Evolutionary Psychology

Spring 2013

M *** 6:00-8:40 *** BSB 108

Subject to change ** come to class and check Sakai for updates **

Instructor Information
Dr. Sarah Allred
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Office: 309 ARM
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Office Hours: Mon: 5-6 PM; Th: 10-11 AM and by appt.

Class 1, Tuesday, January 22nd
Topic Course introduction, mechanisms of evolutionary change
Readings Workman and Reader: Ch 1

Class 2, Tuesday, January 29th
Topic Mechanisms of evolutionary change
Readings Workman and Reader: Ch 2; Selfish Gene: The Replicators (Ch 2)
Outside readings if you are interested
- *Evolution for Everyone, by David Sloan Wilson
- The Red Queen, by Matt Ridley

Class presenters
1. Student:
2. Student:
3. Student:

Class 3, Tuesday, February 5th
Topic Sexual selection
Readings Workman and Reader: Ch3; Moral Animal: Male and Female (Ch 2)
Outside readings if you are interested
- *The Mating Mind, by Geoffrey Miller

Class presenters
1. Student:
2. Student:
3. Student:
Class 4, Tuesday, February 12th

**Topic** Human mate selection

**Readings** Workman and Reader: Ch 4; Moral Animal: Man and Woman (Ch 3)

**Outside readings if you are interested**
- *Moral Animal, by Robert Wright*
- *Evolution of Desire, by David Buss*
- *A Natural History of Rape: The Biological Basis of Sexual Coercion* (by Thornhill and Palmer, referenced in your textbook)
- *Sex at Dawn, by Christopher Ryan and Cacilda Jetha*

**Class presenters**
1. Student:
2. Student:
3. Student:

Class 5, Tuesday, February 19th

**Topic** Human mate selection (part 2)

**Readings** Evolution of Desire: (ch TBD); MCH-Dependent Mate Preferences in Humans (Wedekind et al);

**Class presenters**
1. Student:
2. Student:
3. Student:

Class 6, Tuesday, February 26th

**Topic** Cognitive development and innateness

**Readings**
- Workman and Reader: ch5; The Essential Difference: ch TBD
- Transcript of the debate between Steven Pinker and Elizabeth Spelke, both Harvard professors, entitled: The Science of Gender and Science, located at www.edge.org/3rd_culture/debate05/debate05_index.html This website has the full transcript. You only need to read their opening statements (that’s long enough), not the ensuing debate. You can listen, watch, or read (all three media available).

There are larger questions here, but we will be focusing specifically on whether the data suggest there are average gender differences in cognition.

**Outside readings if you are interested**
- *The Essential Difference, by Simon Baron-Cohen (Not Sacha!)*
- *Sex Differences, by Linda Mealey*

**Class presenters**
1. Student:
2. Student:
3. Student:
Class 7, Tuesday, March 5th
Topic Social development / social behavior / families
Readings Workman and Reader; Ch 7; Mothers and Others: Novel Developments, Ch 4
Class presenters
1. Student:
2. Student:
3. Student:

Class 8, Tuesday, March 12th
Topic EXAM 1
Readings Topics from chapters 1 - 7 (except 6) of Workman and Reader and other readings as discussed in class

NO CLASS Tuesday, March 19th; SPRING BREAK

Class 9, Tuesday, March 26th
Topic Social development / social behavior / others (start)
Readings Workman and Reader, Ch 8; Mothers and Others: Will the real Pleistocene family please step forward? (Ch 5)
Class presenters
1. Student:
2. Student:
3. Student:

Class 10, Tuesday, April 2nd
Topic Social behavior / others
Readings Selfish Gene: Aggression (Ch5); Mothers And Others: Meet the Alloparents (Ch6)
Class presenters
1. Student:
2. Student:
3. Student:

Class 11, Tuesday, April 9th
Topic Cognition and Perception
Readings Workman and Reader, Ch 9; Adaptive Rationality: An Evolutionary Perspective on Cognitive Bias (Haselton, et. al.)
Class presenters
1. Student:
2. Student:
3. Student:
Class 12, Tuesday, April 16th  
**Topic** Darwinian medicine and psychopathology  
**Readings** Workman and Reader, ch 12; NY times piece on depression; Why We Get Sick: (Ch TBD)  
**Class presenters**  
1. Student:  
2. Student:  
3. Student:  

Class 13, Tuesday, April 23rd  
**Topic** Art and Culture.  
**Readings** The Art Instinct: (Chapters 3, 5, 7); This Is Your Brain on Music (Ch TBD)  
**Class presenters**  
1. Student:  
2. Student:  
3. Student:  

Class 14, Tuesday, April 30th  
**Topic** Review and Summary  

**FINAL EXAM**  
Tuesday, MAY 14th, 6-9 pm, in classroom