**PSY 3030: Evolutionary Psychology**

**Fall, 2018**

**Instructor**

Dr. Todd K. Shackelford

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Office hours: By appointment

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**Course Meeting Time and Location**

Tues/Thurs, 3:00pm-4:47pm, 306 Pawley Hall

**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.

**Course Prerequisites:** C or better in PSY 2500

**Required Text:**

*Evolutionary psychology: The new science of the mind* (5th edition, 2015), by David M. Buss. Published by Routledge.

**\*Note that you must have the 5th edition**

**Course Procedures:** *Discussions, lectures, videos, reaction papers, group presentations*

**Cross-Cutting Capacities**: effective communication, critical thinking

**Course Objectives** (derived from American Psychological Association guidelines):

1. Respect and use critical and creative thinking, skeptical inquiry, and, when possible, the scientific approach to solve problems related to behavior and mental processes.
2. Understand and apply psychological principles to personal, social, and organizational issues.
3. Value empirical evidence, tolerate ambiguity, act ethically, and reflect other values that are the underpinnings of psychology as a science.
4. Communicate effectively in a variety of formats.

**Expectations**

Students are expected to conduct themselves in a manner conducive to an environment of academic integrity and respect for the educational process and the safety and wellbeing of all members of the community. Adherence to the Student Code of Conduct will be expected; violations of this code will be reported to the Dean of Students. The Code of Academic and Student Conduct can be found at <http://www2.oakland.edu/deanofstudents/handbook/conduct.cfm>. In addition, students are expected to conduct themselves in a manner conducive to an environment of academic integrity and respect for the educational process and the safety and wellbeing of all members of the community. I reserve the right to limit this course’s survey of alternative perspectives to those that, in my professional judgment, meet generally accepted standards of plausibility in the field of scholarship covered in this course. Students are expected to show mastery of these perspectives in their spoken and written contributions.

**Add/Drops & Incompletes:** The University add/drop and incomplete grade policies will be explicitly followed. It is the student’s responsibility to be aware of the University deadline dates for dropping the course.

**Make-up Examinations:** No make-up coursework is permitted.

**Special Considerations:** A student with a documented learning or physical disability must contact the **Office of Disability**

**Support Services**, 103A North Foundation Hall, (248) 370-3266, and inform the professor of special needs during first

week of classes. For more information, visit <http://www.oakland.edu/dss>

**Policy on Academic Misconduct:** The University’s regulations that relate to academic misconduct will be fully enforced.

Any student suspected of cheating and/or plagiarism will be reported to the Dean of Students and, thereafter, to the Academic Conduct Committee for adjudication. Anyone found guilty of academic misconduct in this course may receive a course grade of 0.0, in addition to any penalty assigned by the Academic Conduct Committee. Students found guilty of academic misconduct by the Academic Conduct Committee may face suspension or permanent dismissal. The full policy on academic misconduct can be found in the General Information section of the Undergraduate Catalog.

**Excused Absence Policy:** University excused absences applies to participation as an athlete, manager or student trainer in NCAA intercollegiate competitions, or participation as a representative of Oakland University at academic events and artistic performances approved by the Provost or designee. For the OU excused absence policy, see <http://wwwp.oakland.edu/provost/policies-and-procedures/>

**Audio Recording Policy:** Students who wish to audio-record lectures may request permission to do so. These recordings may only be used for the purpose of personal study. Students may not share these recordings with other individuals without the consent of the professor. At the conclusion of the semester, students may request permission to keep these recordings if needed, otherwise it is expected that all audio-recordings will be deleted from all electronic recording and storage devices.

**Veteran Support Services:** The office of Veteran Support Services (VSS) is responsible for giving support services to more than 300 veterans, service members, and dependents of veterans. VSS is staffed with personnel who are veterans and current or former students. Any student veteran or dependent of a veteran requiring assistance with navigating the Veterans Administration, understanding service-related benefits, or requires referrals to campus and community resources should contact one of the Veterans Liaisons by visiting 116 North Foundation Hall, or phoning 248-370-2010. <http://wwwp.oakland.edu/veterans/>

**Departmental Policy for Resolution of Student Academic-Related Concerns:** The student has an obligation to attempt to resolve all academic-related concerns with the instructor. If a suitable solution cannot be reached, then the student should consult the Department of Psychology Procedure for the Resolution of Student Academic-Related Concerns at <https://www.oakland.edu/Assets/Oakland/psychology/files-and-documents/Undergrad-Advising/Resolution%20of%20Student%20Concerns-04-2017-approved%20full%20doc.pdf>.

**Grade Determination**

**Grades in this course will be based on evaluations of the following materials:**

***Group Presentation***

Groups of 2-3 students will lead a discussion of material presented in ONE class session. These discussions will typically occur on Thursdays, following lectures that will typically occur on Tuesdays. Grades will be assigned according to the degree to which students leading the discussion demonstrate careful and thoughtful reading of the assigned material. This assignment is worth 100 points out of the total 400 points in the course.

***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 class 4-5 typed discussion questions about the reading assigned for that class. These questions must be prepared prior to arriving to class. Discussions will typically occur on Thursdays and, therefore, discussion questions will typically be due on Thursdays following discussion. Grades will be assigned according to the degree to which the questions reflect a careful and thoughtful reading of the assigned material. This assignment is worth 100 points out of the total 400 points in the course.

***Brief Reaction Papers***

Students will complete and turn in a brief (2 pages, typed and double-spaced) reaction paper at the beginning of several class sessions. The specific assignment of each reaction paper will be discussed in class. Grades will be assigned according to the degree to which the reaction papers reflect thoughtful consideration of the issues. This assignment is worth 100 points out of the total 400 points in the course.

***Comprehensive* *Exam***

There will be one comprehensive exam, administered on the scheduled final exam date. This assignment is worth 100 points out of the total 400 points in the course.

***Grade Calculation*:** Your final grade will be calculated as the number of points you achieved across the four assignments out of the total available 400 points. The number of points achieved out of 400 will be converted to a percentage. Grades will then be assigned according to the following scale:

***Grading Scale:***

A    4.0   93%-100%

A-   3.7   90%-92%

B+  3.3   87%-89%

B    3.0   83%-86%

B-   2.7   80%-82%

C+  2.3   77%-79%

C    2.0   73%-76%

C-   1.7   70%-72%

D+  1.3   67%-69%

D    1.0   60%-66%

F     0.0   Below 60%

**Detailed Class Schedule and Topical Outline**

**Date** **Topic** **Reading**

Sept 6 Introduction to course, group discussion sign-up None

Sept 11, 13 Scientific movements leading to evolutionary psychology; Buss: ch. 1-2

The new science of evolutionary psychology

Sept 18, 20 Human survival problems Buss: ch. 3

Sept 25, 27 Women’s long-term mating strategies Buss: ch. 4

Oct 2, 4 Men’s long-term mating strategies Buss: ch. 5

Oct 9 Short-term sexual strategies Buss: ch. 6

Oct 11 Guest lecturer TBA

Oct 16, 18 Problems of parenting Buss: ch. 7

Oct 23, 25 Problems of kinship Buss: ch. 8

Oct 30, Nov 1 Cooperative alliances Buss: ch. 9

Nov 6, 8 Aggression and warfare Buss: ch. 10

Nov 13, 15 Conflict between the sexes Buss: ch. 11

Nov 20 Guest lecturer TBA

Nov 22 No class (Thanksgiving) None

Nov 27, 29 Status, prestige, and dominance; Buss: ch. 12-13

Toward a unified evolutionary psychology

Dec 4, 6 Grandiose conclusions, review TBA

Dec 11 Final exam (12-3pm)