Anthropology 468 Midterm 1 study guide

These are topics covered in the lectures and readings through week 5 that I consider important and that I am likely to include on either the midterm and/or the final exam. Other topics covered in the lecture and readings that are not mentioned here are also fair game for the midterm and final.

- What are adaptations?
- What are the key assumptions of Darwin’s theory of natural selection?
- What role did the work of Malthus play in Darwin’s thinking?
- What is the theory of sexual selection?
- What was the reaction to Darwin’s theory among his contemporaries? What objections were raised by biologists of the day?
- How does the theory of natural selection explain organism design?
- Why are biologists skeptical that organism design can be explained as furthering “the good of the species”?
- What was the cognitive revolution? How does it relate to the theory of natural selection?
- What does a fear of spiders and snakes tell us about human psychology?
- What is the modern synthesis?
- What are genes?
- Why are genes called “selfish”?
- What is the EEA? Why is it important for understanding human psychology?
- What is parental investment theory?
- How is parental investment related to sexual selection?
- What qualities are women predicted to prefer in long-term mates?
- What qualities are men predicted to prefer in long-term mates?
- What is the significance of differences in age-specific fertility between the sexes?
- What is the source and theoretical significance of paternity uncertainty?
- What is sperm competition? How has it affected human physiology?
- How are men and women predicted to differ in mate preferences.
- How are men and women predicted to resemble one another in mate preferences?
- What is the empirical evidence for and against the women’s and men’s predicted mate preferences?
• How do women’s mate preferences change over the menstrual cycle?
• What factors affect women’s mate preferences?
• What factors affect men’s mate preferences?
• Why is physical beauty valued by both sexes?
• What factors are predicted to increase facial attractiveness for men? For women?
• Why are women predicted to engage in short-term mating?
• Why are men predicted to engage in short-term mating?
• What are the predicted differences between short- and long-term mating for men and women?
• What is the empirical evidence for or against the predicted sex differences in short-term mating psychology?
• What factors affect short-term mating decisions among women and men?
• What is error management theory?
• How does female mating psychology change across the menstrual cycle?
• What explains sex differences in jealousy?