

Human Evolutionary Psychology - Psych 4222 - Instructor: Pascal BOYER

Topic. How did evolution by natural selection shape the way humans beings think and behave? Does evolution explain human cooperation and friendship, human morality, reproductive decisions and social interactions? What sex differences in cognition or behavior are caused by evolution? This course introduces the concepts and findings of evolutionary psychology, mostly through reading of primary sources - articles from psychology and biology journals - and discussion and presentation of empirical cases.

Prerequisites. EITHER at least 6 units of Psychology level 300 or above, OR both Psych 100B and Anthro 3383.

Evaluation. Discussion of the readings (10%), oral presentation of one primary source (20%), six in-class quizzes (50%), one book review (20%). Letter grades: A+ = 96+, A=92+, A- =88+, B+ =84+, B=80+ and so on.

Contact. Email pboyer@artsci.wustl.edu for appointment - or office hours, Tue-Thur 1-2pm, Psych Building 453a.

Readings and discussion. Always prepare a list of main points of the readings and questions, as you may be asked to lead the discussion.

Presentations. Your presentation will be about a set of experimental studies. Please avoid simply summarizing the text, or going through the different sections (“then they say... then they say...”). Please provide a clear summary of [1] what the general question is, [2] what the state of the art is before the study, [3] what are the hypotheses, [4] what methods are used, [5] the results in sufficient detail to answer the question [6] whether the results justify the conclusion and support the hypothesis.

Book review. This should be about 1500 words long. Again, do not simply summarize the book. A review should tell the reader what the author was trying to do, how they did it, and whether they succeeded. Avoid expressing personal opinions – all statements should be justified by evidence or argument. Tentative list of books for review: *The Origins of Virtue: Human Instincts and the Evolution of Cooperation*, by Matt Ridley. *The Nurture Assumption. Why children turn out the way they do* by Judith Harris. *The Dangerous Passion: Jealousy Is As Necessary As Love and Sex* by David M. Buss. *The Mating Mind. How sexual choice shaped the evolution of human nature* By Geoffrey Miller. *The Murderer Next Door: Why the Mind Is Designed to Kill* by David M. Buss.

	Date	Theme	Readings	Presentations
1	25-Aug-15	Introduction		
2	27-Aug-15	Natural Selection	CartwrightDarwinLegacy	
3	1-Sep-15	Evolution of Behavior	CartwrightSelfishGene	Fessler 2005 Pregnancy&DisgustEHB2005
4	3-Sep-15	Strategic models	Easley 2010 Ch 7 excerpt	Animal Contests.pdf
5	8-Sep-15	Principles of EP	Evolutionary Psychology Primer	
6	10-Sep-15	Quiz		
7	15-Sep-15	Sex and Reproductive costs	Goetz 2009 Sexual Cost Asymmetry	TBA
8	17-Sep-15	Mate choice, attractiveness	BussSexDifferencesMating37cultures	Roney2008WomenEstradiolPreferenceMen
9	22-Sep-15	Mating, STM and LTM	Gangestad 2000 Reprod Strategies.pdf	Haselton 2006 Cycle & Women Interests
10	24-Sep-15	Sexual selection	BussWomenSexualStrategies	HaseltonMiller2006 creativecycles
11	29-Sep-15	Parental Investment	Geary 2001 Evolution Human Parenting	AndersonPaternalCareXhosa1999
12	1-Oct-15	Life-history theory	KaplanGangestad2006LHT&EvPsych.pdf	Maestripieri2004FatherAbsenceInterestInfants.pdf
13	6-Oct-15	Quiz2		
14	8-Oct-15	Social exchange	CosmidesSocialExchange	Kurzban 2005 Cooperative Types
15	13-Oct-15	Reciprocal altruism, nepotism	Trivers-EvolutionReciprocalAltruism	Bshary 2006 Cleaner Mutualism
16	15-Oct-15	Altruistic models	Boyd2006SolvingPuzzle	Yamagishi 2009 SocXchangeOutgroupHate
17	20-Oct-15	Mutualistic models	Baumard & Sheskin Partner choice	Nettle 06 Being Watched Cooperation.pdf
18	22-Oct-15	Commitment	ToobyCosmidesFriendship	FrankChapter 3
19	27-Oct-15	Quiz3		
20	29-Oct-15	Coalitional psychology	MesquidaWienerCoalitEthandSocib, Neuberg 08 Threats Opport Hum Sociality	Hess 2009 Informational Warfare
21	3-Nov-15	Social groups, race	Cosmides2003PerceptionRace	Goetze 2004 EP Ethnicity
22	5-Nov-15	Warfare	Tooby 1988 Evolution of War	Van Vugt 2009 Male Warrior
23	10-Nov-15	Aggression	Sell 2009 Anger.pdf	Ackerman 2005 Same Angry Race
24	12-Nov-15	Quiz4		

25	17-Nov-15	Sex differences, cognition	http://edge.org/3rd_culture/debate05/debate05_index.html	Miner 2014 Sex Differences Travel Tsimane
26	19-Nov-15	Sex differences, behavior	Daly Risk Taking, Auyeung 09 FT Testosterone Behavior	Campbell 2006 Sex Diff Aggression
27	24-Nov-15	Gender dominance	WilsonDalyViolenceAgWives	HopcroftSexDiscrimination2002
28	1-Dec-15	Quiz5		
29	3-Dec-15	Cultural evolution	SperberHirschfeldCultureModularity.pdf	