



Evolutionary Psychology PSY 325 (Draft)

COURSE SYLLABUS: Summer I 2020

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor: Shulan Lu, Ph.D., Professor of Psychology

Office Location: Henderson 218

Office Hours: TBA

University Email Address: shulan.lu@tamuc.edu

Preferred Form of Communication: email

Communication Response Time: 24-48 hours on weekdays

COURSE INFORMATION

Materials – Textbooks, Readings, Supplementary Readings

Textbook(s) Required

Bloom, P. (2010). How pleasure works: the new science of why we like what we like.
Norton: New York

Optional Texts and/or Materials

Videos on adaptation view of evolution and spandrel view of evolution

Additional handouts and materials may be distributed in class or placed on eCollege.

Course Description

In this course, we will understand the basics of the adaptation view of evolution and the spandrel view of evolution. We will examine the underlying mechanisms of how humans derive pleasures from everyday life activities. The topics include food, attachments to

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certain everyday objects, art, and performances. You will be encouraged to appreciate and apply the knowledge that is discussed.

Student Learning Outcomes

1. Students will be able to appreciate the interdisciplinary approaches to the scientific understanding of human evolution. In particular, this course separates natural selection view of evolution from the spandrel view of evolution.
2. Students will be able to appreciate and to some extent follow the discourse appropriate to how psychologists communicate about the scientific study of the evolution of human pleasure seeking activities.
3. Students will gain an overview of how psychologists test, interpret, and demonstrate concepts, theories and principles in real world phenomena.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Minimal Technical Skills Needed

You need to be able to read the textbook, attend class, and review lecture materials.

You will need to have computer skills. The essential computer skills in modern life: See an example at <http://www.yti.edu/blog/top-four-essential-computer-skills.asp>

Instructional Methods

This is an online course. You will be expected to read the textbook and complete assignments.

Student Responsibilities or Tips for Success in the Course

- 1) Check and read class emails promptly for announcements, updates, clarifications, etc.
- 2) Take notes while you read the assigned materials. When we travel, we take our own pictures to organize our experience instead of downloading pictures online later. Similarly when we learn, we take our own notes to organize our thoughts.
- 3) Quiz yourself often. Can you define a concept in your own words?
- 4) Study the materials on a regular basis. Consider the Pomodoro technique. Set aside 20-25 minutes each time, and study.

GRADING

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To be on the safe side, assume that I grade on a numerical scale. However, I reserve the right to reward exemplary attendance and participation.

A = 90-100 pts

B = 80-89 pts

C = 70-79 pts

D = 60-69 pts

F < 60 pts

Questions about Grades: Any questions about a grade for a particular assignment, quiz, or exam should be brought to my attention within a week of the particular grade being posted.

Assessments

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. The questions will align with each of the 3 learning outcomes, in particular, the first 2 outcomes.

You may use your textbook or notes during the quizzes. However, the quizzes are timed. So, you need to study the assignment materials before starting the quiz. The quiz typically consists of multiple choice questions.

Quiz Total: 14

Assignments and Discussions: Besides textbook reading, typically there will be video lectures on basic theory of evolution. In addition to understanding the theories, students will be expected to identify the mechanism discussed in their selective readings of the textbook is within the scope of adaptation view of evolution or the spandrel view of evolution.

To accomplish the 3 learning outcomes, we will use questions of various formats. There will be T/F questions, multiple choice questions, short answer questions, and essay questions. Students will be asked to do discussions. The specific discussion requirements will be announced accordingly.

Your work should be substantive and civil. Please observe the following criteria when posting answers:

- 1) Does the submitted work 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 readings and video lectures. *The general drive-by answers will NOT be considered as successful completion (i.e., 70% of the assignment grades).*
- 2) Does the argument in the posting hold together and move forward?
- 3) Are there grammatical and spelling errors?

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TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

Browser support

D2L is committed to performing key application testing when new browser versions are released. New and updated functionality is also tested against the latest version of supported browsers. However, due to the frequency of some browser releases, D2L cannot guarantee that each browser version will perform as expected. If you encounter any issues with any of the browser versions listed in the tables below, contact D2L Support, who will determine the best course of action for resolution. Reported issues are prioritized by supported browsers and then maintenance browsers.

Supported browsers are the latest or most recent browser versions that are tested against new versions of D2L products. Customers can report problems and receive support for issues. For an optimal experience, D2L recommends using supported browsers with D2L products.

Maintenance browsers are older browser versions that are not tested extensively against new versions of D2L products. Customers can still report problems and receive support for critical issues; however, D2L does not guarantee all issues will be addressed. A maintenance browser becomes officially unsupported after one year.

Note the following:

- Ensure that your browser has JavaScript and Cookies enabled.
- For desktop systems, you must have Adobe Flash Player 10.1 or greater.
- The Brightspace Support features are now optimized for production environments when using the Google Chrome browser, Apple Safari browser, Microsoft Edge browser, Microsoft Internet Explorer browser, and Mozilla Firefox browsers.

Desktop Support

| Browser | Supported Browser Version(s) | Maintenance Browser Version(s) |
|-------------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Microsoft® Edge | Latest | N/A |
| Microsoft® Internet Explorer® | N/A | 11 |
| Mozilla® Firefox® | Latest, ESR | N/A |

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| Browser | Supported Browser Version(s) | Maintenance Browser Version(s) |
|-----------------|------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Google® Chrome™ | Latest | N/A |
| Apple® Safari® | Latest | N/A |

Tablet and Mobile Support

| Device | Operating System | Browser | Supported Browser Version(s) |
|----------|------------------|-----------------------|---|
| Android™ | Android 4.4+ | Chrome | Latest |
| Apple | iOS® | Safari, Chrome | The current major version of iOS (the latest minor or point release of that major version) and the previous major version of iOS (the latest minor or point release of that major version). For example, as of June 7, 2017, D2L supports iOS 10.3.2 and iOS 9.3.5, but not iOS 10.2.1, 9.0.2, or any other version. Chrome: Latest version for the iOS browser. |
| Windows | Windows 10 | Edge, Chrome, Firefox | Latest of all browsers, and Firefox ESR. |

- You will need regular access to a computer with a broadband Internet connection. The minimum computer requirements are:
 - 512 MB of RAM, 1 GB or more preferred
 - Broadband connection required courses are heavily video intensive
 - Video display capable of high-color 16-bit display 1024 x 768 or higher resolution
- You must have a:
 - Sound card, which is usually integrated into your desktop or laptop computer
 - Speakers or headphones.
 - *For courses utilizing video-conferencing tools and/or an online proctoring solution, a webcam and microphone are required.

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- Both versions of Java (32 bit and 64 bit) must be installed and up to date on your machine. At a minimum Java 7, update 51, is required to support the learning management system. The most current version of Java can be downloaded at: [JAVA web site http://www.java.com/en/download/manual.jsp](http://www.java.com/en/download/manual.jsp)
- Current anti-virus software must be installed and kept up to date.

Running the browser check will ensure your internet browser is supported.

Pop-ups are allowed.

JavaScript is enabled.

Cookies are enabled.

- You will need some additional free software (plug-ins) for enhanced web browsing. Ensure that you download the free versions of the following software:
 - [Adobe Reader https://get.adobe.com/reader/](https://get.adobe.com/reader/)
 - [Adobe Flash Player \(version 17 or later\) https://get.adobe.com/flashplayer/](https://get.adobe.com/flashplayer/)
 - [Adobe Shockwave Player https://get.adobe.com/shockwave/](https://get.adobe.com/shockwave/)
 - [Apple Quick Time http://www.apple.com/quicktime/download/](http://www.apple.com/quicktime/download/)
- At a minimum, you must have Microsoft Office 2013, 2010, 2007 or Open Office. Microsoft Office is the standard office productivity software utilized by faculty, students, and staff. Microsoft Word is the standard word processing software, Microsoft Excel is the standard spreadsheet software, and Microsoft PowerPoint is the standard presentation software. Copying and pasting, along with attaching/uploading documents for assignment submission, will also be required. If you do not have Microsoft Office, you can check with the bookstore to see if they have any student copies.

ACCESS AND NAVIGATION

You will need your campus-wide ID (CWID) and password to log into the course. If you do not know your CWID or have forgotten your password, contact the Center for IT Excellence (CITE) at 903.468.6000 or helpdesk@tamuc.edu.

Note: Personal computer and internet connection problems do not excuse the requirement to complete all course work in a timely and satisfactory manner. Each student needs to have a backup method to deal with these inevitable problems. These methods might include the availability of a backup PC at home or work, the temporary use of a computer at a friend's home, the local library, office service companies, Starbucks, a TAMUC campus open computer lab, etc.

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COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

Brightspace Support

Need Help?

Student Support

If you have any questions or are having difficulties with the course material, please contact your Instructor.

Technical Support

If you are having technical difficulty with any part of Brightspace, please contact Brightspace Technical Support at 1-877-325-7778 or click on the **Live Chat** or click on the words "[click here](#)" to submit an issue via email.



System Maintenance

Please note that on the 4th Sunday of each month there will be System Maintenance which means the system will not be available 12 pm-6 am CST.

COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

Interaction with Instructor Statement

You are welcomed to contact me via email, or schedule a virtual meeting.

If you email me and do not receive an email response within 48 hours, most likely, your email was not received.

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

Course Specific Procedures/Policies

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

In case of unforeseen emergency, contact me or Dept ASAP. When official documentation is provided, you can do a make-up.

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No incompletes. If you cannot complete the course with a grade that find satisfactory, it is *your responsibility to drop it*.

Academic Honesty:

Unless authorized by me, you are expected to complete all course assignments, including quizzes and assignments, without assistance from any source.

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.

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

Syllabus Change Policy

The syllabus is a guide. Circumstances and events, such as student progress, may make it necessary for the instructor to modify the syllabus during the semester. Any changes made to the syllabus will be announced in advance.

University Specific Procedures

Student Conduct

All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. The Code of Student Conduct is described in detail in the [Student Guidebook](#).

<http://www.tamuc.edu/admissions/registrar/documents/studentGuidebook.pdf>

Students should also consult the Rules of Netiquette for more information regarding how to interact with students in an online forum: [Netiquette](#)

<http://www.albion.com/netiquette/corerules.html>

TAMUC Attendance

For more information about the attendance policy please visit the [Attendance](#) webpage and [Procedure 13.99.99.R0.01](#).

<http://www.tamuc.edu/admissions/registrar/generalInformation/attendance.aspx>

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/academic/13.99.99.R0.01.pdf>

Academic Integrity

Students at Texas A&M University-Commerce are expected to maintain high standards of integrity and honesty in all of their scholastic work. For more details and the definition of academic dishonesty see the following procedures:

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[Undergraduate Academic Dishonesty 13.99.99.R0.03](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/undergraduates/13.99.99.R0.03UndergraduateAcademicDishonesty.pdf>

[Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty 13.99.99.R0.10](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/graduate/13.99.99.R0.10GraduateStudentAcademicDishonesty.pdf>

ADA Statement

Students with Disabilities

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

Email: studentdisabilityservices@tamuc.edu

Website: [Office of Student Disability Resources and Services](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/campusLife/campusServices/studentDisabilityResourcesAndServices/>

Nondiscrimination Notice

Texas A&M University-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.

Campus Concealed Carry Statement

Texas Senate Bill - 11 (Government Code 411.2031, et al.) authorizes the carrying of a concealed handgun in Texas A&M University-Commerce buildings only by persons who have been issued and are in possession of a Texas License to Carry a Handgun.

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Qualified law enforcement officers or those who are otherwise authorized to carry a concealed handgun in the State of Texas are also permitted to do so. Pursuant to Penal Code (PC) 46.035 and A&M-Commerce Rule 34.06.02.R1, license holders may not carry a concealed handgun in restricted locations.

For a list of locations, please refer to the [Carrying Concealed Handguns On Campus](#) document and/or consult your event organizer.

Web url:

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/34SafetyOfEmployeesAndStudents/34.06.02.R1.pdf>

Pursuant to PC 46.035, the open carrying of handguns is prohibited on all A&M-Commerce campuses. Report violations to the University Police Department at 903-886-5868 or 9-1-1.

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COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR

| | | | |
|---|----------------|-----------------------------|-------------|
| 1 | June 1 | Introduction to the course | Preface |
| 2 | June 4 | The essence of pleasure | Ch 1 |
| 3 | June 8 | Foodies | Ch 2 |
| 4 | June 15 | Attachments “Irreplaceable” | Ch 4 |
| 5 | June 22 | Arts and Performance | Ch 5 |
| 6 | June 25 | Why pleasure matters | Ch 8 |

The following videos on the basic theory of evolution will be part of the learning materials distributed across the topics.

[How evolution works](#)

[Myths and misconceptions about evolution - Alex Gendler](#)

[Explaining Evolutionary Adaptations and Side Effects: The Spandrels of San Marco](#)

[Why are some people left-handed? - Daniel M. Abrams](#)

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