

**Genes, Evolution, and Behaviour**  
**PSYCH 4830**  
(Fall, Sept – Dec 2021)

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

Time and Location: Specific times and dates will be assigned online. NEXUS+

Office and Office Hours: TBA; E-mail to make an appointment.

TEXTBOOK reading:

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 emersion 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 Test (TBA: text material (Chapters 1-6 inclusive) and seminars)	20%
Final Exam (TBA: text material (Chapters 7-13 inclusive and seminars). This is Not a cumulative exam.	20%
Seminar Presentation 1 (to include a written APA submission)	25%
Seminar Presentation 2 (to include a written APA submission)	25%
Online Quizzes – Timed and Graded based on textbook readings/chapters.	10%

**Note 1:** The final date for voluntary withdrawal is **Nov 16, 2021**. Please note that withdrawing before the VW date does not necessarily result in a fee refund.

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

**Note 3:** Reading week **Oct 10 - 16**.

**\*\*Note: This is a seminar based course.** Students are required to instruct the class on an evolutionary-related topic of their choice for a time block of 20-25 minutes twice during the term. Usually once before the midterm and once after the midterm. In the Covid 2021 version of this class – students may be required to record and upload a 20-25 min presentation for evaluation for each presentation should we not be able to meet in-class. Guidelines for the seminar will be outlined in class. These student lead seminars and the assigned textbook readings will form the basis of the mid-term test and final exam. Since these seminars are testable class material – due dates for presentations, assigned during the term for each student, will need to be strictly adhered to so your colleagues have time to review the material. Late presentations may not be accepted and/or penalized at a cumulative rate of 20% per late day.

For in-class lectures, 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+	76 – 81	C	55 – 64
A	88 – 100	B	70 – 75	D	50 – 54
A-	82 – 87	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.

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 on campus at the university.

Class Cancellations: When it is necessary to cancel a live 'in-class' lecture 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>

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 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>