Evolutionary Psychology

(Psychology / EEB 546) Fall, 2013

Time and Place: Wed (9:05 – 12:05) Austin Peay 408

Instructor: Gordon M. Burghardt (Austin Peay 310A, 974-3300, gburghar@utk.edu)

GMB WEB SITE: http://web.utk.edu/~gburghar/ (office hours, etc.)

Readings:


(BB) Readings attached to Blackboard system, including those from the issue of the American Psychologist (Feb. 2009) devoted to Darwin’s contributions to psychology

You should complete all readings and other assignments prior to the class for which they are assigned. There may often be additional journal articles added to the weekly assignments after the first 3 weeks. There will be a research paper in an area of your interest and short mini-reports both oral and written throughout the term as well as one in-class exam announced in advance. Later reading will be tailored to specific student interests as class progresses. Some classes may involve outside lectures.

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<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>TOPIC</th>
<th>ASSIGNMENT</th>
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<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td>The key ideas and their power: natural and sexual selection</td>
<td>JC, pp. 9-51, 565-580, 595-605, 144-201</td>
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<td>Sept. 4</td>
<td>Difficulties, animal instinct, and predictions of things to come</td>
<td>JC, pp. 202-247, 379-398</td>
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<td>18</td>
<td>Towards an evolutionary psychology of the human animal – Darwin’s approach, early social psychology, anthropology, the sociobiological move, and the initial modern iteration</td>
<td>JC, pp. 534-561 BB – Green on functionalism Turn in short essay</td>
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| 25     | Basic tenets of evolutionary psychology and some criticisms.          | BB - Buss on Darwin
BB - Panksepp & Panksepp
BB – Buss, 1995
HB, chs 2-5 |
| Oct. 2  | Testing evolutionary hypotheses, human social organization            | BB - Belsky et al, 2010
BB – Platt, Strong inference
BB – Human social structure
BB – Hunter gatherer societies
HB, chs 2-4 |
| 9      | Updating behavior genetics, heritability, and development.            | View GB lecture video
Discuss among yourselves
BB – 10NatRevSelHumans
BB – GeneEInteraction
BB – Genes/Culture/Chimps
and write a group reaction evaluation. |
| 16     | Aggression, Emotion, and other topics.                               | Look for research studies in your chosen area and bring to class for discussion 'good' and 'problematic' recent research studies since 2010 testing evolutionary hypotheses with ~ 800 word analysis. Write these up in 2-3 pages (~800 words) – also bring in Darwin’s kids relatedness calculations.
BB – BBSaggression
BB – Hess and Thibault. |
| 23     | Class discussion of papers related to projects as well as going over the study guide. | BB – 13 Burghardt-CPEP
BB - TBA |
| 30     | GB at NIMBioS                                                        | Exam                                                                      |
| Nov. 6 | Enduring conundrums and their relationships: language, play, and religion | Hand in prospectus of paper with list of 6 empirical research references
BB - PLOS and PNAS baby releaser papers
D/B – Kirby, Bulbulia (BB)
BB) Play Ritual chapter |
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<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Student chosen topics</td>
<td>TBA</td>
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<td>20</td>
<td>Continue student chosen topics</td>
<td>TBA</td>
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<td>27</td>
<td>Brief Oral presentations of proposals outlining major hypotheses and methods for testing them.</td>
<td>Papers due by Nov. 24 incorporating any suggestions based on discussion on oral reports. Circulate via BB to all students and GB</td>
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<td>Dec. 9</td>
<td>Final Discussion: Whither it all?</td>
<td>Scheduled for 12:30 – 2:30 P.M. – can be changed for a different time and venue</td>
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**SPECIAL SERVICES**

If you need course adaptations or accommodations because of a documented disability, please contact the Office of Disability Services at 2227 Dunford Hall (telephone/TTY 865-974-6087; e-mailods@utk.edu) by January 16. This will ensure that you are properly registered for services.