

Genes, Evolution, and Behaviour
PSYCH 3830
(Sept – Dec 2017)

Instructor: Tom Harrigan, Ph.D. (tharrigan@rrc.ca)
Time and Location: Tuesdays and Thursdays 1300 – 1415 h
Office and Office Hours: TBA; E-mail to make an appointment.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOK:

Buss, D.M. (2015). Evolutionary Psychology (5th Ed): The New Science of the Mind. Toronto: Allyn & Bacon, Pearson Education Ltd.

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 (Tentative: Oct 19, 2017)	35%
Final Exam (Tentatively, Dec 8, 2017)	45%
Assignment 1 (Multiple choice, due day of final exam)	20%

The individual assignment consists of 120 – 140 multiple choice questions designed to keep you moving through the textbook material in time with the lectures. Please note the assignment is to be done individually, working together with classmates is strictly prohibited. This assignment is due just before you write your final exam! Late assignments will be subject to a **25% penalty** of the assignments value for each late day. Thus if you're 1-minute to 24-hours late and get 100% on the assignment your mark will be 15 / 20.

TENTATIVE LECTURE OUTLINE:

Week Of	Topic	Readings
Sept 4	Introduction and Overview	
Sept 11	Foundations of Evolutionary Psychology I	Chapter 1
Sept 18	Foundations of Evolutionary Psychology II	Chapter 2
Sept 25	Problems of Survival	Chapter 3
Oct 2	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 16	Sex and Mating III: Short-term Strategies	Chapter 6
Oct 19, TERM TEST	Test #1 tentatively for Oct 19; Chapters 1-6 Inclusive.	
Oct 23	Problems of Parenting	Chapter 7
Oct 30	Problems of Kinship	Chapter 8
Nov 6	Problems of Group Living I: Cooperative Alliances	Chapter 9
Nov 13	Problems of Group Living II: Aggression and Warfare	Chapter 10
Nov 20	Problems of Group Living III: Conflict Between Sexes	Chapter 11
Nov 27	Problems of Group Living IV: Status, Prestige, and Social Dominance	Chapter 12
Read on Your Own	Toward an Integrated Psychological Science	Chapter 13
Final Exam	NOT Cumulative! TBA, Chapters 7-13 Inclusive. Tentatively, Dec 8, 0900 - 1200 h.	

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

Note 2: The final date for voluntary withdrawal is **November 10, 2017**. Reading week **Oct 8 - 14**.

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+	75 – 79	C	55 – 64
A	85 – 100	B	70 – 74	D	50 – 54
A-	80 – 84	C+	65 – 69	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.

Other Things of Interest

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

No extraneous material or devices are allowed during tests and exams.

Students must not have cell phones in their possession during tests and exams.

All submitted written work must be typed.

University Regulations & Additional Information

Withdrawal dates for the academic year can be found at:

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

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).

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 at:

<http://uwinnipeg.ca/academics/calendar/docs/important-notes.pdf>

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 to discuss appropriate options. All information about a student's disability or medical condition remains confidential.

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