

MODULE DESCRIPTOR

Module Title

The Psychology Of Human Nature: Evolution And Behaviour

Reference	SS4068	Version	1
Created	April 2019	SCQF Level	SCQF 10
Approved	June 2019	SCQF Points	15
Amended		ECTS Points	7.5

Aims of Module

The aim of this module is to provide students with a grounding in evolutionary psychology to supplement their understanding of social constructivism gained elsewhere. Key themes will include the impact of Darwinian natural selection on aspects behaviour including cooperation, conflict, partner choice and culture.

Learning Outcomes for Module

On completion of this module, students are expected to be able to:

- 1 Show in-depth understanding of evolutionary theories and their application in explaining psychological processes.
- 2 Evaluate the methods and theoretical framework employed in evolutionary psychology.
- 3 Demonstrate knowledge of the history of evolutionary psychology and its development.
- 4 Critically analyse research papers and synthesize information to add an extra layer of analysis to findings from cognitive and biological psychology.

Indicative Module Content

A denial of human nature? The historical origin of evolutionary psychology. Methodology in evolutionary psychology. Genotypes and phenotypes. Mate selection. Cooperation and conflict. Intersexual/intergenerational conflict. Hormones and behaviour. Evolutionary psychology and cognitive functions. Culture.

Module Delivery

This module is based on lectures and workshops. It also requires students to undertake a careful and critical reading of relevant literature.

Indicative Student Workload	Full Time	Part Time
Contact Hours	24	N/A
Non-Contact Hours	126	N/A
Placement/Work-Based Learning Experience [Notional] Hours	N/A	N/A
TOTAL	150	N/A
Actual Placement hours for professional, statutory or regulatory body		

ASSESSMENT PLAN

If a major/minor model is used and box is ticked, % weightings below are indicative only.

Component 1

Type:	Practical Exam	Weighting:	30%	Outcomes Assessed:	3, 4
Description:	Component 1 will consist of an oral presentation				

Component 2

Type:	Examination	Weighting:	70%	Outcomes Assessed:	1, 2
Description:	Component 2 will consist of an exam				

MODULE PERFORMANCE DESCRIPTOR

Explanatory Text

Component 1 (refer to axis on top of grid) contributes 30% to the total module. Component 2 (refer to y axis on the left side of grid) contributes 70% to the module total

		Practical Exam:						NS
		A	B	C	D	E	F	
Examination:	A	A	A	B	B	B	E	
	B	B	B	B	C	C	E	
	C	B	C	C	C	D	E	
	D	C	C	D	D	D	E	
	E	D	D	D	E	E	E	
	F	E	E	E	E	F	F	
NS		Non-submission of work by published deadline or non-attendance for examination						

Module Requirements

Prerequisites for Module	None.
Corequisites for module	None.
Precluded Modules	None.

INDICATIVE BIBLIOGRAPHY

- 1 Buss, D. M., & Hawley, P. H. (Eds.). (2010). *The evolution of personality and individual differences*. Oxford University Press.
- 2 Corballis, M. C., & Lea, S. E. (1999). *The descent of mind: Psychological perspectives on hominid evolution*. Oxford University Press.
- 3 Dawkins, R. (1989). *The Selfish Gene*. Oxford University Press.
- 4 Roberts, S. C. (Ed.). (2012). *Applied evolutionary psychology*. Oxford University Press.
- 5 Weekes-Shackelford, V. A., & Shackelford, T. K. (Eds.). (2014). *Evolutionary perspectives on human sexual psychology and behavior*. Springer.
- 6 Workman, L., & Reader, W. (2014). *Evolutionary psychology*. Cambridge University Press.
- 7 Wright, R. (1995). *The moral animal: Evolutionary psychology and everyday life*. Vintage.