

Evolutionary Psychology - PSY 334e - Fall 2011
Unique Number: 43165
Professor David M. Buss

Course Description. This course will examine the mechanisms of the human mind through the lens of evolutionary psychology. We begin with a brief historical review of key theories in psychology and evolutionary biology. We then proceed to substantive topics, including problems of survival, long-term mating, sexuality, parenting, kinship, cooperation, aggression and warfare, conflict between the sexes, status, prestige, and dominance hierarchies. The course concludes by proposing a unified field that integrates the different branches of psychology.

Required Readings for Course:

Buss, D.M. (2012). *Evolutionary psychology: The new science of the mind*,

Fourth Edition. Boston: Allyn & Bacon. [EP]

Dawkins, R. (1989, or 2006). *The selfish gene*. New York: Oxford University Press. [SG]

Course Website: <http://homepage.psy.utexas.edu/homepage/class/Psy334e/>

Grading & Exams: Grading will be based on 4 exams, worth 25% each. The exams will consist of 45 multiple choice questions worth 2 points each and 2 short answer questions worth 5 points each. Each exam will cover approximately one fourth of the material in the course. There is no final exam. Make-up exams will not be given unless arranged ahead of time with the T.A. in the case of documented emergencies or illnesses. The make-up exam will consist of five essay questions, worth 20 points apiece. You may go over your exam with the course T.A. anytime during the period only before the next exam is given.

Summary of Requirements:

Exam #1	Sept. 15	25%
Exam #2	Oct. 11	25%
Exam #3	Nov. 3	25%
Exam #4	Dec. 1	25%

Teaching Staff:

Cari Goetz, Teaching Assistant: Seay 3.324C; Office Hours: T 1:00-3:00, W 4:00 – 5:00

Email: cdgoetz@mail.utexas.edu

Please direct all grading and exam-related questions to Cari Goetz.

David M. Buss, Professor: Seay 3.228; Office Hours: T, Th. 4:45 - 5:45

Email: dbuss@psy.utexas.edu

Evolutionary Psychology

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Dates	Topic	Readings
Aug. 25, 30	Introduction	EP: Chapter 1; SG: 1, 2
Sept. 1, 6	Psychological Foundations	EP: Chapter 2; SG: 3
Sept. 8, 13	The Hostile Forces of Nature	EP: Chapter 3; SG: 4
Sept. 15	Exam #1	No Readings
Sept. 20, 22	Women's LT Mating Strategies	EP: Chapter 4
Sept. 27	Men's LT Mating Strategies	EP: Chapter 5
Sept. 29, Oct. 4	Short-Term Sexual Strategies	EP: Chapter 6
Oct. 6	Problems of Parenting	EP: Chapter 7; SG: 7, 8
Oct. 11	Exam #2	No Readings
Oct. 13, 18	Problems of Kinship	EP: Chapter 8; SG: 6
Oct. 20, 25	Cooperation	EP: Chapter 9; SG: 10, 12
Oct. 27, Nov. 1	Aggression and Warfare	EP: Chapter 10; SG: 5
Nov. 3	Exam #3	No Readings
Nov. 8, 10	Conflict Between the Sexes	EP: Chapter 11; SG: 9
Nov. 15, 17	Status, Prestige, Dominance	EP: Chapter 12; BB reading
Nov. 22	Unified Psychology	EP: Chapter 13
<i>Nov. 24</i>	<i>Thanksgiving – No Class</i>	
Nov. 29	Unified Psychology	SG: Ch. 11, 13
Dec. 1	Exam #4	No Readings

Prerequisites

The Psychology Department will drop all students who do not meet the following prerequisites:

- (a) PSY 301 with a C or better
- (b) PSY 418 (or an equivalent listed in the course schedule) with a C or better
- (c) Upper-Division standing (60 hours completed)

Note

The University of Texas at Austin provides upon request appropriate academic accommodations for qualified students with disabilities. For more information, contact the Office of the Dean of Students at 471-6259, 471-4641 TTY.