

Syllabus

Name: Roger Mellgren

Office Number: 508 Life Sciences

Office Telephone Number: 817 272 2775

Email Address: Mellgren@uta.edu; **Website:** <http://psychology.uta.edu/mellgren/evopsyc/> Class notes will be placed on this website.

Office Hours: M 11—12, T 12:30—2:15

Course Number, Section Number, and Course Title: Psyc 4356,
Evolutionary Psychology

Time and Place of Class Meetings: 11:00 pm to 12:20 pm, Life Sciences 101

Description of Course Content: The evolutionary basis of human behavior with comparisons to nonhuman animals.

Student Learning Outcomes: Students will understand evolutionary principles and how they have come to influence all aspect of human psychological functioning.

Requirements: Prerequisite: 12 hours of psychology, or Animal Behavior, Bio/Psyc 3326.

Required Textbooks and Other Course Materials: Evolutionary Psychology, Second Edition by Workman and Reader

Descriptions of major assignments and examinations with due dates: Three exams will be given, Feb. 24, April 2, and the final exam, May 12 at 11:00 am. They will be a combination of multiple choice, true-false and matching and short answers. The first exam will cover chapters 1—5 and lecture, the second will cover chapters 6—9 and lecture, and the final will cover chapters 10—14 and lecture.

Grading Policy: The exams will be worth 33.3% each, with 40 points possible per exam. Attendance will be worth 5%.

Extra Credit: An original paper or 5 to 8 pages (double spaced) in length on one of the topics listed below will earn up to 12 extra credit points. The paper must have at least 5 published original articles from scientific

journals and the majority of the articles should be recent publications (i.e., 2006,2007 or 2008). You should look at the references in the book (pp. 440-473) for the names of journals that publish articles relevant to the paper. Book chapters, textbooks and other non-journal sources may be cited, but they will not count toward the 5 article requirement. You should critically present the research in the articles you use and relate them to each other as best you can. The paper will be evaluated based on the clarity of presentation, integration of the articles, appropriateness of the articles and quality of writing. Because these topics are broad, your choice of articles will be important in producing a quality paper. I do not want a one page review of 5 unrelated articles. The paper is due on May 7, the last day of classes.

Topics:

**Reciprocal Altruism
Parental Investment
Sexual Selection
Human Female Mate Choice
Sperm Competition
Innate Modules in the Mind
Theory of Mind
Face Perception
Life History Theory
Inclusive Fitness
Non-human Language
Facial Expression of Emotion**

Attendance Policy: Attendance will be taken on 10 occasions during the semester. Being present on 7 or more of these days will earn a full 5%, or 6 points. Being absent on 3 or more days will earn 0%, or 0 points.

How to Calculate Your Grade: Add the total points on the three exams. The highest possible (100%) is 120 points. To make an A you need $.9 \times 120 = 108$ points. To make a B you need $.8 \times 120 = 96$ points. To make a C you need $.7 \times 120 = 84$ points. A D is $.6 \times 120 = 72$ points. If you satisfy the attendance policy and earn the 6 points you can add them to your exam scores to get a new total. So if you made a total of 103 points on the exams and you earn the 5% for attendance, your total would be 109 points moving your grade from a B to an A. Similarly, if you do the extra credit paper and receive full points (12) you would add that to your exam total (and attendance total) to get a new final total. So here's an example: Suppose you make 92 points for the three exams and you got credit for attendance and wrote an extra credit paper that earns full credit. The 92 would normally be a C, but to it we add the 6 points for attendance and 12 points

for the extra credit paper, your new total is now $92 + 6 + 12 = 110$ so your grade would be an A.

Drop Policy: Normal university drop policies are in effect.

Americans With Disabilities Act:

The University of Texas at Arlington is on record as being committed to both the spirit and letter of federal equal opportunity legislation; reference Public Law 92-112 - The Rehabilitation Act of 1973 as amended. With the passage of federal legislation entitled *Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)*, pursuant to section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, there is renewed focus on providing this population with the same opportunities enjoyed by all citizens.

As a faculty member, I am required by law to provide "reasonable accommodations" to students with disabilities, so as not to discriminate on the basis of that disability. Student responsibility primarily rests with informing faculty of their need for accommodation and in providing authorized documentation through designated administrative channels. Information regarding specific diagnostic criteria and policies for obtaining academic accommodations can be found at www.uta.edu/disability. Also, you may visit the Office for Students with Disabilities in room 102 of University Hall or call them at (817) 272-3364.

Academic Integrity:

It is the philosophy of The University of Texas at Arlington that academic dishonesty is a completely unacceptable mode of conduct and will not be tolerated in any form. All persons involved in academic dishonesty will be disciplined in accordance with University regulations and procedures. Discipline may include suspension or expulsion from the University.

"Scholastic dishonesty includes but is not limited to cheating, plagiarism, collusion, the submission for credit of any work or materials that are attributable in whole or in part to another person, taking an examination for another person, any act designed to give unfair advantage to a student or the attempt to commit such acts." (Regents' Rules and Regulations, Series 50101, Section 2.2)

Student Support Services Available:

The University of Texas at Arlington supports a variety of student success programs to help you connect with the University and achieve academic success. These programs include learning assistance, developmental education, advising and mentoring, admission and transition, and federally funded programs. Students requiring assistance academically, personally, or socially should contact the Office of Student Success Programs at 817-272-6107 for more information and appropriate referrals.

Final Review Week:

A period of five class days prior to the first day of final examinations in the long

sessions shall be designated as Final Review Week. The purpose of this week is to allow students sufficient time to prepare for final examinations. During this week, there shall be no scheduled activities such as required field trips or performances; and no instructor shall assign any themes, research problems or exercises of similar scope that have a completion date during or following this week unless specified in the class syllabi. During Final Review Week, an instructor shall not give any examinations constituting 10% or more of the final grade, except makeup tests and laboratory examinations. In addition, no instructor shall give any portion of the final examination during Final Review Week. Classes are held as scheduled during this week and lectures and presentations may be given.

E-Culture Policy:

The University of Texas at Arlington has adopted the University email address as an official means of communication with students. Through the use of email, UT-Arlington is able to provide students with relevant and timely information, designed to facilitate student success. In particular, important information concerning registration, financial aid, payment of bills, and graduation may be sent to students through email.

All students are assigned an email account and information about activating and using it is available at www.uta.edu/email. New students (first semester at UTA) are able to activate their email account 24 hours after registering for courses. There is no additional charge to students for using this account, and it remains active as long as a student is enrolled at UT-Arlington. Students are responsible for checking their email regularly.