

Psyco 302 Spring 2011 Paper Topics -- Due 8 June 2011

As part of the course requirement you must submit an original paper on one of the topics provided below. In addition, your paper needs to conform to the following requirements:

Length:

- 5 pages, plus or minus half a page (not counting the title and reference pages)

Formatting

- Use Times 12-point font
- Your paper must be double spaced (this works out to 22 or 23 lines of text per page)
- Indent paragraphs with a tab; do not skip a line to separate paragraphs
- 1 inch margins must be used throughout (i.e., top, bottom, left, and right of pages); be sure to check this in your word processor, as it may not be the default setting
- Include a title page, listing your paper's title, your name, and student ID (do not put your name or ID anywhere on your paper other than the title page)
- You must staple your paper together; no paper clips, binders, folders, etc.

References

- Include a reference list for all sources cited using APA formatting style
- You must cite a minimum of 6 sources, of which at least 4 must be peer reviewed journal articles. Note: this is the bare minimum required just to meet the basic criteria; you can (and likely should), of course, have more references
- You must staple to the back of your paper a photocopy (or printout) of the first page (or title page for a book) of each source cited in your paper (the one exception is if you cite your textbook; you don't need to include a copy of the title page for this)

Penalties

- There will be a 5% penalty for *each* violation of the above requirements
- There will be a 10% penalty applied for each day your paper is late (including weekends), starting at 10:36AM on 8 June 2011.

Paper Topics

1. Examine the behaviour of rape from an evolutionary psychology perspective.
2. Pop culture often exposes interesting issues with respect to Evolutionary Psychology theory. Take, for example, Sir Mix-A-Lot's 1990 song, *Baby Got Back*. For this essay topic, contextualize this song's sentiments concerning female attractiveness specifically with respect to waist-to-hip ratio (WHR) and body-mass index (BMI). The lyrics for the song may be found at: <http://www.azlyrics.com/lyrics/sirmixalot/babygotback.html>
3. Discuss psychopathy within an Evolutionary Psychology framework. In particular, contextualize your discussion within the context of the Theory of Mind. (Note that for this topic you might want to read chapters 5 and 12 in the text before we get to them in class; these chapters introduce and discuss important concepts with respect to the Theory of Mind and evolutionary interpretations of psychopathology.)
4. Critically evaluate Elliot Sober and David Sloan Wilson's multi-level selection theory. (Be sure that you don't simply summarize the theory; your paper must actually evaluate the scientific merit of this theory.)
5. In Shakespeare's well known Saint Crispin's Day speech, before leading the English army into battle, King Henry V inspires his soldiers by stating, "We few, we happy few, we band of"

brothers.... For he who sheds his blood with me this day is my brother.” This is not a unique sentiment in a Shakespearean play. Across time and cultures, men serving in a military capacity have often viewed and identified the other men in their unit with references to family, especially brotherhood. Explain and support this within an evolutionary psychology perspective. (Note: this is not meant to be a sexist question; while historically there are examples of women serving in military capacities, they are definitely in the minority. For simplicity, this question deals simply with the majority case of males serving in warrior/soldier capacities.)