



# ANTH/PSY 368: Sex, Evolution, & Human Nature

Lecture: Monday, Wednesday 9:00 – 10:15

MLH 130



## Professor Contact Information

**Professor:** Dr. R. Genthos  
**Office Hrs:** M 1:30 – 2:30;  
W 10:30 – 11:45  
By appointment

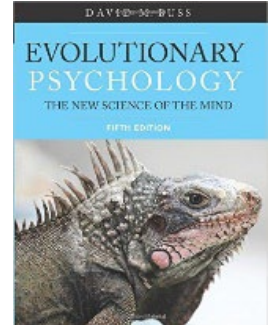
**Office:** Spalding Hall (SPH) Room 209  
**Office Phone:** 208-792-2631  
**Email:** [rgenthos@lcmail.lsc.edu](mailto:rgenthos@lcmail.lsc.edu)

**Voice Mail:** Include 1. Your name 2. The class in question 3. A *detailed* explanation for why you are calling. \*An audio file of your VM sent to my email.

**Email:** Include: 1) a subject line with “**PSY 368 Sex, Evolution, & Human Nature**” included, 2) a salutation, 3) detailed, descriptive content about the reason for contact, and 4) signature w/ full name. While I often check my email when off-campus, **do not assume that I will view an email outside of Monday – Friday; 8:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.** If at all possible, please try to plan ahead when sending me requests, notifications, or other information. Example: If an assignment is due on a Thursday, do not expect a speedy response from me if you email Wednesday night. Allow 48 hours before sending a reminder, as there are times I will need to gather information in the background or investigate before responding. I take Saturday as a mental health day for self-care; I will rarely respond on weekends.

## Course Materials: Required Textbook

Buss, D.M. (2015). Evolutionary psychology: The new science of the mind (5<sup>th</sup> Ed). Boston: Allyn & Bacon.  
5<sup>th</sup> Ed ISBN: 978-0205992126



## Course Description & Objectives

This course is designed to expose you to a wide range of theories and research in evolutionary psychology. We will emphasize scientific evidence from sociobiology, evolutionary biology, comparative psychology for a variety of human behaviors. The primary goals in this course are for you to:

1. Explain the primary theoretical perspectives of evolutionary psychology.
2. Identify and analyze the primary theories that attempt to explain much of human social behavior.
3. Demonstrate knowledge of the facts, concepts, and principles of evolutionary psychology, including natural selection, sexual selection, survival issues, long and short-term mating strategies of each gender, parental care, inclusive fitness theory, cooperation, aggression & violence, conflict between sexes, status, prestige, & social dominance, and evolutionary thought applied to cognitive, social, developmental, personality, clinical, and cultural psychology.
4. Demonstrate knowledge of methods for testing evolutionary hypotheses.
5. Apply the theories and principles of evolutionary psychology in the analysis of everyday behavior.
6. Demonstrate proficiency in written and oral communication about evolutionary psychology.
7. Develop insight and analytical techniques abilities that can be applied to any area of study.

## Student Responsibilities & Course Requirements

### Homework Assignments (75/550)

Evolutionary Concepts Background Survey (15/75)  
 Empirical Article Critiquing Guide (10/75)  
 Empirical Article Analysis 1 (50/75)  
 Empirical Article Analysis 2 (50/75)

### In-Class Discussions & Activities (75/550)

Attendance & Participation (50/75)  
 Tragedy of the Commons Activity (25/75)

**Presentation (100/550).** You will be responsible for a 5 -6 - minute presentation delivered during the last week of class.

**Exams (300/550).** There will be three closed-book, in-class exams during the semester; the fourth exam is an optional retake of Exams 1, 2 or 3. Exams will consist of primarily multiple choice, fill in the blank, matching, and short answer questions. They will cover material from the assigned readings and lecture / class activities. Although I do lecture with the content from the assigned textbook, there will be some information from the text that I do not touch on in class and some lecture material that you will not find in the text. To earn an A, you must be able to demonstrate a deep understanding of the concepts and an ability to apply the concepts; being able to recognize and/or reiterate definitions will not suffice. In general, exams will include only new material covered since the previous exam. However, some topics build on previous topics, and as such, older topics may come up again on later exams (e.g., to answer an exam question about mate selection, you will need to be able to understand and apply covered in the beginning of the course).

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## Course Policies

**Assignment Submission.** Journal analyses and other assignments will be submitted via Canvas in the form of a Word compatible file titled with last name, first initial, 368 & assignment title (e.g. Taylor\_J\_368\_1\_AssignmentTitle) by 11:59 pm on the relevant due date. It is critical that you factor in the amount of time that it will take you to upload your assignment using the Canvas portal. Papers that are time stamped past 11:59 pm will receive an automatic 5% deduction. You may only submit assignments up to 5 (five) days late and 5% will be deducted for each day it is late. If the link to submit the assignment is not available on Canvas, I will not accept the assignment. **All submissions will be APA style, double-spaced with one-inch margins and use an APA-approved font.**

**Make-up/Late Assignment and Exam Policy.** You will be given an optional retake of exam 1, 2, or 3 as your final, thus no make-up exams will be offered. I accept assignments up to five (5) days late with no questions asked. Other accommodations for missed exams or assignments deadlines will only be made under certain, extenuating circumstances (documentation may be requested) if the reason for your absence is made known to me within two (2) days of the absence/due date. Circumstances automatically considered valid include documented illness, college-sanctioned travel, death of a loved one, or the observance of a religious or spiritual holy day. I may also deem certain life events as “extenuating”. For those excuses I deem valid, including those listed above or supported by documentation, no deduction of points will be taken. All other excuses will result in a 5% penalty for each day it is past the deadline/original completion date. It would be in your best interest to make all reasonable efforts to notify me of an absence in advance. I know that life happens and appreciate honesty. The important thing is that you communicate with me. If you slept in, tell me. If you had a flat tire, I want to know. Please do not waste your time, or mine, making up excuses. I know life happens and want to cultivate open, authentic communication. I always consider the date you sent the email or called, NOT when I received your communication.

**Extra Credit.** Extra credit will be offered in the following ways: 1) extra credit quizzes at the end of each unit, 2) Attending certain LCSC events, online events, public events (up to 5 events at 2 points each; 1 point for summary; 1 pt for applying intimate relationship concepts), 3) Submitting journal analyses to the writing center (+ 1, documentation required), and 5) brief homework assignments in various units. I will not create extra credit specifically for individual students, and thus it is in your best interest to be attentive to your grade at the beginning of the semester. 😊

**Statement about Academic Dishonesty, Misconduct and Consequences.** Academic dishonesty, which includes cheating, fabrication, collusion, and plagiarism, is not tolerated at LCSC. **Cheating:** Intentionally using or attempting to use unauthorized materials, information, or study aids in any academic exercise. “Academic exercise” includes all forms of work submitted for credit hours. **Fabrication:** Intentional and/or unauthorized falsification or invention of any information or the source of any information in an academic exercise. **Collusion facilitating academic dishonesty:** Intentionally or knowingly helping or attempting to help another commit an act of Academic Dishonesty. **Plagiarism:** the deliberate adoption or reproduction of ideas, words, or statements of another person as one’s own without proper acknowledgement. If you are suspected of cheating, fabrication, collusion or plagiarism, I will take immediate action. You will first have a meeting with me about the academic exercise in question (exam, writing assignment). Evidence of academic misconduct will result in a failing grade for that assignment for any student(s) involved. You will then be interviewed by Dr. Andrew Hanson, Vice President for Student Affairs, about the incident. The incident will be kept on file by Dr. Hanson’s office and may provide stand-alone or supportive evidence for expulsion or suspension.

Grading Scale Breakdown		
A	93	100%
A-	89.45	92.45
B+	86.45	89.44
B	82.45	86.44
B-	79.45	82.44
C+	76.45	79.44
C	72.45	76.44
C-	69.45	72.44
D+	66.45	69.44
D	59.45	66.44
F		59.44

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ANTH/PSYC 368 Course Schedule (**Subject to Change at Discretion of Professor)					
Week Module	Date	Reading	Topic – Chapter in Buss Textbook *In Class Discussions/Activities*		Assignments Due Mon 11:59 p.m.
1	1/18	Syllabus	Course Format, Introductions		
2	1/23 1/25	1	Background & Basics	The Scientific Movements Leading to Evolutionary Psychology	Evolutionary Concepts Background Survey
3	1/30 2/1	2		The New Science of Evolutionary Psychology	
4	2/6 2/8	3		Combating the Hostile Forces of Nature: Human Survival Problems	Empirical Article Critiquing Guide
5	2/13			Catch-Up Review	
	2/15	1-3		Exam 1	
6	2/20	President's Day – No Class			
	2/22	4	Mating & Relationships	Women's Long Term Mating Strategies *Empirical Article A Discussion*	
7	2/27				
	3/1	5		Men's Long Term Mating Strategies *Empirical Article B Discussion*	
8	3/6				
	3/8	6		Short Term Mating Strategies *Empirical Article C Discussion*	Empirical Article Analysis 1
9	3/13 3/15	11		Conflict Between the Sexes	
10	3/20			Catch-Up Review	
	3/22	4 -6,11		Exam 2	
🌸 Spring Break 🌸					
11	4/5 4/7	7 8	Group Issues	Problems of Parenting & Kinship *Empirical Article D Discussion*	
12	4/10 4/12	10		Aggression & Warfare	Empirical Article Analysis 2
13	4/17 4/19	9		Cooperative Alliances *Tragedy of the Commons Activity*	
14	4/24 4/26	7 - 10		Catch-Up Review Exam 3	
15	5/3 5/5	Choice	Presentations		PPTs 11:59pm night before presentation
16	5.10		Final Exam (Optional Retake Exam 1, 2, or 3)		