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## Course goals:

This seminar will provide the latest insights into the lives of our closest living relatives, chimpanzees and bonobos. Together we explore how recent research findings challenge traditional models of human evolution and rethink scenarios of human/pan evolution in traits linked to the evolution of warfare and peace, equality between the sexes and cooperation within groups.

By participating in this seminar, you will develop skills in scientific/evolutionary argumentation and writing. Further, you will broaden your insights into behavioural ecology and increase your knowledge of where we come from.

## Course format:

Each week we will meet to discuss selected readings on core topics, organized around questions linked to the evolution of certain traits in humans, chimpanzees and bonobos. Because we aim to use evolutionary theory and data to critically evaluate core concepts of the evolution of human behaviour, it is imperative that you read and think about these readings before class. Come prepared to not just discuss the ideas, but to debate them. Participants will be asked to advocate for certain points of view. I anticipate learning as much from one another as from the readings, and so we encourage you to leverage your own expertise in assessing these topics.

## Typical enrollees:

Upper-level undergraduate / graduate students with background in behaviour / human evolution

## When is course typically offered?

one time only

## What can students expect from you as an instructor?

Personal, interactive

## Assignments and grading:

Informed, engaged and thoughtful participation in class (60%)

Paper (incl presentation) on specific behavioural trait (40%)

Based on FAS Guidelines, as follows:

A: "excellent quality, full mastery of subject"

B: "good comprehension of course material; Ans good commandment of skills"

C: "adequate and satisfactory: basic requirements met"

D: "unsatisfactory with minimal commandment of material"

## Enrollment cap, selection process, notification:

12 students

## Absence and late work policies:

You are expected to attend all class meetings, except in extraordinary circumstances. If you cannot attend classes due to illness or an emergency, you must notify the instructor in advance. You will be offered participation credit for the missed seminar by completing an opinion piece that will be shared with class and that you briefly defend at the start of the consecutive class.

