

PSY 325
Evolutionary Psychology
Summer, 2016
Shulan Lu, Ph.D.

PSY 325 COURSE SYLLABUS (DRAFT)

Office: Online (June 6-July 7, 2016)
Office hours: by appointment, Henderson 218 or online
Office phone: 903.468.8628
E-mail: shulan.lu@tamuc.edu

What will you learn?

In this course, we will examine the underlying mechanisms of how humans derive pleasures from everyday life activities. The topics include food, attachments to certain everyday objects, art, and performances. You will be encouraged to appreciate and apply the knowledge that is discussed.

Readings

1. Basic Textbook: Bloom, P. (2010). *How pleasure works: the new science of why we like what we like*. Norton: New York
2. Supplementary reading materials: TBA

Grade Evaluation

The selected book is different from the typical textbook most undergraduate classes use. It is simply fun to read and very easy to follow. The topics are fascinating.

Reading Quizzes: Reading the textbook is essential to your successful completion of these assignments. You will be quizzed over your reading of each topic.

Quiz Total: 15

Posting answers to the questions posed by instructor: Reading the textbook is essential to your successful completion of these assignments. Your postings should be substantive and civil. Please observe the following criteria when posting answers:

- 1) Does the posting demonstrate the understanding of the materials being discussed? Please make *an explicit mention of the theory and viewpoints* you use for your arguments by using at least one direct quotation from the textbook chapter.
- 2) Does the argument in the posting hold together and move forward?
- 3) Are there grammatical and spelling errors?

Answering Questions Total: 15 x 4 = 60

Discussion Responsibilities: For answers to discussion questions, every student is required to make responses to the work by at least two students. The discussion responses must address the discussion focus as indicated in each assignment.

Discussion Total: 5x5 = 25

Coursework Policy:

All quizzes are to be taken closed-book. **You are not allowed to take any quiz or submit any assignment after its respective deadline**, unless you notify me of extenuating circumstances and I give permission in advance.

To be on the safe side, assume that I grade on a numerical scale: **A = 100-90; B = 89-80; C = 79-70; D = 69-60; F = below 60**. However, I reserve the right to reward exemplary attendance and participation.

Incompletes: The policy for this course is not to allow incompletes. If you cannot complete the course with a grade that find satisfactory, it is your responsibility to drop it.

Student Conduct in General:

Keep in mind that a syllabus sometimes shifts a little as the course gets underway. I say that by way of noting the importance of class attendance, as you will be held responsible for any change in plans announced in class.

The other basic admonition every syllabus must include is that dishonesty (broadly defined) is not allowed. This means that neither cheating nor plagiarism will be tolerated and students who engage in either will be subject to the disciplinary processes described in the Code of Student Conduct. There is a brochure on plagiarism at course website. If you have further questions about what constitutes cheating or plagiarism, please see me. Or, as the university likes me to say: **“All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment.”** (See Student’s Guide Handbook).

Academic Honesty:

You are expected to develop original work for this course. Therefore, you may not submit course work you completed for another course to satisfy the requirements for this course. **You should not repeat other students’ postings.**

Students who violate academic integrity may receive a penalty grade, including a failing grade on the assignment or in the course.

Contact me if you are unsure about the appropriateness of your course work.

Disability:

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this

legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact:

Office of Student Disability Resources and Services

Texas A&M University-Commerce

Gee Library

Room 132

Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835

Fax (903) 468-8148

StudentDisabilityServices@tamuc.edu

Also, note that “Students requesting accommodations for disabilities must go through the Academic Support Committee.” Their phone is (903)886-5150.

Inclusivity Statement:

A&M-Commerce will comply in the classroom, and in online courses, with all federal and state laws prohibiting discrimination and related retaliation on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, age, genetic information or veteran status. Further, an environment free from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression will be maintained.

Disclaimer:

While I make every effort to abide by the information presented here, I reserve the right to modify this syllabus at any time.

Tentative Schedule of Topics

	Date	Topic	Reading
1	June 06	Introduction to the course	Preface
2	June 09	The essence of pleasure	Ch 1
3	June 13	Foodies	Ch 2
4	June 20	Attachments	Ch 4
5	June 27	Arts and Performance	Ch 5
6	July 04	Why pleasure matters	Ch8