

Instructor: David W. Martin, david_martin@ncsu.edu, Poe 762B

Text: *Evolutionary Psychology: The New Science of the Mind*, 3rd edition by David M. Buss

Time: T H 1:30-2:45 in Poe 209

Purpose: This class is meant to be a capstone course largely for seniors (although juniors and graduate students are certainly welcome). A capstone course should be a course that brings together much of what you have been learning during your undergraduate career. First you took an introduction to psychology course during which you learned the breadth of psychology, but at a relatively superficial level. Then you took a number of courses from various areas of psychology during which you investigated these areas in more depth and learned the research methods that allow you to explore theoretical issues within these areas. This capstone course should once again explore the breadth of psychology, but using some of the depth of thinking that you have now developed. I think a good way to do this is to use an overarching theoretical approach such as that provided by evolutionary theory. This theoretical framework seems ideal for exploring many diverse areas of psychology.

Another reason that the evolutionary approach is particularly appropriate for a capstone course is that it provides the structure for answering ultimate questions about human behavior: *why* questions rather than *how* or *what* questions. For most of us these are the questions that originally attracted us to psychology. These are also the questions that naturally lead us across disciplinary borders into other sciences, humanities, and arts, such as anthropology, biology, philosophy, history, economics, and even music and visual arts. I believe evolutionary thinking offers the possibility of integrating psychology with other fields and producing intellectual generalists.

Structure and Grading: I believe a senior-level course should be a true seminar in which students take a major role in their own learning. For that reason, it will be expected that all students will attend, will have read the required material, and will participate actively in discussions. There will be a student discussion leader for each topic who will facilitate the discussion (not lecture to the class). The leader will certainly have read the basic material and should have also tried to find additional materials to enhance the discussions.

There will be three short-essay question tests. I will provide the class with potential test questions prior to the tests. Students should then think about these potential questions and work on formulating concise answers. During the actual test time several questions from the list will be asked (probably four) with only a half page allowed for writing each answer. Students will be permitted to discuss the potential questions among themselves

prior to the tests. However, the answers given at test time are expected to be each student's own work. I will expect no duplicate wording of answers.

Half of your grade will be determined by your performance on the tests. Half of the grade will be determined by your effectiveness as a discussion leader and by your contribution as a discussion participant.

I hope and expect that this class will be a lot of fun. I personally find the topics intriguing and provocative. Exactly how much fun this class will be will be up to you. Your willingness to contribute and the quality of the discussions will largely determine the success of the class.

Class Schedule

<u>Date</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Reading Assignment</u>	<u>Facilitator</u>
Aug 23	Class Plans	--	
Aug 28	Evolutionary History	Chpt 1, 1-20	
Aug 30	EP & SSSM	Chpt 1, 24-35	
Sep 4	What were EEAs like?	Chpt 1, 20-24 <i>Before the Dawn</i>	
Sep 6	EP as empirical science	Chpt 2	
Sep 11	Food acquisition & selection	Chpt 3, 71-89	
Sep 13	Shelter, fear, & dying	Chpt 3, 89-104	
Sep 18	Women's Mating I	Chpt 4, <i>The Evolution of Desire</i>	
Sep 20	Women's Mating II	Chpt 6, 183-196, <i>Anatomy of Love</i>	
Sep 25	TEST 1		
Sep 27	Men's Mating I	Chpt 5, <i>The Evolution of Desire</i>	
Oct 2	Men's Mating II	Chpt 6, 171-183, <i>Myth of Monogamy</i>	
Oct 4	Parenting	Chpt 7	
Oct 9	Kinship	Chpt 8	
Oct 16	Cooperation	Chpt 9	
Oct 18	Aggression	Chpt 10, 291-299, <i>Yanomamo</i>	
Oct 23	Sex Diff. In Aggression	Chpt 10, 299-321, <i>Homicide</i>	
Oct 25	Sexual Conflict	Chpt 11, <i>Natural History of Rape</i>	
Oct 30	TEST 2		
Nov 1	Dominance	Chpt 12	
Nov 6	Cognitive Psy. I	Chpt 13, 384-398, <i>How the Mind Works</i>	
Nov 8	Cog. Psy. & Sexual Selection	<i>The Mating Mind</i>	
Nov 13	Mental Illness	Chpt 13, 412-416, <i>Psy: An Evol. Approach</i> 297-313	
Nov 15	Culture	Chpt 13, 416-420, <i>Selfish Gene</i> , Chpt 11	
Nov 20	Arts.	Chpt 13, 420-422, <i>Singing Neanderthals</i>	
Nov 27	Morality	<i>The Moral Animal</i>	
Nov 29	TEST 3		
Dec 4	Religion	<i>Attachment, Evol., & Psy. of Religion</i>	
Dec 6	Flex		