



PSY-325-01E EVOLUTIONARY PSYCHOLOGY

COURSE SYLLABUS: SPRING 2026

TTH 12:30 – 1:45 | [Ed South, Sowers 131](#)

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor: Kevin Diegel, PhD

Office Location: AGET 222G

Office Hours: By appointment (email me)

University Email Address: Kevin.Diegel@etamu.edu

Preferred Form of Communication: **Email (INCLUDE PSY325 IN THE SUBJECT!)**

Communication Response Time: Generally, within 24 hours, except weekends.

COURSE INFORMATION

Textbook(s) Required

Evolutionary Psychology: The New Science of the Mind 7th edition by David Buss | ISBN [1032137916](#)

The electronic copy of this textbook is provided to you as part of inclusive access to this course.

Course Description

This course explores how evolutionary processes have shaped the human mind and behavior. Students will examine how natural and sexual selection influence psychological mechanisms related to survival, reproduction, cooperation, and social interaction. Topics include mating and parenting strategies, emotion, morality, aggression, and cognition from an evolutionary perspective. The course emphasizes how evolutionary hypotheses are developed and tested, and how this approach connects to other areas of psychology.

Student Learning Outcomes

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

1. Explain the basic principles of evolution and how they apply to human psychology and behavior.
2. Describe major theories and findings in evolutionary psychology across key topic areas such as mating, cooperation, and cognition.
3. Evaluate evolutionary explanations for behavior using scientific reasoning and evidence.
4. Apply evolutionary perspectives to analyze real-world examples of human thought and behavior.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

ATTENDANCE

Although course materials (slides, notes, etc.) and exams are available online via D2L, this is **not an online course**. **This is an in-person, face-to-face course, and attendance is mandatory.**

Attendance is **20%** of your final grade, and your participation in every class session is essential to your success in the course. Attendance will be taken at each class session starting in week 2 (a total of 20 sessions). Every recorded attendance counts for **5 points** (5x 20 = 100 points total).

Your grade is directly linked to attendance: if you are not present, you will miss those points. The only valid reasons for an absence to be excused and points awarded are university-approved absences (e.g., documentation from the athletics department or student health services). **No other excuses** will be accepted, regardless of your situation.

This policy ensures that students engage fully in the course and benefit from the in-person interactions, discussions, and hands-on learning that are integral to the success of the class.

EXAMS

There will be three exams in this course, each worth 20% of your final grade, totaling 60%. The exams will be administered online via the D2L platform, under the **Activities > Quizzes** section. Each exam will last 75 minutes and consist of 50 multiple-choice questions based on the material covered in that unit. The exams are **not cumulative**, meaning they will only cover content from the specific unit being tested. The exams are **open-book** and **open-note**, allowing you to reference your materials during the exam.

However, they are synchronous, meaning they will start at exactly 12:30 PM on the scheduled exam date and will close at 1:45 PM, regardless of whether you are ready or not. If you have accommodations, the time limit will be extended according to your approved accommodations.

FINAL EXAM

The final exam is scheduled for **Thursday, May 7th, 2026**, from **10:30 AM to 12:30 PM**. Like the other exams, it will be administered online via D2L and will be **open-book** and **open-note**. The final exam is **cumulative**, covering material from the entire semester. It will consist of 100 multiple-choice questions. As with the other exams, it is **synchronous**, meaning it will start at **10:30 AM** and close at **12:30 PM**, regardless of when you begin.

RESEARCH PARTICIPATION

Toward the end of the syllabus below, you will see instructions about the department's Sona Experiment Management System. There is a research exposure requirement in this class, meaning that you either need to participate in five credits (hours) of online studies, or summarize research articles (email me for this option). If you do not complete this requirement by the end of the semester, your final grade will be reduced by 10%.

GRADING

	POINTS	PERCENTAGE
Attendance	100	20
Exam 1	100	20
Exam 2	100	20
Exam 3	100	20
Final	100	20
Total	500	100

GRADE	POINTS	PERCENTAGE
A	450 - 500	90 – 100
B	400 - 449	80 – 89
C	350 – 399	70 – 79
D	300 – 349	60 – 69
F	1 – 299	1 – 59

Course Calendar

WEEK	TUE	THU
1 Jan 12 – 18	Syllabus & Chapter 1	
2 Jan 19 – 25	Chapter 2	
3 Jan 26 – Feb 1	Chapter 3	
4 Feb 2 – 8	Chapter 4	
5 Feb 9 – 15	<i>Reserved*</i>	EXAM 1
6 Feb 16 – 22	Chapter 5	
7 Feb 23 – Mar 1	Chapter 6	
8 Mar 2 – 8	Chapter 7	
- Mar 9 – 15	SPRING BREAK WEEK	
9 Mar 16 – 22	Chapter 8	
10 Mar 23 – 29	<i>Reserved*</i>	EXAM 2
11 Mar 30 – Apr 5	Chapter 9	
12 Apr 6 – 12	Chapter 10	
13 Apr 13 – 19	Chapter 11	
14 Apr 20 – 26	Chapter 12	
15 Apr 27 – May 3	<i>Reserved*</i>	EXAM 3
16 May 4 – 8		FINAL EXAM 10:30-12:30

*Reserved** = This is a make-up day if we fall behind schedule. If there is more material to cover, then there will be a class that day to wrap up the section. If we are all caught up then it is a self-study day to prepare for the exam with no class.

Policies

Use of A.I.

This course does not include writing assignments; therefore, A.I. tools have no required role. Students may use A.I. resources at their own discretion, but such use will not provide an advantage or substitute for completing required course activities. All use of A.I. must comply with university academic integrity policies.

Late Work & Missed Exams/Classes

Late work is **not accepted** under any circumstances. **No make-up exams** will be given. If a student misses an exam, the grade will be **zero (0)** unless the absence is covered by **official university documentation** (for example, an email from the athletics department confirming participation in a university-sanctioned event).

Personal scheduling conflicts, travel, work obligations, or unverified illnesses are **not** valid reasons for extensions or make-ups. There is no make-up for a missed class, those points are lost.

Extra Credit

There are no opportunities for extra credit in this course.

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

LMS

All course sections offered by East Texas A&M University 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

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@etamu.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>

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES FOR COURSE

CWID and Password

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@etamu.edu.

Technology-Related Issues

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 ETAMU campus open computer lab, etc.

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS AND SUPPORT

Minimal Technical Skills Needed

Students will need reliable computer and internet access for this course. Students must be able to effectively use myLeo email, myLeo Online D2L, and Microsoft Office.

Learning Management System (LMS) – D2L

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

- View the [Learning Management System Requirements Webpage](#).
- Learn more on the [LMS Browser Support Webpage](#).

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 on the [Brightspace Support Webpage](#).

COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

Interaction with Instructor Statement

If you have any questions or are having difficulties with the course material, please contact your instructor. Correspondence will always be through university email (your “myLeo” mail) and announcements in myLeo online (D2L). You will not RECEIVE email through D2L, so be sure to check your ETAMU email for communication. Students are encouraged to check university email daily.

Include the Following in Emails with Instructor:

- Course name and subject in the subject line
- Salutation (Good afternoon, Dr. Jackson)
- Proper email etiquette (no “text” emails – use proper grammar and punctuation)
- Student name and CWID after the body of the email (possibly add to student signature on email)

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

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.

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 online in the [Student Guidebook](#).

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

ETAMU Attendance

For more information about the attendance policy, please view the [Attendance Webpage](#) and the [Class Attendance Policy](#).

Academic Integrity

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

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

[Undergraduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form](#)

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

[Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form](#)

Use of Artificial Intelligence

East Texas A&M University acknowledges that there are legitimate uses of Artificial Intelligence, ChatBots, or other software that has the capacity to generate text, or suggest replacements for text beyond individual words, as determined by the instructor of the course.

Any use of such software must be documented. Any undocumented use of such software constitutes an instance of academic dishonesty (plagiarism).

Individual instructors may disallow entirely the use of such software for individual assignments or for the entire course. Students should be aware of such requirements and follow their instructors' guidelines. If no instructions are provided the student should assume that the use of such software is disallowed.

In any case, students are fully responsible for the content of any assignment they submit, regardless of whether they used an AI, in any way. This specifically includes cases in which the AI plagiarized another text or misrepresented sources

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

East Texas A&M University
Velma K. Waters Library Rm 162
Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835
Fax (903) 468-8148
Email: studentdisabilityservices@etamu.edu
Website: [Office of Student Disability Services](#)

Nondiscrimination Notice

East Texas A&M University 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 East Texas A&M University 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 ETAMU 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.

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

East Texas A&M Supports Students' Mental Health – Counseling Services

The Counseling Center at East Texas A&M University, 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

Mental Health and Well-Being

The university aims to provide students with essential knowledge and tools to understand and support mental health. As part of our commitment to your well-being, we offer access to Telus Health, a service available 24/7/365 via chat, phone, or webinar. Scan the QR code to download the app and explore the resources available to you for guidance and support whenever you need it.



As an Institutional Member of the National Association of Schools of Music, East Texas State A&M University supports the Association's commitment to student health and wellness. The following web address provides links to information for resources related to physical and mental well-being, as well as assists in offering preventative measures that students can take to avoid serious and/or chronic conditions: [Musician Health and Safety - East Texas A&M University](#)

Department and Accrediting Agency Statement:

School of Music Mission Statement:

The School of Music at East Texas A&M University promotes excellence in music through the rigorous study of music history, literature, theory, composition, pedagogy, and the preparation of music performance in applied study and ensembles to meet the highest standards of aesthetic expression.

Students' Guide to Research Participation
Department of Psychology & Special Education
East Texas A&M University

- **What is Research Participation?**

Exposure to research is essential to your gaining a better understanding of the scientific study of psychology. It is how we add new knowledge in psychology. Being involved in research is a good way to experience first-hand and learn about the scientific enterprise. We believe there are two key ways to experience research activity at this level: 1) read about related scientific investigations; 2) experience research as a volunteer participant; or some combination of both. The class in which you received this information requires you to fulfill several research credits through one or both of these activities. Or, research participation is by extra credit – ask your instructor if you are not sure whether or not it is required.

- **What if I am not yet 18 years old?**

In order to participate in research you must be at least 18 years old. If you are not yet 18 years old, please see your instructor, and ask him/her about alternative ways of earning research credit.

- **In what type of research studies will I participate?**

All studies you will participate in have been reviewed and approved by the East Texas A&M University Institutional Review Board (IRB) and by the Department of Psychology & Special Education. Studies vary widely. Many involve completing questionnaires or carrying out tasks on the computer. Some are even fun, and you'll learn something from all of them.

- **What are my rights as a research participant?**

Your participation is voluntary and you may withdraw from any study at any time. Your data will be kept confidential. If you have any further questions about your rights as a research participant, you may contact the IRB (IRB@etamu.edu). More information about your rights will be provided to you prior to each study for which you sign up.

- **How will my research participation credit be calculated?**

You will receive 1 credit for each hour of research participation. Studies lasting 15 minutes or less are worth 0.25 credit. For example, a 15 min. study = 0.25 research credits; 30 min. = 0.5 credits; 45 min. = 0.75 credits; 60min = 1 credit; 1½ hours = 1.5 credits... etc.

- **How many research credits may I complete?**

You are encouraged to participate in as much research as you wish, but at a minimum you must complete the number of research credits specified by your instructor (by participating in research, or alternative assignments, or a mixture of both).

- **What if I cannot go to a study I signed up for?**

If for whatever reason you cannot attend a study that you have signed up for you need to cancel your appointment before the start of the study. There are two ways to cancel an appointment. First, if you cancel 24 hours before a study you can do this online through the Experiment

Management System (EMS) website. Second, if it is the same day of the study you can call or email the experimenter – their contact information will be available in the EMS.

- **What if I sign up for a study but forget to go?**

If you fail to show up for a study (without canceling prior to the start of the study) you will receive an email alerting you that you were listed as a “no show” for that study. Additionally, on the EMS website you will see a “failure to appear” message in your list of studies completed.

- **What will happen if I fail to participate in studies or do the alternative assignments?**

You will be penalized if participation is required, and this penalty is up to your instructor.

- **What if I do not wish to participate in research studies?**

If you do not wish to participate in research studies, you may utilize the alternative assignment option. You must consult your instructor for information about this option.

- **What is the difference between an online study and a laboratory study?**

There are two types of studies that are conducted through the EMS system. You can sign up for both online studies and laboratory studies through the EMS system, however you are only allowed to complete 50% experiment credits through online studies (the system will not allow you sign up for more than 50% credits of online studies) if you are taking a face-to-face course. For online courses or those taking place far from the Commerce campus, all of your credits can come from online studies. A laboratory study requires that you attend the experiment at a specific time and place.

- **How do I find and sign up for research participation opportunities?**

Throughout the semester, researchers in the Psychology Department will post their research studies in the Experiment Management System (EMS) online. It is up to you to check the EMS regularly to find and sign up for research studies that fit into your schedule. Detailed instructions for how to use the EMS are listed in the following pages of this handout.

How do I use the Experiment Management System (EMS)?

(Create a new participant account unless you already have one and your login information works. If you do not remember your login information click on the “lost your password?” on the front page of the EMS website and follow the directions on the site, and if that does not work email curt.carlson@etamu.edu. A list of courses will be presented, from which you must select the courses you are taking this semester for which you will receive credit for participation. If your course is not listed, see the instructor for that course.)

A. How to create a participant account on the EMS

1. Go to <https://etamu.sona-systems.com>



- a. Click on New Participant “request an account here” link on the left of the screen.
- b. This takes you to a screen on which you must enter your name, a unique User ID, your University ID number, and primary email address (reminders of studies you sign up for will be sent to that email address). You will also need to highlight the course(s) in which you are enrolled, and for which you will be earning credits. If more than one, highlight all that will be involving you in research participation. However, each study in which you participate will only provide you credit for ONE course. In other words, there is no “double-dipping” allowed. **BE CAREFUL TO SELECT THE CORRECT COURSE AND SECTION # – IF YOU CHOOSE THE WRONG ONE, YOUR INSTRUCTOR WILL NOT BE INFORMED OF YOUR CREDITS!** After you submit your information, you will be emailed your login information. (After you have received your login information, I recommend that you login into EMS and go to your “Profile” and change your password to something that you can remember.)

If you encounter any problems with creating your account (e.g., login information not sent to you), contact the EMS administrator, curt.carlson@etamu.edu with your full name and a detailed description of the problem.

2. When you first log into the EMS at the beginning of the semester you will be asked to take a prescreen survey. This is a short survey that researchers will use to decide if you meet the specified requirements for some studies (e.g., as a

researcher I may only allow participants who are female. If you do not complete the prescreen you will not be eligible to participate in this study). In other words, if you do not complete the prescreen you will have fewer studies that you are eligible to participate in. **IF YOU COMPLETE THE PRESCREEN IN THE FIRST TWO WEEKS OF THE SEMESTER YOU WILL GET 0.5 CREDIT.** Take it even if you have done it before – it has probably changed, and you will still earn the 0.5 credit.

3. You are now ready to use the EMS to sign-up for research studies.

B. Sign-up for studies—login to the EMS with your User ID and password that was emailed to you after creating your account

1. Click **Study Sign-Up**. A list of all available studies for which you qualify will appear. You can sign-up by clicking on either the study name or **Timeslots Available**, and you will go to a new screen showing more information about the study, with a link to **View Time Slots for This Study**.
2. Click the **Sign-Up** button to schedule your time. Online studies will generally have just one timeslot with a set max number of students who can participate. Simply select that timeslot, and it will inform you how long you have to participate in the study.

C. Canceling a Sign-Up

1. If you need to cancel a timeslot you have signed up for, you can do this from the **My Schedule and Credits** page. Choose the **My Schedule and Credits** option from top toolbar.
2. You will see listed all of the studies for which you have signed up, as well as those you have completed (see the Tracking Your Progress section below for more information).
3. Studies for which you have signed up that you are allowed to cancel will have a **Cancel** button next to them.
4. If you cancel the first part of a two-part study, the second part will also be cancelled. If you cancel the second part of a two-part study, the first part will *not* be cancelled, but you will need to ask the researcher to sign you up for the second part again, if you would like to participate in it at a later date. However, this is up to the researcher.

D. Tracking Your Progress

1. You may track your progress at any time by choosing the **My Schedule and Credits** option from the top toolbar.
3. When you view this page, you will see at the top a list of the number of credits you are required to earn, and how many you have earned so far. Below that, if you have signed up for any studies, those are listed as well. In the list of studies, you will see information about your credit status.

Note: Your login session will expire after a certain period of inactivity, usually 20-60 minutes. This is done for security purposes. If this happens, you can always log in again. When you are finished using the system, it is better to explicitly log out, to prevent any problems that may arise if someone uses your computer before the session expires. This is especially important if you are using a public computer lab.

E. Frequently Asked Questions

1. Immediately after I login, as soon as I click on any menu option, I am taken back to the login page and I see a message that my authentication has expired. What does this mean?

Your web browser is not properly configured to accept cookies. You should turn on cookies in your web browser, use a different web browser (for example, try Firefox if you are currently using Internet Explorer), or try a different computer. Detailed instructions can be found if you go to the site and enter the URL “cookie_help.asp” in place of “default.asp” in the address bar of the browser, when you are on the front page of the site.

2. I participated in a study, but I have yet to receive credit. How do I receive credit?

The researcher must grant you credit. This is usually done within a few days after your participation. If it has been some time and you have still not received credit, contact the researcher (his or her contact information should be listed when you click on the study name within the system).

3. How do I change the email address where email notifications from the system are sent?

You can change the email address where notifications are sent by going to **My Profile** and editing the email address you see there.

4. Should I keep some sort of record of my participation and credits earned?

The system will keep track of the credits you earn and your instructor will have access at the end of the semester to a report of credits earned by students enrolled in the class. It is a good idea, however, to occasionally print a personal copy of your credits earned and hold on to that printout as a back up to the system.