

**Genes, Evolution, and Behaviour**  
**PSYCH 3830**  
(Fall, Sept – Dec 2021)

Instructor: Tom Harrigan, Ph.D. ([t.harrigan@uwinnipeg.ca](mailto:t.harrigan@uwinnipeg.ca))

Time and Location: Tuesdays and Thursdays 1300 – 1415 h. Please Note: Due to Covid-19 there will be No formal classes. All class materials will be available online, NEXUS.

Office and Office Hours: E-mail me please.

**REQUIRED TEXTBOOK:**

Buss, D.M. (2019). Evolutionary Psychology (5<sup>th</sup> or 6<sup>th</sup> Ed): The New Science of the Mind. New York, USA. Routledge Taylor and Francis Group.

**CALENDER DESCRIPTION:**

This course examines behaviour from the point of view of genetic inheritance and evolution. Emphasis is placed on the ways in which genetic analysis can help us to understand the interplay between the environment and genes in the determination of behaviour. Topics include genetic defects and chromosomal anomalies, classical ethology, population genetics, heritability estimation, and that aspect of population ethology known as sociobiology.

**OVERVIEW:**

This course will provide an introduction to the emerging field of evolutionary psychology. Throughout the term we will consider the following topics from an evolutionary perspective: mating strategies; sexual jealousy; cheater detection; pregnancy sickness; parental nurturance and negligence; spatial memory; landscape preferences; and aggression and violence. To date, evolutionary psychology has provided a new and insightful perspective to many traditional areas within psychology, notably, cognitive psychology, personality psychology, developmental psychology, and linguistics. The final section of the course addresses how evolutionary psychology can shed light on many phenomena traditionally associated with clinical psychology.

**GRADING**

Marks will be allocated as follows:

Mid-term Exam (online, open book, and scheduled)	30%
Final Exam (online, open book, and scheduled)	35%
Online Timed and Graded Quizzes	35%
Each chapter will have an associated online Timed and Graded Quiz. The percentage weighting of each quiz may vary, but the total will be 35% of your final grade.	

TENTATIVE READING OUTLINE:

<b>Week Of</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Readings</b>
Sept 7	Introduction and Overview	
Sept 7	Foundations of Evolutionary Psychology I	Chapter 1
Sept 14	Foundations of Evolutionary Psychology II	Chapter 2
Sept 21	Problems of Survival	Chapter 3
Sept 28	Sex and Mating I: Women's Long-term Mating Strategies; Sex and Mating II: Men's Long-term Mating Strategies	Chapter 4 Chapter 5
Oct 5	Sex and Mating III: Short-term Strategies	Chapter 6
Oct 12	Reading Week	
Oct 19	Problems of parenting. <b>Midterm tentatively set for Oct 21; Chapters 1-6 Inclusive.</b>	Chapter 7
Oct 26	Problems of Kinship	Chapter 8
Nov 2	Problems of Group Living I: Cooperative Alliances	Chapter 9
Nov 9	Problems of Group Living II: Aggression and Warfare	Chapter 10
Nov 16	Problems of Group Living III: Conflict Between Sexes	Chapter 11
Nov 23	Problems of Group Living IV: Status, Prestige, and Social Dominance	Chapter 12
Read on Your Own	Toward an Integrated Psychological Science	Chapter 13
<b>Final Exam</b>	<b>NOT Cumulative! TBA, Chapters 7-13 Inclusive.</b>	

**Note 1:** Not all topics may be covered due to time constraints.

**Note 2:** UW is closed Sept 6 (Labour), Sept 30 (Truth and Reconciliation Day), Oct 11 (Thanksgiving), Nov 11 (Remembrance). Dec 24, 2021 - Jan 4, 2022 (the University is closed).

**Note 3:** The final date for voluntary withdrawal is **November 16, 2021**. Please note that withdrawing before the VW date does not necessarily result in a fee refund.

Reading week **Oct 10 - 16**.

We ask that you please be respectful of the needs of classmates and instructors/professors by avoiding the use of unnecessary scented products while attending lectures. Exposure to scented products can trigger serious health reactions in persons with asthma, allergies, migraines or chemical sensitivities. Please consider using unscented necessary products and avoiding unnecessary products that are scented (e.g. perfume).

Students are encouraged to review Section VII of the University calendar for information on appeals, withdrawal dates, and academic misconduct.

If you miss a test/exam for an acceptable reason (e.g., medical or compassionate documentation) you must contact your instructor promptly to set an alternate date to complete missed component.

GRADE COMPUTATION:

Grade totals, determined by the above mark allocation formula, will be converted to letter grades according to the following scale:

A+	At Instructor's Discretion	B+	77 – 81	C	57 – 64
A	88 – 100	B	72 – 76	D	50 – 55
A-	82 – 87	C+	65 – 71	F	0 – 49

**NOTE:** These cutoffs are **tentative**, and subject to department vetting and can change in either direction.

Plagiarism and cheating represent serious academic misconduct. Please review the Regulations and Policies section of the Course Calendar.

Avoid Academic Misconduct: Students should be familiar with the Regulations and Policies section of the Course Calendar dealing with academic regulations and policies, including Senate appeals and academic misconduct (e.g. plagiarism, cheating). Please see the 'Avoiding Plagiarism' video tutorial: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UvFdxRU9a8g>

<http://uwinnipeg.ca/academics/calendar/docs/regulationsandpolicies.pdf> .

Avoid Copyright Violation: Course materials are owned by the instructors who develop them. Examples include materials such as course outlines, assignments, lecture notes, test questions, slides. Please do not upload them to file-sharing sites, or in any other way share these materials with those outside the class without permission. This is a violation of copyright law and University policy. Students also need permission of the instructor/presenter before photographing or recording slides, presentation, lectures, and notes on the board.

### **Other Things of Interest**

Students will be required to show photo identification (UofW Student Card) when writing tests and exams at UW campus.

Class Cancellations: When it is necessary to cancel a live 'in-class' session due to exceptional circumstances, instructors will make every effort to inform students via uwinnipeg email or the online course management system. The Departmental Assistant will also be informed so class cancellation forms can be posted outside the classroom.

No make-up classes will be scheduled.

Please be reminded that you have the responsibility to regularly check your uwinnipeg email to ensure timely receipt of correspondence from the university and/or your course instructor.

### University Regulations & Additional Information

Withdrawal dates for the academic year can be found at:

<http://www.uwinnipeg.ca/index/services-withdrawal-schedules>

All students, faculty and staff have the right to participate, learn and work in an environment that is free of harassment and discrimination. The UW Respectful Working and Learning Environment Policy may be found at:

<http://www.uwinnipeg.ca/respect>

Students may choose not to attend classes or write examinations on holy days of their religion, but they must notify their instructors at least two weeks in advance. Instructors will then provide opportunity for students to make-up work and/or examinations without penalty. A list of religious holidays can be found in the 2021-2022 Academic Calendar, in the section, **Important Notes** (<https://www.uwinnipeg.ca/academics/calendar/dates.html>).

Students with documented disabilities, temporary or chronic medical conditions, requiring academic accommodations for tests/exams (e.g., private space) or during lectures/laboratories (e.g., note-takers) are encouraged to contact Accessibility Services (AS) at 204-786-9771 or [accessibilityservices@uwinnipeg.ca](mailto:accessibilityservices@uwinnipeg.ca) to discuss appropriate options. All information about a student's disability or medical condition remains confidential.

<http://www.uwinnipeg.ca/accessibility-services>