

## **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](mailto:gburghar@utk.edu))

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

### **Readings:**

**(JC)** Darwin, C. (2003) *On the Origin of Species* and excerpts from other writings. Edited by Joseph Carroll. Broadview Press: Orchard Park, CA.

**(HB)** Braak, H. van de (2013). *Evolutionary Psychology*. Pearson, Harlow, England.

**(D/B)** Dunbar, R. and Barrett, L. (2007) *Handbook of Evolutionary Psychology*. Oxford University Press: New York (expensive but hope to have pdfs available).

**(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.

<u>DATE</u>	<u>TOPIC</u>	<u>ASSIGNMENT</u>
Aug. 21	Introduction – What is Evolutionary Psychology? Evolution and Psychology before Darwin	Survey
28	The key ideas and their power: natural and sexual selection	JC, pp. 9-51, 565-580, 595-605, 144-201
Sept. 4	Difficulties, animal instinct, and predictions of things to come	JC, pp. 202-247, 379-398
18	Towards an evolutionary psychology of the human animal – Darwin's approach, early social psychology, anthropology, the sociobiological move, and the initial modern iteration	JC, pp. 534-561 BB – Green on functionalism Turn in short essay

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  More tenets of EP and controversies	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. Discussion of papers and group analyses.	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

13	Student chosen topics	TBA
20	Continue student chosen topics Paper/proposal discussion	TBA
27	Brief Oral presentations of proposals outlining major hypotheses and methods for testing them.	Papers due by Nov. 24 incorporating any suggestions based on discussion on oral reports. Circulate via BB to all students and GB
Dec. 9  (Mon.)	Final Discussion: Whither it all?  Scheduled for 12:30 – 2:30 P.M. – can be changed for a different time and venue	

### **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-mail [mailods@utk.edu](mailto:mailods@utk.edu)) by January 16. This will ensure that you are properly registered for services.