

University of Waterloo
Department of Psychology
Psychology 361
Evolutionary Psychology
Winter 2017
MW 2:30-3:50 pm, STC 0040

Instructor and T.A. Information

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Course Description

This course examines the impact of evolution on human behaviour. There is growing evidence that many facets of our mind and behaviour, as well as our anatomy and physiology, were shaped by our evolutionary history. Evolution is not about survival. Evolution is about the perpetuation of genes. Evolution is not about competition for scarce resources, it is about reproductive competition. Sex is the final common path for all evolutionary change. This course focuses on emerging scientific evidence for a variety of reproductive strategies that humans unwittingly use to compete amongst each other to maximize their genetic representation in future generations.

Course Goals and Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this course, students should be able to:

- A. Explain the basic processes that led to present-day life on the planet, including
 - Variation, Selection, and Retention

- B. Explain how evolutionary pressures shape our current day behaviour, including
 - Competition for reproductive success

- C. Explain important concepts in evolution, including
 - Kin selection and inclusive fitness

Required Text

- Ray, W. J. (2013). Evolutionary Psychology: Neuroscience Perspectives Concerning Human Behavior and Experience. Sage.

Information Available on LEARN

The course web page can be found on LEARN at <https://learn.uwaterloo.ca/>. Here, you will find links to the syllabus, to my lecture slides, and to important announcements. Supplemental readings may be posted here, as well.

Course Requirements and Assessment

There will be four non-cumulative tests, each worth 25% of the final grade (see dates below). The tests will be comprised predominately of multiple-choice questions with the addition of a few short answer questions. All tests will be based on material presented in the text and in the lectures.

Assessment	Date of Evaluation (if known)	Weighting
Test #1	January 23rd, 2017	25%
Test #2	February 13th, 2017	25%
Test #3	March 13th, 2017	25%
Test #4	April 3rd, 2017	25%
Total		100%

Students will also have the opportunity to earn 4 bonus marks by participating in research studies.

Course Outline

Notes on readings.

Week	Date	Topic	Readings Due
1	1/4	Evolutionary Theory	Chapter 1, 2
2	1/9 1/11	Evolutionary Theory; Fitness, Selection, Mutation Behavior Genetics, Correlational Approach	Chapter 2, 3
3	1/16 1/18	Strain Comparisons, Selective Breeding, Evolution as an Existential Game	Chapter 4
4	1/23 1/25	Kin Selection, Inclusive Fitness Proportionate vs. Net Genetic Representation	Chapter 5
5	1/30 2/1	Inbreeding Depression, C/B Ratios Sex Specific Maxmization Strategies	Chapter 6,7
6	2/6 2/8	Parental Assurance, Parental Investment, Reproductive Potential,	Chapter 8
7	2/13 2/15	Female Infidelity & Parental Assurance, Sex Differences in the Design of Sexual Expression	Chapter 9
8	2/27 3/1	Breeding Patterns, Mating Arrangements, Proximate vs. Ultimate Causes	Chapter 10, 11

Week	Date	Topic	Readings Due
9	3/6 3/8	Sexual Motivation vs. Sexual Pleasure, Concealed Ovulation, Permanent Breast Enlargement	Chapter 12
10	3/13 3/15	Mate Selection, Sperm Retention	Chapter 13
11	3/20 3/22	Homosexuality, Homophobia Rape: Crime of Violence or Passion?	Chapter 14
12	3/27 3/29	Psychobiology of Human Semen, Semen Familiarity & Pregnancy Complications	Chapter 15
13	4/3	Test 4	

Research Experience Marks

Information and Guidelines: Experiential learning is considered an integral part of the undergraduate program in Psychology. Research participation is one example of this, article review is another. A number of undergraduate courses have been expanded to include opportunities for Psychology students to earn points while gaining research experience.

Because experiential learning is highly valued in the Department of Psychology, students may earn a “bonus” grade of up to 4% in this course through research participation. Course work will constitute 100% of the final mark and a “bonus” of up to 4% may be earned and will be added to the final grade if/as needed to bring the final grade up to 100%. The two options for earning research experience credits (participation in research and article review) are described below. Students may complete any combination of these options to earn research experience grades.

Option 1: Participation in Psychological Research. Research participation is coordinated by the Research Experiences Group (REG). Psychology students may volunteer as research participants in lab and/or online (web-based) studies conducted by students and faculty in the Department of Psychology. Participation enables students to learn first-hand about psychology research and related concepts. Many students report that participation in research is both an educational and interesting experience. Please be assured that all Psychology studies have undergone ethics review and have been cleared through the Office of Research Ethics.

Educational focus of participation in research: To maximize the educational benefits of participating in research, students will receive feedback information following their participation in each study. This feedback will detail the following elements:

- Purpose or objectives of the study
- Independent and dependent variables
- Expected results
- References for at least two related research articles
- Provisions to ensure confidentiality of data

- Contact information of the researcher should the student have further questions about the study
- Contact information for the Director of the Office of Research Ethics should the student wish to learn more about the general ethical issues surrounding research with human participants, or specific questions about the study in which s/he participated.

Participation is worth 0.5 participation credits (grade percentage points) for each half-hour of participation. Researchers will record students' participation and REG will advise the course instructor of the total credits earned by each student at the end of the term.

Study scheduling, participation and grade assignment is managed using the SONA online system. All students enrolled in this course have a SONA account. It is VERY IMPORTANT that students get an early start on their studies. For detailed instructions on when and how to access your SONA account and for a list of important dates and deadlines, please, as soon as possible, click on:

<http://www.arts.uwaterloo.ca/~regadmin/regparticipant/sonainfo/#SonaSignUp>

Please do not ask the course instructor or REG Coordinator for information unless you have first thoroughly read the information provided on this website.

Option 2: Article Review as an alternative to participation in research. Students are not required to participate in research, and not all students wish to do so. As an alternative, students may opt to gain research experience by writing short reviews (1.5-2 pages) of research articles. Please contact your TA in order to be given an approved article. Each review counts as one percentage point. To receive credit, you must follow specific guidelines. The article review must:

- Be submitted before the last lecture. Late submission will NOT be accepted under ANY circumstances.
- Be typed
- Fully identify the title, author(s), source and date of the article.
- Identify the psychological concepts in the article. Critically evaluate the application or treatment of those concepts in the article. If inappropriate or incorrect, identify the error and its implications for the validity of the article. You may find, for example, misleading headings, faulty research procedures, alternative explanations that are ignored, failures to distinguish factual findings from opinions, faulty statements of cause-effect relations, errors in reasoning, etc. Provide examples whenever possible.
- Clearly evaluate the application or treatment of those concepts in the article.
- Keep a copy of your review in the unlikely event that we misplace the original.

Electronic Device Policy

Laptops for notetaking are permitted during lectures. Web surfing and emailing during lectures will not be permitted, however.

All cellphone ringers must be turned off during lectures and exams.

All electronic devices (e.g., phones, laptops, tablets) must be stowed away and inaccessible during exams.

Attendance Policy

Attendance is not mandatory, however students who attend class regularly perform better than those who do not. If a class is missed, it is up to the student to get lecture notes from a fellow classmate.

Attendance at each of the 4 in-class exams is mandatory. If a student is ill and unable to write an exam the instructor must be notified PRIOR to the exam. Furthermore, the student must provide appropriate documentation of illness from the Office of Health Services. Failure to do so will result in a mark of 0% for the exam.

Institutional-required statements for undergraduate course outlines approved by Senate Undergraduate Council, April 14, 2009

Cross-listed course

Please note that a cross-listed course will count in all respective averages no matter under which rubric it has been taken. For example, a PHIL/PSCI cross-list will count in a Philosophy major average, even if the course was taken under the Political Science rubric.

Academic Integrity

Academic Integrity: In order to maintain a culture of academic integrity, members of the University of Waterloo are expected to promote honesty, trust, fairness, respect and responsibility.

Discipline: A student is expected to know what constitutes academic integrity, to avoid committing academic offences, and to take responsibility for his/her actions. A student who is unsure whether an action constitutes an offence, or who needs help in learning how to avoid offences (e.g., plagiarism, cheating) or about “rules” for group work/collaboration should seek guidance from the course professor, academic advisor, or the Undergraduate Associate Dean. When misconduct has been found to have occurred, disciplinary penalties will be imposed under Policy 71 – Student Discipline. For information on categories of offenses and types of penalties, students should refer to [Policy 71 - Student Discipline](#).

Grievance: A student who believes that a decision affecting some aspect of his/her university life has been unfair or unreasonable may have grounds for initiating a grievance. Read [Policy 70 - Student Petitions and Grievances, Section 4](#).

Appeals: A student may appeal the finding and/or penalty in a decision made under Policy 70 - Student Petitions and Grievances (other than regarding a petition) or Policy 71 - Student Discipline if a ground for an appeal can be established. Read [Policy 72 - Student Appeals](#).

Other sources of information for students

[Academic integrity](#) (Arts) [Academic Integrity Office](#) (uWaterloo)

Accommodation for Students with Disabilities

Note for students with disabilities: The [AccessAbility Services office](#), located in Needles Hall Room 1132, collaborates with all academic departments to arrange appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities without compromising the academic integrity of the curriculum. If you require academic accommodations to lessen the impact of your disability, please register with the AS office at the beginning of each academic term.