Anthropology 468: Sex, Evolution, and Human Nature

Instructor: Ed Hagen
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Course website: http://anthro.vancouver.wsu.edu/faculty/hagen
Lecture hall: VUB 125
Days and times: TT 9:10 - 10:25 PM
Semester: Fall 2012
Credits: 3

Course description

Human sexuality, male-female relations, cooperation, violence and parent-child relations examined cross-culturally utilizing evolutionary and biocultural perspectives.

Textbooks and readings

- Selected readings available from the course web site.

Grading

Students are responsible for all material in the lectures and the assigned portions of the texts. Grading will be on a curve, and will be based on three tests:

- Two midterms (each with 25 multiple choice & true/false questions): 25% of grade each
- Final (50 multiple choice & true/false questions): 50% of grade

You are responsible for assigned reading even when the material is not covered in lecture. The final exam is comprehensive (i.e., it covers material from the entire course).
Assigned reading and test dates

EXAMS CANNOT BE RESCHEDULED ON AN INDIVIDUAL BASIS. MAKEUP EXAMS ONLY AVAILABLE FOR STUDENTS WITH A MEDICAL OR SIMILAR EXCUSE. DO NOT SCHEDULE TRIPS OR OTHERWISE PLAN TO BE ABSENT DURING FINALS WEEK!

Week 1 (Aug 20): Adaptation and natural selection
  - Buss: Ch. 1
  - Dawkins: Ch. 1-4

Week 2 (Aug 27): Selfish genes and the modern synthesis
  - Buss: Ch. 2
  - Dawkins: Ch. 5

Week 3 (Sep 3): Sex I (Long-term mating)
  - Buss: Ch. 4-5

Week 4 (Sep 10): Sex II (Short-term mating)
  - Buss: Ch. 6

Week 5 (Sept 17): Sex III (Battle of the sexes)
  - Buss: Ch. 11
  - Dawkins: Ch. 9

MIDTERM EXAM: Thu, Sep 20
The midterm consists of 25 multiple choice and true/false questions on all readings and lectures through week 5.

Week 6 (Sept 24): Parenting
  - Buss: Ch. 7
  - Dawkins: Ch. 7

Week 7 (Oct 1): Kinship
  - Buss: Ch. 8
  - Dawkins: Ch. 6
  - Lieberman (web site)
Week 8 (Oct 8): Reciprocal altruism
- Buss: Ch. 9

Week 9 (Oct 15): Aggression
- Buss: Ch. 10
- Daly and Wilson (web site)

Week 10 (Oct 22): Warfare

MIDTERM EXAM: Thu, Oct 25
The midterm consists of 25 multiple choice and true/false questions on all readings and lectures from week 6 through week 10.

Week 11 (Oct 29): TBA
- See web site

Week 12 (Nov 5): Darwinian medicine I: Drug use
- Buss: Ch. 3
- Sullivan and Hagen 2002. Psychotropic substance-seeking: evolutionary pathology or adaptation? (web site)

Week 13 (Nov 12): Darwinian medicine II: Depression and suicide
- Buss: Ch. 3, Ch. 13 section on clinical psychology
- Hagen 1999. The functions of postpartum depression (web site)
- Hagen 2007. Gestures of despair and hope: A view on deliberate self-harm from economics and evolutionary biology (web site)

Week 14 (Nov 19-23): Thanksgiving

Week 15 (Nov 26): The evolution of music and art
- Buss: Ch. 13 section on cultural psychology
- Hagen and Hammerstein 2007. Did Neanderthals and other early humans sing? Seeking the biological roots of music in the territorial advertisements of primates, lions, hyenas, and wolves (web site)
Week 16 (Dec 3): Learning and culture

- Henrich and McElreath 2003. The evolution of cultural evolution (web site)

Final exam

The final consists of 50 multiple and true/false questions on material from the entire course. Date and time: TBA.

Students with Disabilities

Accommodations may be available if you need them in order to fully participate in this class because of a disability. Accommodations may take some time to implement so it is critical that you contact Disability Services as soon as possible. All accommodations must be approved through Disability Services, located in the Student Resource Center on the Lower Level of Student Services Center, (360) 546-9138.

http://studentaffairs.vancouver.wsu.edu/student-resource-center/disability-services

WSU Academic Integrity Statement

Academic integrity is the cornerstone of the university and will be strongly enforced in this course. Any student found in violation of the academic integrity policy will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct. For additional information about WSU’s Academic Integrity policy/procedures, please contact (360) 546-9573.

Emergency Notification System

WSU has made an emergency notification system available for faculty, students, and staff. Please register at zzsis with emergency contact information (cell, email, text, etc.). You may have been prompted to complete emergency contact information when registering for classes at RONet. In the event of a building evacuation, a map at each classroom entrance shows the evacuation point for each building. Please refer to it. Finally, in case of class cancellation campus-wide, please check local media, the WSU Vancouver web page and/or http://www.flashalert.net/. Individual class cancellations may be made at the discretion of the instructor. Each individual is expected to make the best decision for their personal circumstances, taking safety into account.

http://www.vancouver.wsu.edu/safety-plan