

York University
Faculty of Health
Department of Psychology
EVOLUTIONARY PSYCHOLOGY
PSYC3420
Winter 2016

Course Director: K. Phillips, Ph.D.
Rm. 253 BSB
Office Hours: Mondays 1:30 - 2:30
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Teaching Assistants: *For students with last names A-L*
Josh Smith (hominoid@yorku.ca)
For students with last names M-Z
Adam Bebko (bebbie@yorku.ca)

*****you MUST use your York account and put the course number in the subject line for all e-mail communications*****

Secretary: Ms. Barbara Thurston, Rm. 283 BSB, (416) 736-2100 ext. 66253

Class Time and Location: Mondays, 2:30 - 5:30, CLH-E

Required Text: Buss, D. M. (2015). *Evolutionary Psychology: The New Science of the Mind* (5th ed.). Boston: Allyn & Bacon.

Prerequisite: PSYC1010 6.0, with a minimum grade of C

Course Description: Evolutionary psychology represents a merger between evolutionary biology and the diverse subject areas of psychology. This course will introduce students to the assumptions, theories and methods in modern evolutionary sciences and apply them to a variety of core topical areas in psychology.

Procedures: Classes will meet for lectures of approximately 2 - 2.5 hours. The balance of the sessions will comprise films, discussions or tutorials. In-class tutorials will be conducted by the TAs and will deal mainly with the text material. The TAs will be available during this time to answer questions and facilitate discussion. Students are advised to read assigned materials and prepare questions concerning problematic material in advance of the tutorials. Students are advised to check Moodle frequently for course announcements.

Evaluation: Evaluation is based on 2 Midterm tests and a Final Exam, each worth 33.33%. Exams will be non-overlapping in terms of course material and will consist of multiple-choice items based on the text material, lectures, tutorials and films. **There will be no make up tests for missed midterms.** In the event that a midterm is missed for legitimate reasons (and supporting documentation is provided), the weighting of that midterm will be added to the other midterm test. TAs must be notified of absence within 48 hrs. of the midterm. Students who miss Midterm 1 waive the right to have graded feedback prior to the drop date. Students who miss both midterms for legitimate reasons, will be required to write a midterm component, the nature of which is determined by the course director. A grade of 0 will be assigned to missed midterms in instances where students fail to provide appropriate supporting documentation. Students who miss the Final Exam must notify the TA within 48 hours to present their reasons. All students must write the final exam. **Opportunities to write a Final Exam make up will be provided only to those students with legitimate reasons (see website below) and appropriate supporting documentation.** Deferred final exams are held on a single common date determined by the Department of Psychology. No individualized testing opportunities will be available. **It is expected that students will consult the Guidelines for Missed Tests and Exams posted at <http://psyc.info.yorku.ca/missed-tests-or-examinations/>.**

Grading: The grading scheme for this course will conform to the 9-point grading system outlined in the York University Undergraduate Calendar. With increasing frequency, students have requested grade adjustments at the end of term, in service of enhancing their GPA standings. As all multiple choice tests are scored by

Computing Services, such requests will not be met. Grade adjustments, when warranted, will be applied to ALL students in the class, rather than on an individual basis. This practice is designed to ensure fairness.

Information on Academic Honesty, Student Conduct Standards, Religious Observance Accommodation and Accommodations for Students With Disabilities: It is also expected that students are familiar with the Senate Committee on Curriculum & Academic Standards web page:

(http://www.yorku.ca/secretariat/senate_cte_main_pages/ccas.htm).

Information on plagiarism, cheating and other forms of academic dishonesty is provided in the Department of Psychology Supplemental Calendar and the York University Academic Integrity web site:

(<http://www.yorku.ca/secretariat/policies/document.php?document=69>)

LECTURE OUTLINE

- January 4: Introduction to the course. What is evolutionary psychology?
- January 11: Overview of Darwinian Theory
Film: Galapagos
- January 18: Mechanisms of Natural Selection
Film: Darwin's Secret Notebooks
- January 25: Human Nature
Tutorial
- February 1: **Midterm Test 1 (Lectures 1 - 4, Text Chapters 1, 2, &3)**
- February 8: Socioecology
Film: Desmond Morris - The Human Animal
- February 15: Reading Week - no classes
- February 22: Behavior Genetics: Methods, Heritability and Data from Studies of Personality
Film: Twins: The Undivided Self
- February 29: Sex and Mating Behavior
Tutorial
- March 4: ***Last day to drop Fall courses without receiving a grade*****
- March 7: **Midterm Test 2 (Lectures 5 - 7, Textbook Chapters 4, 5, 6, 11)**
- March 14: Special Topics Lecture: Offspring Attachment to Parents in Humans and Other Primates
- March 21: Parent-Offspring Attachment
Film: TBA
- March 28: Cognitive Processes
Tutorial
- April 6 - April 20: Final Exam Period**
Final Exam will cover Lectures 8 - 10, Textbook Chapters 7, 8, 9, 10 &12