



Department of Psychology

**Psychology 511.15 (L01) – Evolutionary Psychology**

**Fall Session 2007**

---

<b>Instructor:</b>	<b>G.C. Teskey</b>	<b>Lecture Location:</b>	<b>A248</b>
<b>Phone:</b>	220-4962	<b>Lecture Days/Time:</b>	M 14:00, 170 min
<b>Email:</b>	gteskey@ucalgary.ca		
<b>Office:</b>	A16		
<b>Office Hours:</b>	By appointment		

---

**Course Description and Goals**

**"Nothing in biology makes sense except in the light of evolution" Theodosius Dobzhansky**

This course will deal with the ultimate (rather than proximate) explanations of human behaviour. The course material will be presented from the perspective that the behaviour of *Homo sapiens* (like all animals) is the product of their evolutionary history. Converging evidence from a variety of disciplines have led to the framework for this course. First, human nature can be defined as the set of universal, species-typical information processing programs that operate beneath the surface of expressed cultural variability. Second, this collection of cognitive programs evolved in the Pleistocene to solve the adaptive problems regularly faced by our hunter-gatherer ancestors - such as mate selection, language acquisition, co-operation, and sexual infidelity.

**Required Texts**

- 1) The Adapted Mind, Barkow, Cosmides and Tooby (Eds), 1992, Oxford University Press  
In bookstore
- 2) 473 Readings  
Posted on Blackboard

**Evaluation**

The final course grade will be based on: 1) The content and quality of oral presentations (60%), 2) Contribution to the discussion (10%; you are **expected** to ask many good questions of the presenters), and 3) Term Paper (30%; due at the end of term).

- A Excellent presentations, frequent excellent contributions, excellent paper
- A- Very good presentations, frequent very good contributions, very good paper
- B Good presentations, good contributions, good paper
- C Poor presentation, no or few contributions, satisfactory paper

Everyone is expected to read every chapter/paper. Presenters should prepare a **45 minute** PowerPoint talk that describes the assigned chapter/paper. Some comment on the background, techniques, significance, good points, failings, etc. are expected from the presenter AND from everyone else (after the presentation is completed).

Term papers (30 pages maximum) are to be on a topic of interest to the student, within the limits of the course focus (evolutionary psychology), on a topic different from the assigned chapter/paper above, and must be approved by the instructor. Late assignments will receive a 10% penalty per day.

Note that it is the student's responsibility to ask the instructor for feedback during the course.

### 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%

### Lecture Schedule

DATE	Source Material
<b>Sept. 3</b>	<b>Labour Day – University closed</b>
Sept. 4-8	Fall Session Block Week
Sept. 10	Evolutionary Psychology within Science. Pregnancy “Sickness” Background to the Evolutionary Approach to the Study of Human Behaviour. Multiple Explanations of Behaviour
Sept. 17	Nature vs Nurture Natural Selection / Genes / Heredity / Behaviour Adaptations
<b>Sept. 21</b>	<b>Last day for Fall registration and change of registration for Fall Session or full courses. No fee refunds for withdrawals after this date.</b>
Sept. 24	Darwin's contributions Evolution as a Metatheory for the Behavioural Sciences
Oct 1	Student presentations
<b>Oct 8</b>	<b>Thanksgiving – University closed – No class</b>
Oct 15	Student presentations
Oct. 22	Student presentations
Oct. 29	Student presentations
Nov. 5	<b>Class Cancelled – Society for Neuroscience – No class</b>
Nov. 12	<b>University Closed – Reading Day - No class</b>
Nov. 19	Student presentations
Nov. 26	Student presentations
Dec. 3	Student presentations
<b>Dec. 7</b>	<b>Fall Session lectures end Last day to withdraw from Fall Session half courses</b>
	<b>Final Exam Due</b>

### **University of Calgary Core Competencies**

- Critical and creative thinking
- Analysis of problems
- Effective written communication
- Gathering and organizing information
- Abstract reasoning and its applications
- Insight and intuition in generating knowledge
- Interpretive and assessment skills

### **Curriculum Redesign Features**

- A defined interdisciplinary component
- An international component
- Provision of board and extended faculty-student interaction at the program level
- Integration of research

With the following course characteristics:

- Considerable class discussion; students are prompted to think critically about course material
- Test questions in which students are required to design novel research studies to address theoretical issues
- A final assignment in the laboratory component of the course (the research proposal) in which students are required to design a unique research study

This course addresses the following curriculum redesign features:

- An experiential learning component relevant to the program objectives
- Integration of research

With the following course characteristics:

- Some readings are published research articles
- Class discussions centering on methodological and conceptual issues in research studies

### **Reappraisal of Grades**

A student who feels that a piece of graded term work (term paper, essay, test, etc.) has been unfairly graded, may have the work re-graded as follows. The student shall discuss the work with the instructor within fifteen days of being notified about the mark or of the item's return to the class. If not satisfied, the student shall immediately take the matter to the Head of the department offering the course, who will arrange for a reassessment of the work within the next fifteen days. The reappraisal of term work may cause the grade to be raised, lowered, or to remain the same.

If the student is not satisfied with the decision and wishes to appeal, the student shall address a letter of appeal to the Dean of the faculty offering the course within fifteen days of the unfavourable decision. In the letter, the student must clearly and fully state the decision being

appealed, the grounds for appeal, and the remedies being sought, along with any special circumstances that warrant an appeal of the reappraisal. The student should include as much written documentation as possible.

### **Plagiarism and Other Academic Misconduct**

Intellectual honesty is the cornerstone of the development and acquisition of knowledge and requires that the contribution of others be acknowledged. Consequently, plagiarism or cheating on any assignment is regarded as an extremely serious academic offense. Plagiarism involves submitting or presenting work in a course as if it were the student's own work done expressly for that particular course when, in fact, it is not. Students should examine sections of the University Calendar that present a Statement of Intellectual honesty and definitions and penalties associated with Plagiarism/Cheating/Other Academic Misconduct.

### **Academic Accommodation**

*It is the student's responsibility to request academic accommodations.* If you are a student with a documented disability who may require academic accommodation and **have not** registered with the Disability Resource Centre, please contact their office at 220-8237. Students who have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre are not eligible for formal academic accommodation. You are also required to discuss your needs with your instructor no later than fourteen (14) days after the start of this course.

### **Absence From A Test**

Make-up exams are NOT an option without an official University medical excuse (see the University Calendar). You must contact the instructor before the scheduled examination or you will have forfeited any right to make up the exam. At the instructor's discretion, a make-up exam may differ significantly (in form and/or content) from a regularly scheduled exam. Except in extenuating circumstances (documented by an official University medical excuse), a makeup exam is written within two (2) weeks of the missed exam.

A completed Physician/Counselor Statement will be required to confirm absence from a test for health reasons. The student will be required to pay any cost associated with the Physician Counselor Statement.

### **Important Dates**

The last day to drop this course and **still receive a fee refund** is September 21, 2007. The last day to withdraw from this course is December 07, 2007.