

Psychology 3000
Special Topics: Psychology & Evolution
Spring 2008
(Revised 02.14.2008)

This course explores the application of evolutionary theory to understanding human behavior, emotion and thought. We will examine ideas that explain behavior and psychological processes as evolved adaptations and examine the evidence that they contribute to an understanding of human psychology.

Instructor: Dr. Michael F Brown
M-52 Tolentine
94748
michael.brown@villanova.edu
www.homepage.villanova.edu/michael.brown
Office Hours: TWR 1:00-2:00 & by appt.

Graded Work:

Exam 1	30% (60 points)
Exam 2	30% (60 points)
Final Exam	30% (60 points)
Participation	10% (20 points)

Required Texts:

- Buss, D. (2008). *Evolutionary Psychology: The New Science of the Mind*. Allyn and Bacon. (3rd Edition)
- Dawkins, R. (1989). *The Selfish Gene*. Oxford University Press.

Our classroom time will be a combination of lectures and discussion of the assigned material. Students are responsible for CAREFULLY reading the assigned material before each class and being prepared to discuss it in depth. You are expected to outline the material as you read it, and make a list of questions and issues for the purposes of our classroom discussion. All students should be prepared to produce their questions about the assigned readings during class. Your outline and list of questions may be collected in class, in which case they will affect your grade for class participation. Your grade for class participation will also be based on the quality and quantity of your contributions to class discussions. Unannounced quizzes may also occur – if so, they will be included in the grade for participation.

WEEK OF	TOPIC	TENTATIVE READING ASSIGNMENTS
<i>Assigned Reading MUST be completed BEFORE the Tuesday of the corresponding week</i>		
Jan 14	Introduction & Orientation	
Jan 21	Natural Selection & Behavior	D-1, B-1, B-2
Jan 28	Evolutionary History of Humans	B-3, R
Feb 4	Gene-centered Natural Selection	D-2, D-3
Feb 11	Family Relationships	D-4, D-6
Exam 1: Thursday, Feb 14		
Feb 18	Reproduction & Relationships	D-7, B-8, D-9
Feb 25	Sex Roles & Mating Strategies	B-4, B-5
March 10	Sexual Conflict	B-6, B-11, R
March 17 e	Parents & Children	D-8, B-7
March 24	Social Interactions: Aggression	D-5, B10
Exam 2: Tuesday April 1		
March 31	Social Interactions: Cooperation	D-10, D-12, B-9
April 7	Critical Analysis of Evolutionary Psychology	R
April 14	Nature and Nurture	D-11, R
April 21	Learning and Adaptation	R
April 28	Comparative Cognition / Being a Primate in the Modern World	R
Final Exam: Sat, May 3, 1:30 – 4:00		
D=Dawkins, B=Buss, R=Readings TBA		

Students with Special Needs

It is the policy of Villanova to make reasonable academic accommodations for qualified individuals with disabilities. If you are a person with a disability please contact me after class or during office hours and make arrangements to register with the Learning Support Office (9-5636) as soon as possible. Registration is needed in order to receive accommodations.

Academic Integrity

Villanova University's *Academic Integrity Code* (as described in the College of Arts & Science's *Enchiridion* and on the website of the Vice President for Academic Affairs) will be strictly enforced.

Make-up Exams

There will be no make-up exams except in cases of documented medical emergencies or problems.