

PSYC 473	Evolution & Human Behaviour	Fall 2023
<b>Instructor:</b>	Dr. Greta Chan	<b>Lecture Location:</b> SH 274
<b>Phone:</b>	N/A	<b>Lecture Days/Time:</b> TR 12:30 – 1:45 p.m.
<b>Email:</b>	<a href="mailto:ching.chan@ucalgary.ca">ching.chan@ucalgary.ca</a>	<b>TA:</b> TBA
<b>Office:</b>	AD 155B	
<b>Office Hours:</b>	TR 2:30 – 3:30 p.m.	

### Course Description

An examination of the scientific synthesis of evolutionary biology and modern psychology, which offers a novel approach to such issues as personality, psychological disorders, men & women’s mate preferences & mating strategies, emotion, memory, & cognition.

This course has three parts:

Part I: The origin of Darwinism & evolutionary biology

Part II: Darwinism & modern psychology

Part III: Evaluation of the evolutionary approach to psychology

### Course Learning Outcomes

The Department of Psychology is committed to student knowledge and skill development. The table below lists the key learning outcomes for this course, the program-learning outcomes they facilitate (see <https://live-arts.ucalgary.ca/psychology/about#program-learning-outcomes>), and the expected level of achievement.

Course Learning Outcomes	Assessment Methods	PLO(s)	Level(s)
Understand the concepts of Darwinism	MC exam	5	C
Understand the origin of Darwinism	MC exam	5	C
Understand modern psychology from the viewpoint of Darwinism	Oral presentation Assignment Term paper	1, 2, 4, 5	C, C, C, C
Evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of Darwinism	Oral presentation Term paper	1, 2, 4, 5	A, A, A, A
Conduct literature search	Oral presentation Term paper	1, 2, 4, 5, 7	C, C, C, C, A

Notes. PLOs = Program-Learning Outcomes: 1 = demonstrate knowledge of psychological sciences, 2 = think critically and solve problems, 3 = conduct research and analyze data, 4 = communicate effectively, 5 = demonstrate information literacy, 6 = understand and implement ethical principles in a diverse world, 7 = apply psychological knowledge and skills, 8 = Demonstrate multicultural competence and awareness of issues related to equity, diversity,\* and inclusion. Level of PLO achievement facilitated by this course: I = introductory, C = competency, A = advanced.

### Acknowledgments and Respect for Diversity

Our classrooms view diversity of identity as a strength and resource. Your experiences and different perspectives are encouraged and add to a rich learning environment that fosters critical thought through respectful discussion and inclusion. The Department of Psychology would also like to acknowledge the traditional territories of the people of the Treaty 7 region in southern Alberta. The City of Calgary is also home to Métis Nation of Alberta, Region III.

### **Course Format**

This is an in-person class held on campus.

### **Prerequisites**

Psychology 300, 301 and admission to the Psychology major or Honours program.

### **Recommended Texts**

Any editions of the following texts:

*Campbell Biology*

*Evolutionary Psychology: The New Science of the Mind* by David Buss

Note: These texts are not available in the university bookstore. PDF of the texts can be downloaded from the internet. A PDF of the 11<sup>th</sup> edition of *Campbell Biology* will be posted on D2L.

### **Assessment Methods**

#### **Open-Book MC Exam on D2L (10%)**

- This exam is open-book and not timed. For this course, an open book exam means that the use of class notes and the textbook is permitted. The use of online resources is permitted. Students may form study groups and communicate with others about the exam questions.
- The topics covered in this exam include: The origin and development of Darwinism, the concepts of Darwinism and modern synthesis.
- All answers in this exam can be found in the recommended texts.
- The purpose of this exam is to motivate students to take a closer look at the theory of evolution, which is essential for the discussion on the application of this theory to explain the formation of psychological constructs (e.g., personality traits) and human behaviours in a modern context.
- The last day to submit your completed exam is September 28 (before 11:59 p.m.).

#### **In-Class & Closed-Book Exam (10%)**

- There will be one in-class closed-book exam (MC & short answer) on evolutionary biology.
- The topics covered in this exam include lecture notes on “A Darwinian View of Life” and “The Evolution of Populations.”
- In this exam, the use of resources, including class notes, the textbook, online resources, is prohibited during the exams in this course. Students may not communicate with others about course material or the exam either in person or electronically during exams.
- Duration: 75 minutes
- Date: September 21

#### **Assignment (10%)**

- In this assignment, students will propose some explanations for the frequency distributions of the five personality traits in the Big-Five model based on their understanding of the patterns of inheritance, the principles of evolution, and theories of psychology like behaviourism & social learning (i.e., students will explain why the majority people are in the moderate range between the high and low poles of the traits).
- The length of this assignment is between 750 and 1000 words.
- Due date: Oct 5

### **First Group Presentation (10%)**

- Each student will be randomly assigned into a small group (with 4 or 5 students per group).
- Each group will read a research article and present the article in about 30 minutes.
- See the timetable in the Lecture Tentative Schedule for presentation dates.

### **Second Group Presentation (10%)**

- Each student will be randomly assigned into a small group (a group that is different than the group for the first presentation).
- Each group will evaluate the theory of evolution based on the criticism that the group members find in the literature.
- The duration of each presentation is about 30 minutes.
- More details about this presentation will be posted on D2L.
- See the timetable in the Lecture Tentative Schedule for presentation dates.

Note: Students who miss any of the two group presentations will be given time at the end of the semester to give a 15-minute presentation on topics of their own choice (i.e., you will present an idea/a paper solo if you miss a group presentation).

### **Term Papers (50%)**

In this written assignment, students will imagine themselves authoring a book entitled “Theories of Psychology.” Based on what they have learned in this course, students will write a book chapter introducing the theory of evolution and its criticism. Sample writings from psychology textbooks will be posted on D2L.

This written assignment consists of two parts:

#### **Part I: Darwinism and Modern Psychology (25%)**

- The topics of Part I may include: the origin of Darwinism, the principles of evolution, and the application of Darwinism to explain observations in modern psychology.
- The suggested length of Part I is about 1500 to 2000 words.
- This part will be marked by the TA.
- Due Date: Nov 7
- Submit your paper via Dropbox on D2L

- Without the TA's approval, late assignments will be penalized 10% per 7 days, including weekends.

#### Part II: Evaluation of Darwinism (25%)

- The topics of Part II may include review of empirical studies that provide alternative explanations for findings that were believed to support the theory of evolution; review of literature that evaluates the strengths and limitations of evolutionary psychology; evolutionary psychologists' rebuttal of the criticism.
- The suggested length of Part II is about 1250 to 1500 words.
- This part will be marked by the course instructor.
- Due Date: Dec 6
- Submit your paper via Dropbox on D2L
- Without the instructor's approval, late assignments will be penalized 10% per 7 days, including weekends.

Once approved by the course instructor, and at their discretion, alternative arrangements for missed assessments may be considered <https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/g-1-2.html>. Students may be asked for documentation <https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/m-1.html>.

#### **University of Calgary Academic Integrity Policy**

Academic integrity is the foundation of the development and acquisition of knowledge and is based on values of honesty, trust, responsibility, and respect. We expect members of our community to act with integrity.

Research integrity, ethics, and principles of conduct are key to academic integrity. Members of our campus community are required to abide by our institutional code of conduct and promote academic integrity in upholding the University of Calgary's reputation of excellence. It is your responsibility to ensure that you have read and are familiar with the student academic misconduct policy:

<https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/sites/default/files/teams/1/Policies-Student-Academic-Misconduct-Policy.pdf>.

#### **Department of Psychology Criteria for Letter Grades**

Psychology course instructors use the following criteria when assigning letter grades:

**A+ grade: *Exceptional Performance*.** An A+ grade indicates near perfect performance on multiple choice and short answer exams. For research papers/essays/course projects/presentations, an A+ grade is awarded for exceptional work deserving of special recognition and is therefore not a common grade.

**A, A- Range: *Excellent Performance*.** Superior understanding of course material. Written work is very strong in terms of critical and original thinking, content, organization, and the expression of ideas, and demonstrates student's thorough knowledge of subject matter.

B Range: *Good Performance*. Above average understanding of course material. Written work shows evidence of critical thinking and attention to organization and editing but could be improved in form and/or content.

C Range: *Satisfactory Performance*. Adequate understanding of course material. Knowledge of basic concepts and terminology is demonstrated. Written work is satisfactory and meets essential requirements but could be improved significantly in form and content. Note: All prerequisites for courses offered by the Faculty of Arts must be met with a minimum grade of C-.

D range: *Marginally meets standards*. Minimal understanding of subject matter. Written work is marginally acceptable and meets basic requirements but requires substantial improvements in form and content. Student has not mastered course material at a level sufficient for advancement into more senior courses in the same or related subjects.

F grade: *Course standards not met*. Inadequate understanding of subject matter. Written work does not meet basic requirements. Student has not demonstrated knowledge of course material at a level sufficient for course credit.

### Grading Scale

A+	96-100%	B+	80-84%	C+	67-71%	D+	54-58%
A	90-95%	B	76-79%	C	63-66%	D	50-53%
A-	85-89%	B-	72-75%	C-	59-62%	F	0-49%

It is at the instructor's discretion to round off either upward or downward to determine a final grade when the average of term work and final examinations is between two letter grades.

To determine final letter grades, final percentage grades will be rounded up or down to the nearest whole percentage (e.g., 89.5% will be rounded up to 90% = A but 89.4% will be rounded down to 89% = A-).

### Tentative Lecture Schedule

Date	Topic	Reading	Due Date
T Sep 5	First day of lectures: Introduction		
R Sep 7	<b>Part I: Evolutionary Biology</b> A Darwinian view of life	Campbell Biology Ch 22	
T Sep 12	The evolution of populations	Campbell Biology Ch 23	
R Sep 14	The evolution of populations Last day to drop a class without financial penalty	Campbell Biology Ch 23	
F Sep 15	Last day to add or swap a course		
T Sep 19	<b>Part II: Evolutionary Psychology</b> Introduction to evolutionary psychology	Buss, 1995	

R Sep 21	In-class Exam Topics covered: Part I lecture notes		
F Sep 22	Fee payment deadline for Fall Term full and half courses.		
T Sep 26	Presentation 1: Bateman's principle	Brown et al., 2009	
R Sep 28	Presentation 2: Sex differences in human mate preferences	Buss, 1989	Open-book exam due @ 11:59 p.m.
S Sep 30	UNIVERSITY CLOSED National Day for Truth and Reconciliation		
T Oct 3	Presentation 3: Sex differences in jealousy	Buss, 1992	
R Oct 5	Presentation 4: Susceptibility to infidelity in the first year of marriage	Buss & Shackelford, 1997	Assignment due @ 11:59 p.m.
M Oct 9	UNIVERSITY CLOSED Thanksgiving Day		
T Oct 10	Emotion		
R Oct 12	Presentation 5: Evolutionary explanations of emotions	Nesse, 1990	
T Oct 17	Presentation 6: Emotion drives attention	Ohman et al., 2001	
R Oct 19	Presentation 7: Adaptive memory	Nairne et al., 2008	
T Oct 24	Presentation 8 Neo-Darwinian decision rules for altruism	Burnstein et al., 1994	
R Oct 26	The evolution of personality variation		
T Oct 31	Misconceptions about evolutionary psychology		
R Nov 2	Toward a unified evolutionary psychology		
T Nov 7	<b>Part III: Criticism/Evaluation of Evolutionary Theory</b> Alternative explanations	Butler et al., 2009	Term paper Part I due
R Nov 9	Evolutionary Psychology: Controversies, Questions, Prospects, & Limitations	Confer et al., 2010	
S Nov 11	UNIVERSITY CLOSED Remembrance Day (Observed Monday Nov 13).		
Nov 12-18	Term Break No Classes		
T Nov 21	Presentations 9 & 10: TBA		
R Nov 23	Presentations 11 & 12: TBA		
T Nov 28	Presentations 13 & 14: TBA		
R Nov 30	Presentations 15 & 16: TBA		
T Dec 5	Conclusion Fall Term Lectures End.		

W Dec 6	Last day to withdraw with permission from Fall Term half courses.		Term paper Part II due
Dec 9-20	Fall Final Exam Period This class has no final exam.		

## Extra Research Participation Course Credit is Not Offered for this Course.

### Seating During Exams

Instructors and exam invigilators are free to ask students to move seats before an exam begins or even during an exam. Students must comply with this request and refusal to do so may warrant a charge of academic misconduct.

### Absence From Test/Exam

Makeup tests/exams are **NOT** an option without the approval of the instructor <https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/g-1-1.html>. At the instructor's discretion, a makeup test/exam may differ significantly (in form and/or content) from a regularly scheduled test/exam. **Once approved by the instructor a makeup test/exam must be written within 2 weeks of the missed test/exam on a day/time scheduled by the instructor. If a student cannot write their final exam on the date assigned by the Registrar's Office, they need to apply for a deferred exam** <https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/exams/deferred-exams>

### Travel During Exams

Consistent with University regulations, students are expected to be available to write scheduled exams at any time during the official December and April examination periods. Requests to write a make-up exam because of conflicting travel plans (e.g., flight bookings) will NOT be considered by the department. Students are advised to wait until the final examination schedule is posted before making any travel arrangements. **If a student cannot write their final exam on the date assigned by the Registrar's Office, they need to apply for a deferred exam** [Deferred Final Exams | University of Calgary \(ucalgary.ca\)](#) **Students with an exceptional extenuating circumstance (e.g., a family emergency) should contact the Department of Psychology [psyugrd@ucalgary.ca](mailto:psyugrd@ucalgary.ca)**

**Reappraisal of Graded Term Work** <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/i-2.html>

**Reappraisal of Final Grade** <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/i-3.html>

### Academic Accommodations

Students seeking an accommodation based on disability or medical concerns should contact Student Accessibility Services; SAS will process the request and issue letters of accommodation to instructors. For additional information on support services and accommodations for students with disabilities, visit [www.ucalgary.ca/access/](http://www.ucalgary.ca/access/). Students who require an accommodation in relation to their coursework based on a protected ground other than disability should communicate this need in writing to their Instructor. The full policy on Student Accommodations is available at <https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/sites/default/files/teams/1/Policies-Student-Accommodation-Policy.pdf>.

### **Academic Misconduct**

For information on academic misconduct and its consequences, please see the University of Calgary Calendar at <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k.html>

### **Instructor Intellectual Property**

Course materials created by professor(s) (including course outlines, presentations and posted notes, labs, case studies, assignments, and exams) remain the intellectual property of the professor(s). These materials may NOT be reproduced, redistributed, or copied without the explicit consent of the professor. The posting of course materials to third party websites such as note-sharing sites without permission is prohibited. Sharing of extracts of these course materials with other students enrolled in the course at the same time may be allowed under fair dealing.

### **Copyright Legislation**

All students are required to read the University of Calgary policy on Acceptable Use of Material Protected by Copyright

([https://library.ucalgary.ca/services/copyright?\\_gl=1\\*bcjlpn\\*\\_ga\\*OTY1ODc0Njg0LjE2NjkxNTA1NTM.\\*\\_ga\\_X4GN9Y4W7D\\*MTY3Nzc5MjM3Ni4xNy4xLjE2Nzc3OTI4MDYuMC4wLjA](https://library.ucalgary.ca/services/copyright?_gl=1*bcjlpn*_ga*OTY1ODc0Njg0LjE2NjkxNTA1NTM.*_ga_X4GN9Y4W7D*MTY3Nzc5MjM3Ni4xNy4xLjE2Nzc3OTI4MDYuMC4wLjA)) and requirements of the copyright act (<https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/C-42/index.html>) to ensure they are aware of the consequences of unauthorized sharing of course materials (including instructor notes, electronic versions of textbooks etc.). Students who use material protected by copyright in violation of this policy may be disciplined under the Non-Academic Misconduct Policy.

### **Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy**

Student information will be collected in accordance with typical (or usual) classroom practice. Students' assignments will be accessible only by the authorized course faculty. Private information related to the individual student is treated with the utmost regard by the faculty at the University of Calgary

### **Student Support and Resources**

<https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/registration/course-outlines>

### **Important Dates**

The last day to drop this course with no "W" notation and **still receive a tuition fee refund** is **Thursday, September 14<sup>th</sup>, 2023**. Last day add/swap a course is **Friday, September 15<sup>th</sup>, 2023**. The last day to withdraw from this course is **Wednesday, December 6<sup>th</sup>, 2023**.