

Psychology 222: Evolutionary and Comparative Psychology

Haverford College • Fall 2014
T/Th 2:30-4 PM • Sharpless 412

Instructor: Elizabeth Gordon, Ph.D. (Office: Sharpless 402)
Office Hours: Tues 11:30am-1pm; Thurs 1:30-2:30pm
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Pre-requisites: PSYC 100 (or equivalent)

Course Description: This course will use an evolutionary framework to explore core aspects of human behavior such as sexuality, empathy, aggression, mental illness, and culture. We will incorporate scholarly material from closely related fields including ethology, primatology, and behavioral ecology paying attention to the dynamic interplay between biological and environmental influences on behavior. Cross-species comparisons will enrich our understanding of human behavior.

Course Objectives: At the completion of this course, you should be able to:

- Summarize the strengths and limitations of using evolutionary theory to understand and study human behavior and experience.
- Learn the facts, terms, names, and other information relevant to the fields of evolutionary and comparative psychology. Develop the ability to synthesize and integrate information and ideas across the fields of evolutionary and comparative psychology
- Describe research methods used to study human behavior from an evolutionary and ethological perspective and be able to evaluate research and popular information related so that you are a critical consumer of such information.

Course Format: Class sessions will consist of a combination of lectures, activities, discussions, and videos. To benefit as much as possible from each class, please read the assigned material prior to class.

Moodle: The Moodle course site will function as a “live syllabus.” You will find readings, assignment details, supplementary materials, and discussion forums there. You will also be asked to submit the majority of your homework assignments and exams via Moodle. Class lecture materials (PowerPoints and/or Prezi’s) may be posted at the discretion of the instructor, but do not rely on these materials.

Readings and Media Content

- **Required Text:** *Evolutionary Psychology: An Introduction* by Workman & Reader (3rd Edition; 2014; paperback). ISBN-13: 978-1107622739. Available at Haverford Bookstore and on reserve at Science Library.
- Additional articles and chapters available on Moodle. Occasional videos or news stories assigned between classes (available on Moodle, announced in class).
- The current syllabus may be updated with additional articles but changes will be kept to a minimum.

Examinations (2 midterms; 1 semi-cumulative final): Exams are online and will include a combination of multiple choice, short answer, and short essay questions (the final exam may have additional

components). Make-up exams will be considered only under unusual circumstances beyond your control, and if they are supported by written documentation from a recognized authority. In such an instance, please contact me immediately.

Homework (10 total): These are brief assignments to be completed between classes to help integrate the material. They are graded on a credit/no credit basis. If submitted late but within 48 hours of due date, half credit is given. No credit is given for homework submitted after 48 hour period. Unless noted otherwise, submit online. Refer to Moodle for more detailed instructions.

Contributing to the **community forum** is one type of assignment that will be given. These are online posts made via Moodle that can be seen by the entire class. Each forum is on a different topic, typically involving your own thoughts or reactions to topics discussed in class or readings. This is a chance to highlight what you found interesting, problematic, or confusing in the readings and to pose a question for further consideration in class. Your post may start a new thread (topic) or may respond to someone else's commentary. Submissions should be a minimum of a short paragraph (5-6 sentences). Unless you email me privately, I will feel free to integrate what you have written into class discussion (I may quote your post in class).

Term Paper (first and second draft): A research paper that examines a topic in psychology from an evolutionary perspective, or a research proposal that would test an evolutionary hypothesis. More information will be provided in the third week of class. A first draft is due 10/28. It is graded on a credit/no credit basis (unless submitted late). I will provide feedback for you to consider for your final draft. The final draft is due 12/9.

Late Policy: For term paper, grades are subject to reduction by one full grade for each day late. Exams lose one point for each hour they are submitted after the deadline. Homework submitted late obtains half credit. Speak with me if there are extenuating circumstances that should be considered (speaking with me in advance is best).

Attendance and Participation: Your attendance and contributions to class discussion are highly valued. Although attendance and participation does not constitute a specific percentage of your grade, I will be more likely to give a student who participates actively the benefit of the doubt in close calls.

Grading: Your final grade will be based on:

Midterm 1: 20%

Midterm 2: 20%

Final Exam: 20%

First draft term paper: 10%

Final draft term paper: 20%

Homework: 10%

TOTAL 100

Final letter grade distribution ranges:

Grading System					
100-93.00%	4.0/A	82.99-80.00%	2.7/B-	69.99-67.00%	1.3/D+
92.99-90.00%	3.7/A-	79.99-77.00%	2.3/C+	66.99-60.00%	1.0/D
89.99-87.00%	3.3/B+	76.99-73.00%	2.0/C	↓ 59.99%	0.0/F
86.99-83.00%	3.0/B	72.99-70.00%	1.7/C-		

Academic Integrity: This refers to the extent to which you take responsibility for and control of your own learning. Be there when class begins and stay until it is over. If you miss a class, please make sure you get notes and/or handouts from someone else in the class. Professional behavior is expected, including demonstrating courtesy and respect for the instructor and for other students during class. This includes turning off cell phones; not reading, checking your e-mail, or texting during class.

Disability Statement: This course is open to all students who meet the academic requirements for participation. Any student who has a need for accommodation based on the impact of a disability should contact the instructor privately to discuss the specific situation as soon as possible. Contact disability resources (Rick Webb: rwebb@haverford.edu; <http://www.haverford.edu/ods/>) to coordinate reasonable accommodations for students with documented disabilities.

Academic Honesty Policy: You are expected to abide by Haverford's Honor code. Suspected violations of the Honor Code will be referred to Honor Council for adjudication.

Schedule of Topics and Assignments

Date	Topic	Reading/Assignment
Sept. 2	Course Overview	
Sept. 4	Evolutionary Psychology: The Field	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Workman & Reader, Ch. 1 Dawkins, Gaps in the Mind <u>HW#1: Why Evolutionary Psychology?</u> (9/3 @5pm)
Sept. 9	Mechanisms of Evolutionary Change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Workman & Reader, Ch. 2 Sapolsky, <i>A Gene for Nothing</i> Economist, Baby Blues
Sept. 11	Why Sex? Sexual Selection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Workman & Reader, Ch. 3 <u>HW #2: Community post</u> (9/11 @noon)
Sept 16	Primates and Primate Mating Strategies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Workman & Reader, Ch. 4 (pp. 88-104) De Waal, <i>Bonobo Sex & Society</i> Sapolsky, <i>Monkeyluv</i>
Sept. 18 & 23	Human Mate Choice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Workman & Reader, Ch. 4 (105-123) Buss, <i>Strategies of Human Mating</i> Silverstein, <i>New Directions</i> Angier, <i>Of Hoggamous and Hogwash</i> <u>HW #3: Community post</u> (9/22 @noon)
Sept. 25	No Class (Rosh Hashanah)	(catch up on reading)
Sept. 30	Sexual Orientation & Sexual Violence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rahman & Wilson, Born Gay? Thornhill & Palmer, <i>Why Men Rape</i> Smuts, <i>Evolution of Patriarchy</i> (optional) <u>HW #4: Prepare for in-class debate</u> (9/29 @noon)
Oct. 2	Midterm #1 (No Class) <i>Exam due by midnight</i> <i>(submit online)</i>	
Oct. 7	Cognitive Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Workman & Reader, Ch. 5
Oct. 9	Attachment & Social Development I	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Workman & Reader, Ch. 6 Hrdy, <i>Mother Nature</i>, Ch 16 & 22 <u>HW #5: Community post</u> (10/8 @noon)
Oct. 14 & 16	No Class (Fall Break)	
Oct. 21	Attachment & Social Development II	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Baumeister & Leary, <i>The Need to Belong</i> <u>HW #6: Community post</u> (10/20 @noon)
Oct. 23 & 28	Social Behavior I: Kin relationships	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Workman & Reader, Ch. 7 Hrdy, <i>Empowering the Embryo</i> **10/28: Rough draft due
Oct. 30	Social Behavior II: Group Behavior	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Workman & Reader, Ch. 8 Trivers, <i>Evolution of Reciprocal Altruism</i> Pinker, <i>History of Violence</i> <u>HW #7: Community post</u> (10/29 @noon)

Nov. 4 & 6	Emotion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Workman & Reader, Ch. 11 ▪ Buss, <i>Evolution of Happiness</i> ▪ NPR Piece, TBD
Nov. 11	Midterm #2 (No Class) <i>Exam due by midnight</i> <i>(submit online)</i>	
Nov. 13	Cognition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Workman & Reader, Ch. 9 <p><i>HW #8: Free will</i> (11/12 @noon)</p>
Nov. 18	Language	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Workman & Reader, Ch. 10 ▪ Dirty Little Secret about Gossip ▪ NPR Piece TBD <p><i>HW #9: Language</i> (11/17 @noon)</p>
Nov. 20 & 25	Psychopathology & Darwinian medicine	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Workman & Reader, Ch. 12 ▪ Siebert, <i>An Elephant Crackup?</i> ▪ Friedman, <i>Depression Defies the Rush</i>
Nov. 27	Thanksgiving (No Class)	
Dec. 2	Personality & Individual Differences	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Workman & Reader, Ch. 13 ▪ Cain, <i>Is Shyness an Evolutionary Tactic?</i>
Dec. 4 & 9	Culture, Religion & Faith	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Workman & Reader, Ch. 14 ▪ DeWaal, <i>Ape and the Sushi Master</i>, Ch. 6 & 7 ▪ Henig, <i>Why do we believe?</i> ▪ Sapolsky, <i>A Pacific Culture among Baboons</i> <p><i>Dec. 9: Final Paper Due</i></p>
Dec. 11	Environmental Conservation/Conservation Psychology and Course Wrap-Up	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Reading TBD <p><i>HW #10: Community post</i> (12/11 @noon)</p>
Dec. 17	Final Exam <i>due by midnight (submit online)</i>	