



EFFECTIVE: JANUARY 2012
CURRICULUM GUIDELINES

A. Division: EDUCATION Effective Date: January 2012

B. Department / Program Area: FACULTY OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES PSYCHOLOGY
 Revision New Course

If Revision, Section(s) Revised:
 Date of Previous Revision:
 Date of Current Revision:

C: Psychology 3385 **D:** Evolutionary Psychology **E:** 3

Subject & Course No.	Descriptive Title	Semester Credits
F: Calendar Description: Students are introduced to the study of behaviour and mental processes from an evolutionary perspective. The methods and research of Evolutionary Psychology will be emphasized. The course begins with a thorough overview of Darwin's theory of natural selection and the formation of adaptations. From there, various topics will be investigated including cooperation and altruism, competition and aggression, sexual selection and mating strategies, life histories and development, parental care and family relations, and culture.		
G: Allocation of Contact Hours to Type of Instruction / Learning Settings Primary Methods of Instructional Delivery and/or Learning Settings: Lectures and tutorials. Number of Contact Hours: (per week / semester for each descriptor) Lecture: 2 hours Tutorial: 1 hour Number of Weeks per Semester: 15	H: Course Prerequisites: PSYC 1200 & 2301	
	I: Course Corequisites: None	
	J: Course for which this Course is a Prerequisite None	
	K: Maximum Class Size: 35	
L: PLEASE INDICATE: <input type="checkbox"/> Non-Credit <input type="checkbox"/> College Credit Non-Transfer <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> College Credit Transfer: SEE BC TRANSFER GUIDE FOR TRANSFER DETAILS (www.bctransferguide.ca)		

M: Course Objectives / Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of the course the learner will be able to:

1. Describe the process of natural selection, including basic genetics and types of selection pressures
2. Distinguish between ultimate and proximate causation
3. Describe the characteristics of adaptations and be able to provide examples
4. Identify the assumptions of Evolutionary Psychology and be able to contrast it with other evolutionary perspectives
5. Explain the operation and outcomes of sexual selection
6. Discuss current research and theories on attraction and mating strategies
7. Demonstrate an understanding of inclusive fitness theory, kin selection, and the evolution of nepotism
8. Give examples and discuss theories of both cooperation and conflict among kin
9. Discuss the theories of altruism and cooperation among non-kin, including reciprocal altruism, indirect reciprocity, group selection, commitment theory and others.
10. Discuss the nature and functions of aggression and conflict.
11. Describe the relationship between our evolved psychology and culture.
12. Discuss how the modern environment may produce mismatches and maladaptive behaviours.

N: Course Content:

Introduction to Darwin, evolutionary theory, and evolutionary psychology.
 Evolution, natural selection & genetics.
 Adaptations - Their nature and study.
 Life history theory and game theory.
 Sexual selection theory – mating strategies and attraction.
 Inclusive fitness theory – altruism and conflict within families
 Cooperation among nonkin – reciprocal altruism theory and other explanations
 Aggression and warfare
 Evolution and culture, mismatch theory

O: Methods of Instruction

Regular classes 2 hours/week: involves lecturing, participating in class activities and demonstrations, and viewing of audiovisual material.

Tutorials 1 hour/week: The tutorials will allow for a seminar-style class environment. They will feature article readings, presentations, and discussions.

P: Textbooks and Materials to be Purchased by Students

Buss, D. M. (2008). *Evolutionary psychology: The new science of the mind (3rd ed.)*. New York: Pearson Education Inc.

-or a similar textbook, or a newer version when available.

Q: Means of Assessment

The course evaluation will be based on the course objectives and in accordance with Douglas College policy

An example of a possible evaluation scheme would be:

Test #1:	20%
Test #2:	20%
Final exam:	25%
Group presentation:	15%
Term paper:	20%

Tests will be a combination of multiple choice and written questions.

R: Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition: specify whether course is open for PLAR

No.

Course Designer: Dr. Maria Janicki

Education Council / Curriculum Committee Representative

Dean: Catherine Carlson, Ph.D.

Registrar