

## Human Evolutionary Psychology - Psych 4222 - Instructor: Pascal BOYER

How did evolution by natural selection shape the way human beings think and behave? Does evolution explain human cooperation and friendship, human morality, reproductive preferences, social interactions, aggression and warfare? What sex differences in cognition or behavior are caused by evolution?

PREREQ: At least 6 units of upper-level, home-based Psychology coursework, OR Anthro 3383.

### Assignments:

**Sources.** There are two kinds of articles listed in the table below. The **readings** are the ones you *must* read before class. Do send an email to [pboyer@wustl.edu](mailto:pboyer@wustl.edu) if you have any questions - by midnight the day before class. It is always useful to read the **additional sources** that provide various experimental studies or theoretical comments on the theme of the lecture.

All the texts are in the Canvas "Readings and Presentations" folder. Several texts are by the same authors so be careful which one is assigned for reading.

**Quizzes:** there will be an in class quiz after a set of three to five classes on a particular topic. The ~20 multiple choice questions bear on the materials relevant to those classes only, that is the slides *and readings* (not the additional materials). That will include material in the readings that may not have been covered in class. Before each quiz, we will have a short review session addressing all your questions about that material.

**Additional readings – write two reaction essays.** The assignment is to write TWO reaction essays during the semester, on any two of the articles or chapters listed under "additional materials". First reaction essay is due before Fall break and the second one is due before the end of classes. These reaction essays are short pieces (about 700-800 words) that specify a) what was the point of this article, what the authors were trying to demonstrate, b) what methods, data, etc., were used, c) what conclusions were drawn, and d) whether the conclusions actually follow from that evidence.

**Write a book review.** This is due by the end of classes. The review should be about 1500 words long. Do not simply summarize the book. A review should tell the reader what the author was trying to do, how they did it, and whether they succeeded. Avoid expressing mere personal opinions – all statements should be justified by evidence or argument. Tentative list of books for review: *The Dangerous Passion: Jealousy Is As Necessary As Love and Sex* by David M. Buss., *A mind of her own: the evolutionary psychology of women* by Anne Campbell, *Why men behave badly*, by David M Buss, *Yuck! The nature and moral significance of disgust* by Daniel Kelly, *The Consuming Instinct: What Juicy Burgers, Ferraris, Pornography, and Gift Giving Reveal About Human Nature*, by Gad Saad, *Mothers and others*, by Sarah Blaffer Hrdy.

### Evaluation.

Participation 5%: in-class questions about readings and about the materials presented.

Two reaction essays: 20%.

Quizzes: 55% (note that all quizzes are in-class, closed book. No-show → a substitution essay will be required).

Book review: 20%.

Letter grades: A+ = 96+, A=92+, A- =88+, B+ =84+, B=80+ and so on.

**Office hours.** TBA after consultation with class. My office is in Suite 101, Academy Building. Directions: <http://www.pascalboyer.net/MapAcad.pdf>

**Contact.** Email [pboyer@wustl.edu](mailto:pboyer@wustl.edu)

**Calendar:**

Date		Slides # & Topic	Readings	Additional sources
8/29/23	Foundations	1. Introduction to EP		
8/31/23		2. Natural Selection	CartwrightDarwinLegacy	
9/5/23		3. Evolution of Behavior	CartwrightSelfishGene	[1] DeLoache 2009 Learning about snakes [2] Barrett Predators JCC 2004
9/7/23		4. Natural vs. Sexual Selection	Miller1998SexualSelectionMateChoice	[1] Curtis 2004 Disgust and disease [2] Cook 2003 Rise&Fall Black Moth
9/12/23		5. Principles of EP	Evolutionary Psychology Primer	[1] Sherman 2002 Pregnancy Sickness [2] Sznycer 2016 Shame
9/14/23		Quiz1		
9/19/23	Mating	7. Why sex. Human evolution and consequences	Fletcher 2015 Evolution Pair Bonding	Puts2015SexualSelectionVoice
9/21/23		8. Mate-choice: Why choose? Male attractiveness.	BussSexDifferencesMating37cultures	Roney 2009 Mate Prefs Perso Traits
9/26/23		9. Female attractiveness. Intrasexual competition.	BussWomenSexualStrategies	Roney2008WomenEstradiolPreferenceMen,
9/28/23		10. Dynamics of mate-selection. Jealousy, guarding.	Gangestad 2000 Reprod Strategies.pdf	[1]Maestriperi2004FatherAbsenceInterestInfants. pdf, [2] Gordon 2010 Prolactin Oxytocin Father Behavior
10/3/23		11. Parenting and Life-History	[1] Lieberman et al - Nature 2007, [2] Gangestad-2004-LHT&EvPsych	Brumbach2009EarlyEnv&AdolescentOutcomes
10/5/23		Quiz2		
10/12/23	Cooperation	13. Why cooperation? Kin selection, nepotism, kinship	[1] Trivers-EvolutionReciprocalAltruism, [2] CosmidesSocialExchange	[1] Jaeggi 2013 Primate Reciprocity [2] Price 2002 Punitive Sentiment Anti-Free-Rider
10/17/23		14. Reciprocal altruism, sharing , trade	Boyd2006SolvingPuzzle	[1] Yamagishi 2009 SocXchangeOutgroupHate [2] Delton & Cimino 2010 Newcomer concept
10/19/23		15. Cooperation: punishment or mutualism?	Baumard & Sheskin Partner choice	[1] Bshary 2006 Cleaner Mutualism [2] Eisenbruch partner choice heuristics in a one-shot game
10/24/23		16-16a. Commitment: alliances and friendship	ToobyCosmidesFriendship	[1] Nettle 06 Being Watched Cooperation.pdf [2] Hermann08AntisocialPunishment
10/26/23		17. Moral psychology	Sperber Baumard 2012 Morality Reputation	[1] Sloane 2012 Infants Sense of Fairnes [2] Jensen Petersen 2011 Outrage & Reactions
10/31/23		Quiz3		

Date		Slides # & Topic	Readings	Additional sources
11/2/23	Conflict and coalitions	19. Coalitional psychology	Neuberg 08 Threats Opport Hum Sociality	[1] De Dreu 2012 Oxytocin Cooperation Conflict [2] Buss 2006 Adaptations for homicide
11/7/23		20. Social categories as coalitions	Pietraszewski 2015 Coalition Party & Race	[1] Ackerman 2005 Same Angry Race [2] Stiff 08 Reputation Group Admission
11/9/23		21. Ostracism and race	Cosmides 2003 Perception Race	[1] vanLeeuwen2016GayMenCoalPsych [2] Stone 2002 Selimp Social
11/14/23		Quiz4		
11/16/23		23. Aggression	Daly Risk Taking	[1] MesquidaWienerCoalitEthandSocib, [2] Stieglitz 2012 Jealousy Violence Tsimane
11/21/23		24. Warfare	[1] Van Vugt 2009 Male Warrior, [2] Tooby 1988 Evolution of War	[1] Macfarlan 2014 Yanomamo Coalitional Aggression [2] Ulijaszek 2016 BingeEatingDisinhibitionObesity
11/28/23	Ev-Psych Applications	99.Evolution & Illness	Gluckman 2011 Evol Principles Health Disease	[1] Ungewitter 2009 p53 Pleiotropy Cancer Aging [Jon Wingens] [2] Ewald 2016 Evolution Infection & Cancer
11/30/23		99. Evolution & Mental dysfunction	Wakefield 1992 Concept Mental Disorder	[1] HagenDepression, [2] Espinoza 2016 Foetal Maternal Conflicts
12/5/23		Quiz5		
12/7/23	Why EP?	Controversies around ev-Psych	"Yes but..." link. Other sources TBA.	