



University of Waterloo
Department of Psychology
Waterloo, Ontario, Canada N2L 3G1

Psychology 458

Winter, 2018

Evolutionary Medicine

Time: Monday 8:30 -11:20

Place: PAS 2086

Instructor: Jennifer Stolz

Office: PAS 4056

Office Hours: Tuesday 2-3, and by appointment.

Phone: 888-4567 ext. 35937

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Course Objective

Just as the environmental pressures that our ancestors faced influenced the evolution of our physical form, human behavior can also be viewed through the lens of evolutionary adaptations. In this seminar, we will consider how adaptations in our ancestral history affect our health, both physical and mental. We will evaluate how contemporary circumstances may be at odds with evolved adaptations in our ancestral history and, as a result, constitute a source of many medical and psychological problems. Topics to be discussed include, but are not limited to, diet, exercise, sources of infection and immunity, sleep patterns and the photo period, recreational drug use, cosmetic enhancements, breeding patterns, mate choice, the use of birth control, and various reproductive issues.

Course Components and Grading

Each student will be randomly paired with one classmate with whom he or she will prepare a presentation on one of our weekly topics. The presentation will be worth 35% of the student's final mark. On the weeks in which a student is not presenting, s/he will prepare a brief (1-2 page) thought paper on the readings assigned for that week. Thus, each student will prepare 9 of these papers. These papers will be due on the Friday before class (at or before 4 p.m.), so that I have time to read through the papers before class on Monday. Of these 9, the best 6 will be selected to contribute to the student's grade. Each paper will be worth 5% of the final course grade, for a total of 30% from the 6 marked papers. Finally, each student will prepare a comprehensive (10-15 page) paper on a topic relevant to Evolutionary Medicine. This paper will be worth 35% of the student's final mark and the topic of the paper should be discussed in advance with me.

Summary of Grading Scheme

Presentation with partner	35%
Thought Papers (6/8 @ 5%)	30%
Comprehensive paper	35%

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