CBH 6303 (5374)  SEMINAR IN EVOLUTIONARY PSYCHOLOGY

Instructors:

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Meeting time and location: MW 9:30-10:50, Biomedical Center, Room 106

Course Objectives

This seminar is intended to acquaint students with the emerging field of evolutionary psychology. Concepts and principles of human evolution will be developed in the context of classic and contemporary issues in cognitive, developmental, personality, and social psychology. The instructors will introduce the key concepts, issues, and lines of research, but in each case students are expected to take an active role in discussing and developing the topic under consideration.

Course Requirements

Class discussion will center on readings assigned for each class meeting. Students are expected to have read this material prior to the class meeting and be prepared to discuss and critically evaluate it. Each student will be responsible for organizing and presenting the material concerning one or more topics during class meetings.

Students will prepare one review paper on a topic related to the course and a research proposal designed to investigate an unresolved issue in some aspect of evolutionary psychology. Students will also take a final exam covering the material presented in readings and class discussion. Details regarding these requirements will be presented in class.

Students’ grades will be assigned according to the following weighted criteria:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Weight</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Review paper</td>
<td>50%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final exam</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Research proposal</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Class participation</td>
<td>15%</td>
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Due dates:

Term paper & research proposal:  December 4, 2002
Final Exam:                    December 9, 2002
Required Text


Tentative Course Outline

I. Introduction to Evolutionary Psychology

Bjorklund & Pellegrini, Chapters 1 & 2


II. Evolution and Developmental Processes

Bjorklund & Pellegrini, Chapters 3, 4, & 11


III. Evolved Cognitive Mechanisms

Bjorklund & Pellegrini, Chapters 5 & 6


IV. Social Cognition

Bjorklund & Pellegrini, Chapter 7


V. Parenting and Kinship

Bjorklund & Pellegrini, Chapter 8


VI. Sex, Mating, and Conflict between the Sexes

Bjorklund & Pellegrini, Chapters 9


