PSY 4930 – EVOLUTIONARY PSYCHOLOGY  
Spring 2016 Sections # 2073 & 1165

Instructor:  Dr. Jessica P. Stagner  
Office Hours:  Tuesday and Thursday 11:00 am to 12:00 pm online  
Office:  Online in Canvas  
Contact:  via jstagner in Canvas

Graduate Teaching Assistant:  
Christina Gobin  
Office Hours:  Wednesday from 12:00 pm to 1:00 pm  
Office:  Online in Canvas  
Contact:  via cgobin in Canvas messaging

Course Description

This course is a fully on-line course with no specified meeting times. However, the course is not self-paced. Each week, our course homepage will change to a new module that reflects the material we will cover during that week. For each module you will be given an overview of the scheduled activities so that you will know what you are expected to do that week. For each module you will be given an overview of the scheduled activities so that you will know what you are expected to do that week. Each week you will find links to where you will take your quizzes, post in discussions, and submit your written assignments. The course website in Canvas will also have links to videos, web links and any other materials that you may need. Students must complete weekly readings, discussions, and quizzes along with two written assignments by the due dates specified in Canvas.

Students completing this course will gain an understanding of Evolutionary psychology. As part of understanding and applying evolutionary concepts, students will engage in active discussion with their peers as part of the course. Completion in the course should yield a better understanding of the following:

- Natural selection
- Sexual selection
- Evolved psychological mechanisms
- How these mechanisms can account for a variety of behaviors

Structure of Course in Canvas:

This course uses Canvas (https://lss.at.ufl.edu) for access to the entire course. Students must complete weekly readings, discussions, and quizzes along with two written assignments by the due dates specified. Instructions for using Canvas are available on our course website. Note:
Log in to Canvas using your Gatorlink username and password.

Course Requirements

Required Textbook


Course components

- Course discussions will allow you to interact with your fellow students and help you understand the readings.
- Quizzes will be given to assess your understanding of each Buss chapter.
- Two written assignments - You will be given detailed instructions about the assignments in advance; these are writing assignments that you will do on your own.
Grading

Grade Breakdown:

1  **Getting Started Quiz & Buss Chapter Quizzes - worth 50% of your final grade**
   a) By the date specified on the quiz, all students must complete the getting started quiz:
      i) By completing this quiz, students agree to all rules of the course. This quiz also assesses knowledge of the syllabus, course requirements, and rules.
   b) 10 Buss chapter Quizzes during the semester consisting of 20 questions each.
   c) Quizzes open on **Mondays at 7:00 pm** are due by **Sundays at 11:59 pm**
   d) Students will have 20 minutes for each quiz.
   e) Quizzes cannot be made up for any reason outside of a university accepted excuse. Forgetting to take it, internet connectivity issues, etc., are obviously not accepted excuses.

2  **Discussions - worth 20% of your final grade**
   a) 8 Discussion forums: An initial post and at least 1 reply post are required for each Discussion forum during the semester, worth 5 points each for a total of 10 points per forum. This allows you to obtain half credit if you fail to do a reply post on a given week.
   b) Instructions for Discussions Posts:
      i) Each Discussion forum will open on a **Monday at 7 pm** and close the following **Sunday at 11:59 pm**.
      ii) More instructions on the form and content of the posts will appear on the course website.
      iii) To receive credit, you need to post on the Discussion thread. Your post must be contributing to the conversation. Thus, asking a question about the syllabus or making a simple statement such as “I agree” will not be counted as a post for grading. A minimum of three sentences is required. This initial post is worth 5 points.
      iv) After making your initial post, you can view what your peers have posted. At this point you need to pick a post to reply to. Again, simply stating that you agree or disagree is not substantial enough to receive credit. Your post must be thoughtful and applicable. A minimum of three sentences is required. This reply post is worth 5 points.
      v) Posts will only count if they were posted before the deadline.
      vi) Do not edit posts after you make them. This has been known to remove the post all together on Canvas.

3  **Written Assignments – worth 30% of your final grade**
   i) The first assignment must be submitted by Friday, **February 26th at 11:59 pm**, electronically in Canvas. The second assignment must be submitted by Monday, **April 4th at 11:59 pm**, electronically in Canvas.
   ii) Specific instructions for these assignments will be available in your assignment tab several weeks before the due date.
iii) Late written assignments will not receive any credit for any reason other than a university accepted excuse.

**Calculation of Letter Grades**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>94% – 100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A -</td>
<td>90% – 93.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B +</td>
<td>88% – 89.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>84% – 87.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B -</td>
<td>80% – 83.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C +</td>
<td>78% – 79.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>74% – 77.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C -</td>
<td>70% – 73.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D +</td>
<td>68% – 69.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>64% – 67.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D -</td>
<td>60% – 63.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E (Fail)</td>
<td>&lt; 59.9%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**IMPORTANT GRADING POLICY**

- The good news is the grade you earn is the grade you will get. You can all get an A, and that would be great. The bad news is the grade you earn is the grade you get. Even if you are a few tenths away from the next grade up, you will not be rounded up.
- DO NOT ask for points to be given to you to obtain a higher grade.

**COURSE POLICIES & GUIDELINES**

1. If you have a question pertaining to the class, it MUST be posted on the FAQ Discussion Board (through the “Discussions” Link) in Canvas. If it is something you would raise your hand to ask in class, it belongs on this board. I or your TA will then post a response to questions on that board (other students may respond to your post as well); I will not respond to these questions unless they are submitted to the correct discussion board (as it is likely I won’t see it if it is posted in a random place).
   - If you have a question about Course Administration you should post in the F.A.Q section of the Discussion Board. This is for questions about accessing course content, due dates, when grades will be returned, specifics about the assignments etc.
2. If you have a question about your grade, you should message me or your TA via Canvas. Do not post questions or information about your grade on the FAQ board.

3. All interactions with myself and among class members are expected to be professional and appropriate. Students are encouraged to answer each other’s questions on the FAQ Board.

4. Instructions for sending messages via Canvas
   - **STEP 1**: Before contacting anyone via message, please check to see if the answer to your question has been posted on the FAQ board or is contained in any course material, such as the syllabus (the vast majority of the time, it is!).
   - **STEP 2**: Message me (Dr. Stagner), your TA, or the person you want to contact using their user name account found within the messaging system in Canvas. Your TA will be able to answer most questions for you regarding discussion posts and your written assignments.
   - **i. NOTE**: It is always appropriate to message Dr. Stagner (using the messaging system in Canvas) in the case of a serious medical condition, a family emergency, or other situation that will keep you out of class a week or more.
   - **Step 3**: Please begin your message with “Dear (Title) (Last Name)” (e.g., Dear Dr. Stagner) and end your message with your FULL name so that you can clearly be identified.
   - **Step 4**: Proofread your message so that I can understand your question or concern and provide the assistance you need. Messages (or posts) using excessive abbreviation or numbers as text (e.g., 1337 or C U L8R) are not acceptable.
   - **Step 5**: Please wait at least 48 hours during the week or 72 hours on the weekend for a response before messaging again. I unfortunately am not magical, I cannot reply instantaneously. Please DO NOT send a message right before an assignment or quiz is due, you will most likely not get a response in time to be of help. Procrastination is not encouraged as to avoid situations such as these.

5. Instructions for posting on the FAQ Discussion Board
   - **Step 1**: Before posting to the FAQ discussion board, please check to see if the answer to your question has been posted on the FAQ board or is contained in any course material, such as the syllabus.
   - **Step 2**: Be descriptive! For example, if you have a question about the book material, reference a page number. I, your TA, and your fellow students can be of much more help if you clearly explain what you need.
6. **Extensions.** Extension of deadlines may be requested for the assignments. Any requests for an extension must be based on University approved reasons and must include proper documentation as per University guidelines. Requests for extensions must be made before the assignment deadline, if possible, or within 24 hours of the deadline for unexpected emergencies. Late assignments without approved extensions will not be accepted.

7. **Computer/internet access to Canvas is required for this course.** Students are responsible for maintaining access to Canvas.
   - **Extensions will not be given for student-based technical difficulties.** Do not wait until the last minute to complete assignments and quizzes!
   - **If UF Canvas experiences technical difficulties,** deadlines will be adjusted to allow for completion of assignments.

8. **Announcements.** Announcements will be made periodically about class issues (such as reminders about upcoming assignments, or when assignments are returned). These will be visible on our course’s home page. Students are responsible for all announcements made there.

9. Generally, it will take about 1 week for written assignments to be graded and returned (from the due date).

10. **This course adheres to all University Policies.** See [http://www.dso.ufl.edu/](http://www.dso.ufl.edu/) for useful information at the Dean of Students Office webpage.

11. **Academic Honesty.** This course uses the definitions and guidelines for academic honesty as described by the Dean of Students Office. See [http://www.dso.ufl.edu/judicial/academic.php](http://www.dso.ufl.edu/judicial/academic.php) for details. As a general rule, for plagiarism or cheating I assign a 0 for that assignment. If it is a severe offense, the penalty may be more severe and paperwork will be filled out so that this is documented on your record. To be blunt, DO NOT plagiarize or cheat.

12. **Getting Help:** For issues with technical difficulties with Canvas, please contact the UF Help Desk at: Learning-support@ufl.edu or (352) 392-HELP - select option 2 or their website at [https://lss.at.ufl.edu/help.shtml](https://lss.at.ufl.edu/help.shtml).
    **Any requests for make-ups due to technical issues MUST be accompanied by the ticket number received from LSS when the problem was reported to them. The ticket number will document the time and date of the problem. You MUST e-mail your instructor within 24 hours of the technical difficulty if you wish to request a make-up.**
    Other resources are available at [http://www.distance.ufl.edu/getting-help](http://www.distance.ufl.edu/getting-help) for: Counseling and Wellness resources, Disability resources, Resources for handling student concerns and complaints and the Library Help Desk support. Should you have any complaints with your experience in this course please visit [http://www.distance.ufl.edu/student-complaints](http://www.distance.ufl.edu/student-complaints) to submit a complaint.
13. **Students with disabilities** requesting accommodation must first register with the Dean of Students Office. The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the Instructor when requesting accommodation. See [http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/](http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/) for details.

14. **Religious Observances** Please check your calendars against the course due dates. Any student having a conflict due to religious observance should contact me as soon as possible so that we can make any necessary arrangements.

15. **Copyright Statement** Some of the materials in this course are possibly copyrighted. They are intended for use only by students registered and enrolled in this course and for instructional activities associated with and for the duration of the course. They may not be retained in another medium or disseminated further. They are provided in compliance with the provisions of the Teach Act.

16. **Syllabus Change Policy** Except for changes that substantially affect implementation of the evaluation (grading) statement, this syllabus is a guide for the course and is subject to change with advance notice.

17. **Extra Help** Contact me or your TA as soon as possible for extra assistance if you discover you are having trouble. I want you to do well!