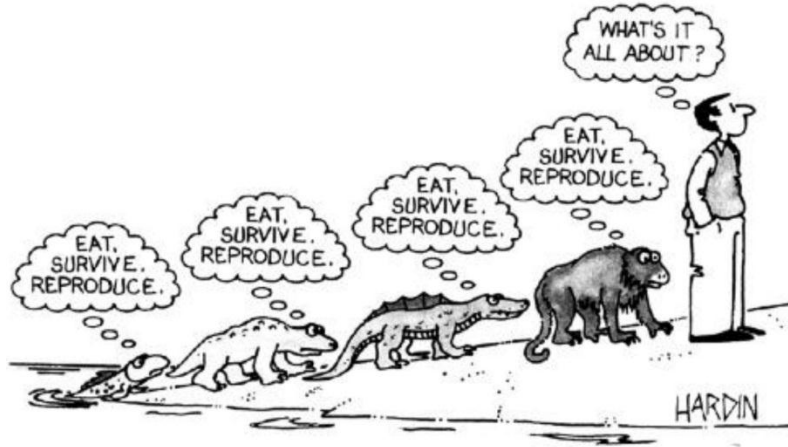


Psychology 410 – Evolutionary Psychology Spring 2013



Lecture: Mondays and Wednesdays 4:00p.m. – 5:50p.m., McKenzie 221

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Office Hours:	Mondays 1:00p.m. – 2:00p.m. Tuesdays 12:00p.m. – 1:00p.m.

OVERVIEW OF COURSE STRUCTURE

Course Objectives: At the end of this course you should have a solid understanding of how scientists can use Evolutionary Theory, first proposed by Charles Darwin, to study human behavior and the brain as well as generate new ideas and hypotheses for research. You should be able to read a description of human or animal behavior and theorize as to how evolutionary principles might explain that behavior, and additionally, be able to critically analyze evolutionary hypotheses you encounter for human behavior and functional brain anatomy.

Course Description: This course will introduce you to Evolutionary Theory and explain how Evolutionary Theory can be useful as a model for explaining the human experience. Evolutionary Psychology *is not* a sub-discipline within the field of Psychology, (such as developmental, cognitive, and/or clinical psychology) instead Evolutionary Psychology is an approach to behavior that can be applied to any sub-field of Psychology as well as many other disciplines (such as anthropology, economics, and/or political science).

Evolutionary Psychology is an integrated approach to human behavior which attempts to explain how specialized mental (brain) mechanisms, designed by a long history of evolution by natural selection, guide our present-day behavior and help us solve the problems of daily life that affected our ancestors ability to survive and reproduce successfully. The course will cover and discuss how the natural selection of “solutions” to our ancestors’ survival “problems” contributes to current human behavior and brain anatomy as they relate to human thought, social behavior, morality, sex, political affiliation, generosity, etc.

Course Design: The course promotes active learning — through discussion, solving problems, and computer exercises. As an instructor I see myself as a guide, cheerleader, and coach. The course encourages teamwork among students and the instructor. ***Although Exams are to be completed individually, students are encouraged to work together on homework and to discuss ideas for essays.***

Class meetings will be primarily lecture and discussion based, with PowerPoint slides used during lecture available for download on Blackboard. Lectures will cover **both** new material and assigned readings (DO NOT expect lecture to be simply a re-hash of textbook readings).

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. Participation. Participation includes in-class group activities, discussion participation, and pop-mini-quiz question responses. Note, credit is based NOT whether you got the right answer, but on whether you tried. In-class activities, questions, pop-mini-quizzes will be given randomly (either in Lecture on Monday or Wednesday) throughout the term. You can miss up to 5 participation points (for any reason) without penalization (i.e. you will receive full credits or 20 points so long as you receive 15 or more participation points during the term). After the 5 free points, points will be deducted accordingly (i.e. a participation score of 14/20 will yield a 70% score for participation whereas a score of 15/20 automatically becomes 20/20 or 100%). There are no make-up opportunities for participation points.

2. Homework. There will be 4 homework assignments during this course (approximately one per 2 week period). The homework assignments will be in the form of online quizzes taken on Blackboard (these are different from the in class pop-mini-quizzes, which will be taken for participation points). You will be given 5 attempts at each homework quiz, and feedback for the homework quizzes will be given in class the following day. Homework material covered in the quizzes will be drawn primarily from the textbook with the appropriate chapters necessary for the quiz given at the beginning of each quiz. ***Quizzes will only be available until 11:59p.m. the DAY THEY ARE DUE!!! This means that there will be no late homework quizzes accepted.***

3. Exams. You will have at least 50 minutes to complete each quiz (about 2/3 of the lecture period or longer). Be on time!! Exams will cover all material since the previous Exam and might include multiple choice, fill-in-the-blank, true/false, and/or short answer questions. Exams are closed book, closed note, and are completed individually. On Exam days, we will have a 50-minute lecture ***Prior*** to the Exam, followed by a 5-minute break, after which the Exam will commence. You may leave after you complete your Exam, but if you leave the room For Any Other Reason (bathroom, etc. you must ***Bring me your Exam First***). In addition, you may not leave until after you have turned in your Exam following its completion. ***Absolutely no texting or other use of electronic devices during scheduled Exam time is permitted.***

At the end of the term, ***you will have the option of taking a “comprehensive make-up” Exam, which will replace the lowest of your 3 Exam scores. Therefore, if you miss an Exam (and have a score of 0 for that Exam), the makeup Exam can be used to replace that score. This is the only option for making up missed Exams – no exceptions!*** On the final day of lecture, you will have 50 minutes to complete Exam 3, followed by 50 minutes to complete the make-up Exam.

4. Paper. You are required to select a **Psychological Phenomenon** or **Behavior** and analyze said phenomenon

or behavior using the Evolutionary Approach. Topics must be approved by the instructor **Prior** to submitting your paper. Examples of topics include politics, sexual selection, joy, anatomy, etc.

Requirements: The paper should be a minimum of 3 pages double-spaced and should include a description of the phenomenon or behavior, an analysis of how this behavior might be explained using the evolutionary approach, and an argument of how the approach expands upon or extends other explanations of the phenomenon or behavior.

Other Requirements: APA Format

12 point font

Times New Roman font

1 – Inch margins

Proper citations and references

Your paper topic is **due Monday, Feb. 25th** in class

Your paper is **due Monday, March 13th** in class

5. Book. The required text is *Evolutionary Psychology: The New Science of the Mind 4th Edition* (Buss, 2012).

In addition, journal article readings will also be posted on Blackboard when relevant.

COLLABORATION

Collaborative Learning: Discussing homework with other students and your instructor is encouraged, as are homework and study groups for quizzes and exams. Talking over the problems and reworking them when you discover that others got different answers promotes deeper understanding of concepts. ***However, each student must submit a separate homework.*** More explicitly, you may work together to solve problems and check your answers on homework with each other, but preparing those answers for your homework and the actual writing of any verbal answers need to be done independently.

Individual Work (when Collaboration = Cheating):

Your work on the quizzes must be your own. Any verbal statements on homework MUST be written in YOUR OWN WORDS. If you are caught cheating, the following consequences apply:

Cheating on Homework:

First offense: “0” on homework assignment and homework will be counted as not turned in

Second Offense: An “F” in the course. Infraction will be reported to the Office of Student Conduct and Community Standards.

Cheating on a Quiz:

An “F” in the course. Infraction will be reported to the Office of Student Conduct and Community Standards

The University may impose additional penalties in accordance with the student conduct code:

<http://uodos.uoregon.edu/StudentConductandCommunityStandards/StudentConductCode/tabid/69/Default.aspx>

SPECIAL NEEDS

Students with Disabilities: If you have a documented disability and may need accommodations, contact us ASAP. *There is no way we can help you if you come to us with a documented disability at the end of the term. In addition, please let us know in advance even if you are not sure that your disability will require accommodation* (for example, if you have a physical disability that may require you to miss class, but you aren't sure it will). Students who are experiencing learning difficulties are encouraged to consult Disabilities Services (164 Oregon Hall; 346-1155; <http://ds.uoregon.edu/>).

Student Athletes: *You must let me know during the first week of classes* if you will miss class due to travel with a UO athletic team and require accommodation. *Requirements for the course will not be relaxed* for student athletes, however *minor scheduling accommodations may be made (e.g., taking a quiz a few hours early) if planned well ahead of time.*

Other Students: If you are repeating this class, or have other circumstances that might affect your ability to devote time to the class, please let us know now so we can discuss strategies to promote your success in this course. If you wait until you have problems in the course, it may be too late to salvage your grade, but planning ahead will likely lead to success.

GRADING

Your *final course grade* is based on the following components:

- 300 points (60%)** Score on 3 Exams worth 100 points each (there will be one comprehensive make-up quiz at the end of the term if you would like to replace your lowest Exam score or make-up a missed Exam).
- 100 points (20%)** Paper on psychological phenomena or behavior of your choice analyzed using the Evolutionary Psychology approach
- 80 points (16%)** Score on 4 homework assignments worth 20 points each
- 20 points (4%)** Participation in in-class exercises, attendance, and assigned participation work

Final grades will be based on percentage of total possible points earned, distributed as follows:

	B+ 87.5 – 89.4%	C+ 77.5 – 79.4%	D+ 67.5 – 69.4%	Pass/No Pass:
A 92.5 – 100%	B 82.5 – 87.4%	C 72.5 – 77.4%	D 62.5 – 67.4%	P: 70% and up
A - 89.5 – 92.4%	B - 79.5 – 82.4%	C - 69.5 – 72.4%	D - 59.5 – 62.4%	N: 69% or lower

Extra Credit. You can earn up to 10 points of extra credit (added to your final score) by participating in up to 2 hours of ongoing experimental research in the Psychology Department and writing a short 1 paragraph summary of the study or by writing a short 2 page paper on a research article of your choice (article must be approved by instructor prior to assignment submission).

COURSE SCHEDULE

****Schedule, lecture topics, homework due dates, and Exam dates subject to change***

Date	Topic	Readings	Exams/HW/Paper
Week 1			
1/7	Introduction to Evolutionary Psychology	Ch. 1	
	Evolution of Genes I		
1/9	Evolution of Genes II	Ch. 2	
	Evolution of Humans I	Cosmides & Tooby (1987)	
Week 2			
1/14	Evolution of Humans II	Ch. 3	
		Marlow (2005)	
1/16	Evolution of Mating I : Women's Long-Term Mating Strategies	Ch. 4	
1/18			<i>Homework 1 Due!!! 11:59p.m.</i>
Week 3			
1/21	Martin Luther King Jr. Day: No Class		
1/23	Evolution of Mating II : Men's Long-Term Mating Strategies	Ch. 5	
	Review	Baker & Bellis (1993)	
Week 4			
1/28	Short-Term Sexual Strategies	Ch. 6	Exam 1
	Evolution of Art		
1/30	Evolution of Language	Ch. 7	
2/1			<i>Homework 2 Due!!! 11:59p.m.</i>
Week 5			
2/4	Evolution of Altruism I	Hamilton (1963)	
2/6	Evolution of Altruism II	Ch. 8	
		Axelrod & Hamilton (1981)	
Week 6			
2/11	Evolution and Group Living	Ch. 9	

COURSE SCHEDULE CONTINUED

Date	Topic	Readings	Exams/HW/Paper
Week 7			
2/18	Politics	Alford, Funk, & Hibbing (2005)	Exam 2
2/20	Culture I	Tooby & Cosmides (1992) pages 19 – 77	
2/22			<i>Homework 3 Due!!! 11:59p.m.</i>
Week 8			
2/25	Culture II	Tooby & Cosmides (1992) pages 77 – 124	<u>Paper Topic Due In Class!</u>
2/27	Religion	Shariff & Norenzayan (2007) Shariff, Norenzayan, & Henrich (2009)	
Week 9			
3/4	Violence	Ch. 10	
3/6	Sexual Aggression	Ch. 11	
3/8			<i>Homework 4 Due!!! 11:59p.m.</i>
Week 10			
3/11	Emotions		
	Happiness		
3/13	Course Review		<u>Paper Due In Class!</u>
Week 11			
	Finals Week		Make-up Exam