

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:

Review paper	-----	50%
Final exam	-----	15%
Research proposal	-----	20%
Class participation	-----	15%

Due dates:

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

Required Text

Bjorklund, D. F., & Pellegrini, A. D. (2002). *The origins of human nature: Evolutionary developmental psychology*. Washington, DC: American Psychological Association.

Tentative Course Outline

I. Introduction to Evolutionary Psychology

Bjorklund & Pellegrini, Chapters 1 & 2

Buss, D. M. (1995). Evolutionary psychology: A new paradigm for psychological science. Psychological Inquiry, 6, 1-30.

Flaxman, S. M., & Sherman, P. W. (2000). Morning sickness: A mechanism for protecting mother and embryo. Quarterly Review of Biology, 75, 113-148.

II. Evolution and Developmental Processes

Bjorklund & Pellegrini, Chapters 3, 4, & 11

Gottlieb, G. (2000). Environmental and behavioral influences on gene activity. Current Directions in Psychological Science, 9, 93-102.

Bjorklund, D. F., & Bering, J. M. (in press). Big brains, slow development, and social complexity: The developmental and evolutionary origins of social cognition. M. Brüne, H. Ribbert, & W. Schiefenhoefel (Eds.). The social brain: Evolutionary aspects of development and pathology. Wiley. New York.

III. Evolved Cognitive Mechanisms

Bjorklund & Pellegrini, Chapters 5 & 6

Geary, D. C. (1995). Reflections of evolution and culture in children's cognition: Implications for mathematical development and instruction. American Psychologist, 50, 24-37.

Bugental, D. B. (2000). Acquisition of the algorithms of social life: A domain-based approach. Psychological Bulletin, 126, 187-219.

Geary, D. C. & Huffman, K. (2002). Brain and cognitive evolution: Forms of modularity and functions of mind. Psychological Bulletin, 128, 667-698.

IV. Social Cognition

Bjorklund & Pellegrini, Chapter 7

Whiten, A. (1998). Evolutionary and developmental origins of the mindreading system. In L. Langer & M. Killen (Eds.), Piaget, evolution, and development (pp. 73-99). Mahwah, NJ: Lawrence Erlbaum Associates.

Hare, B., Call, J., Agentta, B., & Tomasello, M. (2000). Chimpanzees know what conspecifics do and do not

see. Animal Behaviour, 59, 771-785.

Cummins, D. D. (1998). Social norms and other minds: The evolutionary roots of higher cognition. In D. D. Cummins & C. Allen (Eds.), The evolution of mind (pp. 28-50). New York: Oxford University Press.

V. Parenting and Kinship

Bjorklund & Pellegrini, Chapter 8

Daly, M., & Wilson, M. (1996). Violence against children. Current Directions in Psychological Science, 5, 77-81.

Pashos, A. (2000). Does paternal uncertainty explain discriminative grandparental solicitude? A cross-cultural study in Greece and Germany. Evolution and Human Behavior, 21, 97-109.

Jankowiak, W., & Diderich, M. (2000). Sibling solidarity in a polygamous community in the USA: Unpacking inclusive fitness. Evolution and Human Behavior, 21, 125-139.

Bevc, I., & Silverman, I. (2000). Early separation and sibling incest: A test of the revised Westermarck theory. Evolution and Human Behavior, 21, 151-161.

VI. Sex, Mating, and Conflict between the Sexes

Bjorklund & Pellegrini, Chapters 9

Axelrod, R., & Hamilton, W. D. (1981). The evolution of cooperation. Science, 211, 1390-1396.

Geary, D. C. (1999). Evolution and developmental sex differences. Current Directions in Psychological Science, 8, 115-120.

Buss, D. M., Larsen, R. J., Westen, D., & Semmelroth, J. (1992). Sex differences in jealousy: Evolution, physiology, and psychology. Psychological Science, 3, 251-255.

Ellis, B. J., & Garber, J. (2000). Psychosocial antecedents of variation in girls' pubertal timing: Maternal depression, stepfather presence, and marital and family stress. Child Development, 71, 485-501.

Kenrick, D. T., Maner, J. K., Butner, J., Li, N. P., Vecker, V., & Schaller, M. (2002). Dynamical evolutionary psychology: Mapping the domains of the new interactionist paradigm. Personality and Social Psychology Review, 6, 347-356.