Chapter 15 + 16 Evolution and Human Behaviour + Human Mate Choices and Parenting

-Human behaviour, its nature AND nurture, not nature OR nurture  
-brain impacts behaviour, natural selection shapes brain size and abilities

-natural selection can also shape brain behaviour, ex: rat diet

>Evolution and Culture

* animals, besides humans, have tools as well
* social facilitation: right place, right time to learn
* observational learning: imitating what one observes
* social facilitation in monkeys
* observational learning in apes and humans

>Human Culture

* humans are good at observational learning
* culture helps humans live in wide range of environments
* humans create culture and it can create natural selection, ex: lactase persistence and lactose tolerance were selected for by a culture of milk drinking
* humans are a product of both biology and culture

>Relatives

* we know our relatives to avoid inbreeding, and to help them, kin selection and altruism
* how : phenotype matching, spatial distribution (where they live), association (familiarity early in development) and recognition alleles

>Evolved Behaviours

* Inbreeding avoidance:
* many diseases are homozygous recessive
* inbreeding reduces fitness
* many primates leave natal group when reaching sexual maturity
* humans: westermarck effect-> adults not attracted to those they grew up with

>Raising Children

* parenting work is difficult, cross-cultural variation in how children are raised, trade-off btwn parenting and mating
* man's child by current mate > mans step child > mans child by previous mate > wife's stepchild by previous mate
* grandparental care -> maternal grandmother > maternal grandfather > paternal grandmother > paternal grandfather

>Discriminative Parental Solicitude

* evolution predicts -> parents should terminate investment in offspring if the prospects are poor
* selection sometimes favours the termination of pregnancy when either the mother or fetus is in poor condition
* pregnancy termination if: mother in poor health, fetus has genetic defects, parents cannot care for child, etc. -> 78% of pregnancies miscarry

>Conclusions for kin selection and recognition

* association matter: (1) growing up together means that the person is not considered a viable mate, related or not  
  (2) more parental care when the father lives with or has lived with the biological child
* biological kinship matters: loss of investment in unrelated children