

Psychology 473
Evolution and Human Behavior
Fall 2020

Instructor:	Christopher Sears, Ph.D.	Lecture Location:	Online (Zoom)
Phone:	403-220-2803	Lecture Days/Time:	Tues/Thurs 9:30 am
Email:	sears@ucalgary.ca		
Office:	Education Tower 1428		
Office Hours:	By Appointment		

Course Description

An examination of the scientific synthesis of evolutionary biology and modern psychology, which offers a novel approach to such issues as short-term and long-term human mating strategies, short-term sexual strategies, conflict between the sexes, parental investment, aggression, and social dominance.

Course Learning Outcomes

The Department of Psychology is committed to student knowledge and skill development. The table below lists the key learning outcomes for this course, the program-learning outcomes they facilitate (see <https://live-arts.ucalgary.ca/psychology/about#program-learning-outcomes>), and the expected level of achievement.

Course Learning Outcomes	Assessment Methods	PLO(s)	Level(s)
Describe the key principles of evolution	Multiple choice question creation	1	C
Describe the major stages and events of human evolution	Multiple choice question creation	1	C
Consider the biological, psychological, and social bases of behaviour and cognition			A
Reflect on human cultural differences, similarities, and possible alternatives	Thought papers	2, 4	A
Think critically on differences between men and women's cognition and the possible origins of these differences		2	A
Write clear and concise thought papers on several different topics related to the course material	Thought papers	1, 4	A
Research and write a major paper on a topic related to the course	Research paper	1, 4	A

Notes. PLOs = Program-Learning Outcomes: 1 = demonstrate knowledge of psychological sciences, 2 = think critically and solve problems, 3 = conduct research and analyze data, 4 = communicate effectively, 5 = demonstrate information literacy, 6 = understand and implement ethical principles in a diverse world, 7 = apply psychological knowledge and skills, 8 = Demonstrate multicultural competence and awareness of issues related to equity, diversity,* and inclusion. Level of PLO achievement facilitated by this course: I = introductory, C = competency, A = advanced.

Acknowledgments and Respect for Diversity

Our classrooms view diversity of identity as a strength and resource. Your experiences and different perspectives are encouraged and add to a rich learning environment that fosters critical thought through respectful discussion and inclusion. The Department of Psychology would also like to acknowledge the traditional territories of the people of the Treaty 7 region in southern Alberta. The City of Calgary is also home to Métis Nation of Alberta, Region III.

Course Format

Lectures will be taught live via Zoom during each scheduled class as per the course schedule below and will be recorded and posted to D2L after class.

Prerequisites

Psychology 300, 301, and admission to the Psychology major or Honours program.

Required Text

The text for this course *Evolutionary Psychology: The New Science of the Mind* (6th Edition) by David Buss. The text is available in the bookstore.

Assessment Methods

Note: All assignments are to be submitted electronically (via D2L).

1. Multiple choice question creation (20%)

You will generate 10 multiple choice questions that could be used for an exam in this course. Your questions will test material from chapters 1 and 2 of the text. Details on this assignment will be provided on the first day of class (September 10). Your 10 multiple choice questions are due September 29 by 11:59 pm. Questions submitted after September 29 will be penalized 10% per day.

2. Thought papers (40%)

You will write 4 thought papers throughout the course. Each thought paper is worth 10% of the final grade and each will be between 5-7 pages in length (double-spaced, with 12-point font and 1-inch page margins). A list of topics for you to choose from will be made available on the first day of class (September 10) and will be updated regularly. You must submit at least two papers by 11:59 pm on October 6. First and second thought papers submitted after October 6 will receive a grade of 0%. Your final two thought papers must be submitted before 11:59 pm on November 19. Thought papers submitted after November 19 will receive a grade of 0%.

3. Research paper (40%)

You will write a research paper on a topic of your choice. Details on this assignment will be provided by October 1. Your topic must be approved by November 5. Your paper is due December 12 by 11:59 pm. Papers submitted after December 12 will be penalized 10% per day.

University of Calgary Academic Integrity Policy

Academic integrity is the foundation of the development and acquisition of knowledge and is based on values of honesty, trust, responsibility, and respect. We expect members of our community to act with integrity.

Research integrity, ethics, and principles of conduct are key to academic integrity. Members of our campus community are required to abide by our institutional code of conduct and promote academic integrity in upholding the University of Calgary's reputation of excellence. It is your responsibility to ensure that you have read and are familiar with the student academic misconduct policy: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-academic-misconduct-policy.pdf>.

Department of Psychology Criteria for Letter Grades

Psychology course instructors use the following criteria when assigning letter grades:

A+ grade: *Exceptional Performance.* An A+ grade indicates near perfect performance on multiple choice and short answer exams. For research papers/essays/course projects/presentations, an A+ grade is awarded for exceptional work deserving of special recognition and is therefore not a common grade.

A, A- Range: *Excellent Performance.* Superior understanding of course material. Written work is very strong in terms of critical and original thinking, content, organization, and the expression of ideas, and demonstrates student's thorough knowledge of subject matter.

B Range: *Good Performance.* Above average understanding of course material. Written work shows evidence of critical thinking and attention to organization and editing but could be improved in form and/or content.

C Range: *Satisfactory Performance.* Adequate understanding of course material. Knowledge of basic concepts and terminology is demonstrated. Written work is satisfactory and meets essential requirements but could be improved significantly in form and content. Note: All prerequisites for courses offered by the Faculty of Arts must be met with a minimum grade of C-.

D range: *Marginally meets standards.* Minimal understanding of subject matter. Written work is marginally acceptable and meets basic requirements but requires substantial improvements in form and content. Student has not mastered course material at a level sufficient for advancement into more senior courses in the same or related subjects.

F grade: *Course standards not met.* Inadequate understanding of subject matter. Written work does not meet basic requirements. Student has not demonstrated knowledge of course material at a level sufficient for course credit.

Grading Scale

A+	96-100%	B+	80-84%	C+	67-71%	D+	54-58%
A	90-95%	B	76-79%	C	63-66%	D	50-53%
A-	85-89%	B-	72-75%	C-	59-62%	F	0-49%

As stated in the University Calendar, it is at the instructor's discretion to round off either upward or downward to determine a final grade when the average of term work and final examinations is between two letter grades. To determine final letter grades, final percentage grades will be rounded up or down to the nearest whole percentage (e.g., 89.5% will be rounded up to 90% = A but 89.4% will be rounded down to 89% = A-).

Tentative Lecture Schedule

T Sep 8	University Lectures begin.
R Sep 10	Putting Things into Context (lecture)
T Sep 15	Foundations of Evolutionary Psychology (chp. 1 and 2)
R Sep 17	Foundations of Evolutionary Psychology (chp. 1 and 2)
R Sep 17	<i>Last day to drop a class without financial penalty.</i>
F Sep 18	<i>Last day to add or swap a course.</i>
T Sep 22	Problems of Survival (chp. 3)
R Sep 24	Problems of Survival (chp. 3)
T Sep 29	Women's Long-Term Mating Strategies (chp. 4); <i>Multiple choice questions due</i>
F Sep 25	<i>Fee payment deadline for Fall Term full- and half-courses.</i>
R Oct 1	Women's Long-Term Mating Strategies (chp. 4)
T Oct 6	Women's Long-Term Mating Strategies (chp. 4)
R Oct 8	Men's Long-Term Mating Strategies (chp. 5)
T Oct 13	Short-Term Sexual Strategies
M Oct 12	<i>Thanksgiving Day, University closed (except Taylor Family Digital Library, Law, Medical, Gallagher and Business Libraries). No lectures.</i>
R Oct 15	Men's Long-Term Mating Strategies (chp. 5)
T Oct 20	Men's Long-Term Mating Strategies (chp. 5)
R Oct 22	Short-Term Sexual Strategies (chp. 6)
T Oct 27	Short-Term Sexual Strategies (chp. 6)
R Oct 29	Short-Term Sexual Strategies (chp. 6)
T Nov 3	Conflict Between the Sexes (chp. 11)
R Nov 5	Conflict Between the Sexes (chp. 11)
Nov 8-14	<i>Term Break - No Classes</i>
W Nov 11	<i>Remembrance Day (Observed). University Closed (except Taylor Family Digital Library, Law, Medical, Gallagher and Business Libraries). No lectures.</i>
T Nov 17	Conflict Between the Sexes (chp. 11))
R Nov 19	Problems of Parenting (chp. 7)
T Nov 24	Problems of Parenting (chp. 7)
R Nov 26	Status, Prestige, and Social Dominance (chp 12)
T Dec 1	Status, Prestige, and Social Dominance (chp 12)
R Dec 3	Status, Prestige, and Social Dominance (chp 12)
T Dec 8	Final Thoughts (lecture)
W Dec 9	<i>Fall Term Lectures End. Last day to withdraw with permission from Fall Term half-courses.</i>
Dec 12-23	<i>Fall Final Exam Period</i>

Absence From A Test/Exam

Makeup tests/exams are **NOT** an option without the approval of the instructor. Students who miss a test/exam have up to 48 hours to contact the instructor to ask for a makeup test/exam. It's the instructor's discretion if they will allow a make-up exam. Students who do not schedule a makeup test/exam with the instructor within this 48-hour period forfeit the right to a makeup test/exam. At the instructor's discretion, a makeup test/exam may differ significantly (in form and/or content) from a regularly scheduled test/exam. Once approved by the instructor a makeup test/exam must be written within 2 weeks of the missed test/exam on a day/time scheduled by the instructor. If a student cannot write their final exam on the date assigned by the Registrar's Office, they need to apply for a deferred exam <https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/exams/deferred-exams>.

Travel During Exams

Consistent with University regulations, students are expected to be available to write scheduled exams at any time during the official December and April examination periods. Requests to write a make-up exam because of conflicting travel plans (e.g., flight bookings) will NOT be considered by the department. Students are advised to wait until the final examination schedule is posted before making any travel arrangements. If a student cannot write their final exam on the date assigned by the Registrar's Office, they need to apply for a deferred exam <https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/exams/deferred-exams>. Students with an exceptional extenuating circumstance (e.g., a family emergency) should contact the Department of Psychology (psyugrd@ucalgary.ca).

Reappraisal of Graded Term Work <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/i-2.html>

Reappraisal of Final Grade <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/i-3.html>

Academic Accommodations

Students seeking an accommodation based on disability or medical concerns should contact Student Accessibility Services; SAS will process the request and issue letters of accommodation to instructors. For additional information on support services and accommodations for students with disabilities, visit www.ucalgary.ca/access/. Students who require an accommodation in relation to their coursework based on a protected ground other than disability should communicate this need in writing to their Instructor. The full policy on Student Accommodations is available at <http://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy.pdf>.

Academic Misconduct

For information on academic misconduct and its consequences, please see the University of Calgary Calendar at <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k.html>

Instructor Intellectual Property

Course materials created by professor(s) (including course outlines, presentations and posted notes, labs, case studies, assignments and exams) remain the intellectual property of the professor(s). These

materials may NOT be reproduced, redistributed or copied without the explicit consent of the professor. The posting of course materials to third party websites such as note-sharing sites without permission is prohibited. Sharing of extracts of these course materials with other students enrolled in the course at the same time may be allowed under fair dealing.

Copyright Legislation

All students are required to read the University of Calgary policy on Acceptable Use of Material Protected by Copyright (www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/acceptable-use-of-material-protected-by-copyright.pdf) and requirements of the copyright act (<https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/C-42/index.html>) to ensure they are aware of the consequences of unauthorized sharing of course materials (including instructor notes, electronic versions of textbooks etc.). Students who use material protected by copyright in violation of this policy may be disciplined under the Non-Academic Misconduct Policy.

Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy

Student information will be collected in accordance with typical (or usual) classroom practice. Students' assignments will be accessible only by the authorized course faculty. Private information related to the individual student is treated with the utmost regard by the faculty at the University of Calgary

Student Support and Resources

<https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/registration/course-outlines>

Important Dates

The last day to drop this course with no "W" notation and **still receive a tuition fee refund is Thursday, September 17, 2020.** Last day add/swap a course is **Friday, September 18, 2020.** The last day to withdraw from this course is **Wednesday, December 9, 2020.**

<https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/academic-schedule.html>