



Evolutionary Psychology PSY325.01W

COURSE SYLLABUS: Summer I 2024
6/3/2024 through 7/3/2024
Online

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor: Shifang Tang, Ph.D.
Office Location: Henderson 201A
Office Hours: Zoom meetings by appointment
Email Address: shifang.tang@tamuc.edu
Preferred Form of Communication: Email
Communication Response Time: 24-48 hours on weekdays

Note. Emails without proper salutations or not sent from LEOMAIL will **NOT** be responded to.

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.

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

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 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, including

- the learning management system
- Microsoft Word, Excel, and PowerPoint
- Windows system or Mac system.

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, which is not to be interpreted as self-paced. Rather, you are required to log on regularly (preferably every day) in order to succeed. You may consume the material at a more rapid pace than set by the below schedule, but assignments, quizzes, and exams will still take place according to the schedule. Quizzes and Exams will be open for 2-3 days. **If you are unable to complete the exam in this time frame, you must contact me ahead of time to re-schedule.**

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

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

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

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 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. 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 that is within the scope of adaptation view of evolution or the spandrel view of evolution.

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

To accomplish the 3 learning outcomes, we will use questions of various formats overall, including T/F questions, multiple choice questions, short answer questions, and essay questions.

Reading Quizzes (14 pts) :

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.

Discussions (86 pts) :

Students will be asked to do discussions. The specific discussion requirements will be announced in D2L.

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?

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

LMS

All course sections offered by Texas A&M University-Commerce have a corresponding course shell in the myLeo Online Learning Management System (LMS). Below are technical requirements

LMS Requirements:

<https://community.brightspace.com/s/article/Brightspace-Platform-Requirements>

LMS Browser Support:

https://documentation.brightspace.com/EN/brightspace/requirements/all/browser_support.htm

Zoom Video Conferencing Tool

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

https://inside.tamuc.edu/campuslife/CampusServices/CITESupportCenter/Zoom_Account.aspx?source=universalmenu

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.

COMMUNICATION AND 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. Other support options can be found here:

<https://community.brightspace.com/support/s/contactsupport>

Interaction with Instructor Statement

I am here to support you. Feel free to email me via the university email address. If you would like to set up a Zoom meeting, please email me to schedule a time. My normal email response time is 24 hours but may take up to 48 hours. If you do not hear back from me within 2 business days, please email me again in case I did not receive your message.

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

Course Specific Procedures/Policies

EMAIL POLICY

If you would like to schedule an appointment, the best way is to email. We can then set up a time to chat when it is convenient for both of us. If you email me and do not

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

receive an email response within 48 hours during the weekday, most likely, your email was not received.

EMAIL GUIDELINES

In an attempt to provide a framework for professional communication, emails must contain the following:

- Subject Line: Course and section # (e.g. PSY 325.01W); additional information if desired (e.g. Quiz question)
- Address the Reader: Open with “Dr. Jiang...”
- Use good grammar and avoid acronyms (i.e., do not write like you text)
- Ask good questions; a good question is specific and show me the effort you’ve made.
 - If asking for assistance with an issue, please list how you have attempted to remediate the issue prior to contacting me (these should probably include looking at the syllabus/ course rubrics/ D2L, contacting a colleague, and checking your textbook, etc.)
- Close with your name and CWID.
- Please send emails from your University Leomail account.
- The instructor will NOT discuss grades over email. If you would like to discuss your grade, please make an appointment during office hours.

If you are reading this, email me a photo of your pet (or favorite animal) based on the above email guidelines for 1 extra credit points (available up till the end of the first week (Sunday midnight 😊).

All assignments and exams must be submitted on time. The course calendar includes all of the dates and times these are due.

Plagiarism: Texas A&M University-Commerce views plagiarism as a serious offense. Plagiarism occurs when individuals take ideas and/or words from another source and claim these ideas as their own without giving credit to the original author(s). This can include copying words from an Internet website, reading an article and taking the authors ideas without giving them credit, or writing work that is remarkably similar to other written work (e.g., Changing words to synonyms is still plagiarism). If any written work contains ideas that are not your own, you need to give credit to the author(s) by including citations. Instructors are obligated to report instances of plagiarism to university officials. Please refer to the American Psychology Association (APA) manual for instructions on citing materials. When in doubt, ask me. Ignorance will not be tolerated as an excuse for plagiarism. Acts of plagiarism on any written assignment, including discussion postings, will result in severe consequences, including the possibility of receiving a zero in the course. Acts of plagiarism will be reported to the department head.

Scholarly Expectations: All works submitted for credit must be original works

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

created by the scholar uniquely for the class. It is considered inappropriate and unethical to make duplicate submissions of a single work for credit in multiple classes, unless specifically requested by the instructor. Duplication may result in a zero on an assignment.

Late Work: Please submit all assignments on time. When an assignment is submitted past the deadline, a 5-point penalty will be imposed for each day that the assignment is submitted past the due date, up to 5 days. After which, the assignment will automatically be scored as a zero (i.e., no credit granted).

Please note that **computer issues will not be considered as an excuse for failing to submit any assignment on time.** It is the student's responsibility to make sure that assignments are turned in on time. Therefore, do not wait until the very end to complete an assignment. This will help ensure that you turn in the assignment on time if you are having a technology issue (i.e., you can find another computer, call the Help Desk for support, etc.).

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/oneStopShop/undergraduateAdmissions/studentGuidebook.aspx).
<http://www.tamuc.edu/Admissions/oneStopShop/undergraduateAdmissions/studentGuidebook.aspx>

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

<https://www.britannica.com/topic/netiquette>

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>

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

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:

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

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/documents/13.99.99.R0.03UndergraduateStudentAcademicDishonestyForm.pdf>

[Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/academics/graduateschool/faculty/GraduateStudentAcademicDishonestyFormold.pdf>

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

Students with Disabilities-- ADA Statement

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
Velma K. Waters Library Rm 162
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.

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

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. 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.

A&M-Commerce Supports Students' Mental Health

The Counseling Center at A&M-Commerce, located in the Halladay Building, Room 203, offers counseling services, educational programming, and connection to community resources for students. Students have 24/7 access to the Counseling Center's crisis assessment services by calling 903-886-5145. For more information regarding Counseling Center events and confidential services, please visit www.tamuc.edu/counsel

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR

1	June 3- 9	The essence of pleasure	Preface & Ch 1
2	June 10-16	Foodies	Ch 2
3	June 17-23	Attachments “Irreplaceable”	Ch 4
4	June 24-30	Arts and Performance	Ch 5
5	July 1-3	Why pleasure matters	Ch 8

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.