

Psychology 302
Spring 2011, MW 10:30-1:20
<http://www.psych.ualberta.ca/~msnyder/p302/main.html>

Instructor: Dr. M.R. Snyder

Office: BSP-241
Phone: 492-3834
e-mail: mrsnyder@ualberta.ca
Type username: michaelrsnyder
Office hours: TR 1:00-2:30, after class, and/or by appointment

Required Textbook:

Workman, L. & Reader, W. (2008). *Evolutionary psychology: An introduction* (second edition). Cambridge University Press: United Kingdom.

Predicted Reading Schedule:

Chapters 1 & 2: 9-11 May
Chapters 3 & 4: 16-18 May
Chapters 5 & 9: 25-30 May
Chapters 6 & 7: 1-6 June
Chapters 8 & 10: 8-13 June
Chapters 11 & 12: 13-15 June

Note that the instructor will not be covering all topics from the assigned chapters during class time. Nonetheless, students are expected to be conversant in all assigned readings. Similarly, the instructor will be presenting some topics not covered in the textbook. Again, students are expected to know this material. Exams can test any material presented in the text and the lectures. Students are expected to come to class prepared, having read the assigned chapter being covered.

Course Assignments:

Midterm exam (20%, chapters 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 9 and lectures): 1 June
Final exam (35%, cumulative): TBA
Assignments 1-4 (20%): 16 May, 25 May, 6 June, 13 June
Paper (25%): 8 June

Other Significant Dates:

9 May: 2011 Spring session classes begin
12 May: Spring Term registration deadline
23 May: Victoria Day; University buildings closed
24 May: Spring Term refund deadline
3 June: Last day to withdraw from Spring Term classes
16-17 June: Spring Term final exam period

Exams:

The midterm and final examinations require written answers.

The midterm covers material taught in class from 9-30 May and chapters 1 to 5 and 9 in the textbook. If you miss the midterm exam you must give the instructor appropriate documentation within two working days or you will be assigned a zero for the exam (see the University Calendar, section 23.4(3), for information on what constitutes an acceptable excuse for missing an exam). The weight of an excused midterm exam will be reallocated to the final exam; there will be no re-examination for a missed midterm exam.

The final exam is cumulative; that is, all material covered in class during the course and all assigned chapters can provide material for question, although there will be a greater emphasis on material covered after the midterm exam. If you miss the final exam and are granted a deferral by your Faculty (see the University Calendar, section 23.4(3)), you will write the deferred final exam on 24 June 2011, 2:00-4:00 PM, room BSP-241.

Assignments:

Assignments will be posted to the course website; each will consist of a question for which the student needs to provide up to a one page answer. Additional details will be provided on the course web site and in class.

An assignment must be turned in to the instructor on the day it is due by 10:35 AM. For every day, including weekends and holidays, an assignment is late, starting at 10:36 on the day the assignment is due (and each day thereafter at 4:00 PM), 10% will be deducted.

DO NOT put an assignment under the instructor's door! Late (or early!) assignments may be submitted directly to the instructor, may be turned in to office staff at the Department of Psychology office (BSP-217, open 8:00-12:00 and 1:00-4:00 Monday to Friday), or may be thumbtacked to the bulletin board outside the instructor's office (if the latter, any late penalties will be assessed based on when the instructor actually finds the assignment).

Assignments may be completed individually or in a group of two people. If an assignment is done as a group, both members of the group will receive the same grade. Organization of groups is entirely up to the students. Note that the

instructor will not become involved in any way in arbitrating or mediating disputes, disagreements, or difficulties between group members. Consequently, if students wish to work on an assignment in a group, it is their responsibility to select their partner wisely. For students completing assignments on their own, they must work on the assignments on their own (see section on Plagiarism below).

Paper:

A list of paper topics will be made available on the course website. A student will select one of the topics on which to write a five page paper. The paper will require at least 6 academic references (4 of which must be from peer-reviewed journal articles) and must adhere to details that will be made available on the course website.

The paper must be turned in to the instructor by 8 June by 10:35 AM. For every day, including weekends and holidays, the paper is late, starting at 10:36 AM on the day it is due (and each day thereafter at 4:00 PM), 10% will be deducted.

Please *DO NOT* put the paper under the instructor's door! Late (or early!) papers may be submitted directly to the instructor, may be turned in to office staff at the Department of Psychology office (BSP-217, open 8:00-12:00 and 1:00-4:00 Monday to Friday), or may be thumbtacked to the bulletin board outside the instructor's office (if the latter, any late penalties will be assessed based on when the instructor actually finds the paper).

Grading Scheme:

<u>Mark (%)</u>	<u>Grade</u>	<u>Letter Grade</u>	<u>Descriptor</u>
94-100	4.0	A+	Excellent
88-93.9	4.0	A	Excellent
83-87.9	3.7	A-	Excellent
78-82.9	3.3	B+	Good
73-77.9	3.0	B	Good
68-72.9	2.7	B-	Good
63-67.9	2.3	C+	Satisfactory
58-62.9	2.0	C	Satisfactory
55-57.9	1.7	C-	Satisfactory
52-54.9	1.3	D+	Poor
50-51.9	1.0	D	Minimal Pass
0-49.9	0.0	F or F(R)	Failure

Exam, assignment, and paper marks will be tallied at the end of the course and converted to the 4-point/letter grade University grade scale. Note: this course *is not* graded on a curve. The mark received translates directly to the letter grade given.

Posting of Grades:

Graded assignments, the midterm, and the paper will be returned to students in class. Student grades will also be posted (by student ID) on the course website in a PDF format. Any students who do not want their grades posted in this manner should contact the instructor in writing during the first two weeks of class to make alternative arrangements.

Prerequisites:

To receive credit for Psychology 302 a student must have previously passed any two of Psyc 223, 233, 241, 258, 267, 275, 281. No exceptions or waivers will be granted. Students who do not have the required prerequisite may have their registration in Psyc 302 cancelled; this may result in a loss of fees paid for this course.

Course Objectives:

This is a course in evolutionary psychology (EP). EP is a relatively new field within the discipline of psychology. EP uses Darwinian evolutionary theory to explain and predict behaviour patterns of both individuals and groups of humans. This course will expose students to the basic principles of EP theory, examine some of the major applications of EP to the field of psychology, and discuss some of the controversies surrounding EP as it is currently applied. Assignments are designed to give students experience with critical reasoning, analytic interpretation of scientific data and theories, reading primary source materials (i.e., journal articles), and scientific writing.

Cheating and Plagiarism:

The University of Alberta is committed to the highest standards of academic integrity and honesty. Students are expected to be familiar with these standards regarding academic honesty and to uphold the policies of the University in this respect. Students are particularly urged to familiarize themselves with the provisions of the Code of Student Behaviour (online at www.uofaweb.ualberta.ca/secretariat/studentappeals.cfm) and avoid any behaviour that could potentially result in suspicions of cheating, plagiarism, misrepresentation of facts and/or participation in an offence. Academic dishonesty is a serious offence and can result in suspension or expulsion from the University.

In particular, please note: No student shall represent another's substantial editorial or compositional assistance on an assignment as his or her own. Also, no student shall submit in any course or program of study, without the written approval of the course instructor, all or a substantial portion of any academic writing, essay, thesis, research report, project assignment, presentation or poster for which credit has been obtained by the student or which has been or is being submitted by the student in another course or program of student in the University or elsewhere. With respect to the assignments, this means that unless you are working as part of a group (and are being graded as such) you must submit your assignments on your own; should substantive similarities in wording, content, ideas, etc. be found between different students' individual assignments this will be treated as a potential case of plagiarism, and will be investigated as such.

Details on the appropriate use of academic referencing of sources for the paper will be provided on the course web site. Even if you are well familiar with academic referencing you are encouraged to review the material provided.

Appealing Grades on the Exams and Assignments:

If you feel that you have been incorrectly graded on a question from an exam or on some aspect of an assignment you may appeal the mark by justifying why your grade should be changed. This involves explaining and supporting in writing why your work deserves a higher mark. Simply stating that a higher grade is deserved is insufficient; you must offer evidence to justify your position. I recommend that you take a little time after receiving your exam or assignment to consider your answer and to muster your arguments.

The actual procedure is slightly different for the various course components. In all cases, however, you must include your name and student ID number on the answer justification. For a midterm exam question or an assignment question, photocopy your original answer and staple the photocopy to a piece of paper with the justification of why your answer deserves a higher mark. For the paper, you should photocopy your original paper and, on the photocopy, highlight the sections that are relevant to your argument for why you deserve a higher grade. Staple your written justification to the highlighted photocopy of your paper.

In all cases, you should keep the original and submit a copy; this way, if something happens to the submitted answer justification, the original answer is still available for subsequent review.

Grades will not be lowered due to answer justifications.

Note that under University regulations, term work can not be appealed to the instructor once the final exam has been written: all answer justifications on term work must be submitted before the time of the final exam.

Contacting the Instructor:

You may contact the instructor by:

Phone (492-3834),

by leaving a written message for him at the Department of Psychology office (BSP-217),

by speaking with him before class (as time allows), after class, or by making an appointment,

by Skype (username: michaelrsnyder),

via e-mail (mrsnyder@ualberta.ca).

E-mail Protocols:

Some questions can be dealt with very easily with e-mail, although others can not. If you ask a question via e-mail that can not be easily addressed you will be instructed to see the instructor in person.

When communicating with the via e-mail, students **must** include "Psyco 302" in the subject line of their message – note the spelling: Psyco 302. Because of recent problems with viruses and SPAM mail, any e-mail lacking the Psyco 302 subject line will be deleted.

Second, students **must** include their full name and student ID in any e-mail to the instructor (your e-mail address and/or alias are insufficient).

Third, students **must** use their university e-mail account (i.e., an e-mail account with the @ualberta.ca suffix) when contacting the instructor or teaching assistant; e-mails from non-university accounts *will not* be responded to. Past experience has shown that for various reasons e-mails from non-university accounts are sometimes difficult to reply to and are more likely to present security risks; university accounts do not have this problem. If you need assistance with your university account, contact Academic Information and Communication Technologies (780-492-9400, or <http://helpdesk.ualberta.ca/>). Please be aware that it may take one or two business days for your e-mail to be answered by the instructor.

If you e-mail the instructor and do not receive a reply within two or three business days, please make sure you followed the above protocols correctly and either resend the e-mail or contact the instructor by another means.

Policy about course outlines can be found in section 23.4(2) of the University Calendar.