active participation, classes will alternate between Lecture Classes and Discussion Classes. For each topic, we'll start with a Lecture Class, in which I'll introduce the topic and the assigned readings (which will be available on the course blackboard). The following class will be devoted to discussion of various aspects and controversies relating to the topic. I will lead the discussion, but will base it on the Discussion Questions that you generate (see Assignments and Evaluation)

Assignments and Evaluation:	Discussion Question/Analysis Paper	25%*
	Participation	15%
	Term Paper	30%*
	Final Exam	30%

** No late assignments will be accepted without medical documentation. This is for your own good. The temptation to incur late penalties too often leads to unnecessary hemorrhaging of grades.*

Discussion Question/Analysis Paper: Each student will sign up to prepare a two-page analysis paper of a question of their choosing relating to the week's Lecture Class topic.

Lecture Class -
Wednesday

Analysis Paper -
Due Friday Midnight

Discussion Class -
Monday

This paper should be submitted via email no later than midnight on the Friday following Wednesday's Lecture Class. The questions discussed in these papers will then form the basis of the next Monday's Discussion Class.

A max of seven students may sign up for each week.

You may sign up at tinyurl.com/23ynyam.

Please do so before next class as the first papers will be due this Friday, Oct 1st.

These analysis papers will be graded as follows:

Suitability of Question for Discussion	5%
Knowledge of Material	10%
<u>Sophistication of Analysis</u>	<u>10%</u>
Total	25% of final grade

Participation: A key focus of the class will be active discussion of controversies within the field of evolutionary psychology. As a result, you will all have ample opportunity to actively participate in the class discussions. Engaging with these discussions will form a not insignificant component of your final grade. **15% of final grade**

Term Paper: The term paper will be a concise but in-depth treatment of a problem within evolutionary psychology that bridges at least two of the topics covered in class. The best papers will involve a review and evaluation of the current empirical and theoretical literature on the relevant topics, and an original contribution to the issue, either via a reframing of the theory, a unique marriage of disparate topics, or a well-thought out proposal for a new empirical investigation of an unresolved issue. Grading of the paper will be broken down as follows:

Breadth and understanding of existing research	12%
Insightfulness of original contribution	12%
<u>Engagingness, style and composition</u>	<u>6%</u>
Total	30% of final grade

Final Exam: The final exam will consist of both multiple choice and open response questions. It will cover material from the readings, the class lectures and the discussions, and account for **30% of your final grade.**

Experimental credits: One of the best ways of learning about how psychological research is conducted is for students to participate in psych experiments themselves. You will have the opportunity to earn up to 2% on top of your grade for participating in two hours worth of experiment through the Psychology Research Participant Pool (<https://uopsych.sona-systems.com/>). Alternatively, you can also earn these 2% by completing a methodological critique of a recent (2009 or 2010) empirical paper from the journal *Evolution and Human Behavior*. **2% bonus.**

Disability Services:

The University of Oregon is working to create inclusive learning environments. If there are aspects of the instruction or design of this course that result in disability related barriers to your participation, please notify me as soon as possible. You may also wish to contact Disability Services in 164 Oregon Hall, at 346-1155, or disabsrv@uoregon.edu

Academic Misconduct:

If you knowingly engage in academic misconduct, you are not only cheating your fellow students, but missing the point of a college education. Please inform yourself about the student conduct code (<http://conduct.uoregon.edu>) and about plagiarism, a particularly common form of misconduct (www.libweb.uoregon.edu/guides/plagiarism/students)

Class Schedule

LC= Lecture Class

DC= Discussion Class

Mon, September 27: Intro to Ev Psych I: The Why Question in Psychology (LC)

Wed, September 29: Intro to Ev Psych II: Key Concepts and Mechanisms (LC)

Mon, October 4: Intro to Ev Psych I & II (DC)

Wed, October 6: Challenges to Ev Psych (LC)

Mon, October 11: Challenges to Ev Psych (DC)

Wed, October 13: Sex (LC)

Mon, October 18: Sex (DC)

Wed, October 20: Sex II: (LC)

Mon, October 25: Sex II: (DC)

Wed, October 27: Cognition and Language (LC)

Mon, November 1: Cognition and Language (DC)

Wed, November 3: Group Living I: Morality (LC)

Mon, November 8: Group Living I: Morality (DC)

Wed, November 10: Group Living II: Culture & Religion (LC)

Mon, November 15: Group Living II: Culture & Religion (DC)

Wed, November 17: Group Living III: Food & Disease (LC) **TERM PAPERS DUE**

Mon, November 22: Group Living III: Food & Disease (DC)

Wed, November 24: Group Differences & Personality (LC)

Mon. November 29: Group Differences & Personality. Class wrap-up. (DC)

Wed. December 8: Final Exam (10:15am)