

PSY 4810: Evolutionary Psychology Spring 2010

Instructor

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Co-Instructor

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Course Meeting Time and Location

Wednesday, 1:00-3:50pm, Davie campus, ES 104

Course Description

This course provides a review of empirical and theoretical work in the broad field of evolutionary psychology, which addresses human and non-human nature, individual differences, and group differences, including sex differences and cultural differences from an evolutionary perspective.

Required Texts

1. *The Greatest Show on Earth: The Evidence for Evolution*, by Richard Dawkins, published in hardback in 2009 by The Free Press. ISBN 9781416594789.
2. *Catching Fire: How Cooking Made Us Human*, by Richard Wrangham, published in hardback in 2009 by Basic Books. ISBN 978-0465013623.
3. *Why We Lie: The Evolutionary Roots of Deception and the Unconscious Mind*, by David Livingstone Smith, published in paperback in 2007 by St. Martin's Griffin Press. ISBN 9780312310400.

Group Presentation

Groups of 4-5 students will lead a review and discussion of material presented in each of the weekly assigned readings.

Weekly Discussion Questions

Students are expected to read the assigned material before arriving to class on the day the material is to be discussed. Students will hand in at the end of each class 4-5 typed discussion questions about the reading assigned for that class. These questions must be prepared prior to arriving to class.

Weekly Brief Reaction Papers

Students will complete and turn in a brief (2 pages, typed and double-spaced) reaction paper at the beginning of each class session. These reactions papers will address the reading or discussion of the previous class session. The specific assignment of each reaction paper will be discussed in class.

Take-Home Exam

There will be one take-home exam. We will distribute the exam on the date indicated below. Your completed exam will be due at the beginning (first 5 minutes) of the indicated class period. We encourage you to discuss the exam questions with your fellow students, but each of you will be responsible for turning in your own, independently written exam. The exam will consist of short essay questions.

Grading

Grades will be assigned according to the following weighted criteria:

Group presentation	25%
Weekly discussion questions	25%
Brief reaction papers	25%
Take-home exam	25%

Class Schedule

<u>Date</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Readings</u>
Jan 13	Intro. to course, group discussion sign-up	None
Jan 20	Greatest show on Earth, part 1	Dawkins: Preface, Ch. 1(plus appendix), Ch. 2-3
Jan 27	Greatest show on Earth, part 2	Dawkins: Ch. 4-5
Feb 3	Greatest show on Earth, part 3	Dawkins: Ch. 6-7
Feb 10	Greatest show on Earth, part 4	Dawkins: Ch. 8-9
Feb 17	Greatest show on Earth, part 5	Dawkins: Ch. 10-11
Feb 24	Greatest show on Earth, part 6	Dawkins: Ch. 12-13
March 3	Catching fire, part 1	Wrangham: Intro., Ch. 1-2
March 10	No class (Spring Break)	None
March 17	Catching fire, part 2	Wrangham: Ch. 3-4
March 24	Catching fire, part 3	Wrangham: Ch. 5-6
March 31	Catching fire, part 4	Wrangham: Ch. 7, Epilogue
April 7	Why we lie, part 1	Smith: Preface, Ch. 1-2
April 14	Why we lie, part 2	Smith: Ch. 3-4
April 21	Why we lie, part 3	Smith: Ch. 5-6
April 28	Why we lie, part 4 *Take-home exam distributed	Smith: Ch. 7-8, Coda
May 3, Monday 10:30-1:00pm	*Take-home exam due	None