

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 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 12 th

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.htm. 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