



# PSYC739

## Evolution of Social, Sexual and Emotional Behaviour

S1 Day 2016

*Department of Psychology*

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#### **Disclaimer**

Macquarie University has taken all reasonable measures to ensure the information in this publication is accurate and up-to-date. However, the information may change or become out-dated as a result of change in University policies, procedures or rules. The University reserves the right to make changes to any information in this publication without notice. Users of this publication are advised to check the website version of this publication [or the relevant faculty or department] before acting on any information in this publication.

## General Information

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Credit points

4

Prerequisites

Admission to MRes

Corequisites

Co-badged status

PSYC739

### Unit description

This unit will provide a framework for in-depth study of evolutionary explanations of human and animal behaviour. While evolution is overwhelmingly accepted by biologists as the best explanation for the development of life on Earth, and for the behaviour of non-human animals, the new science of evolution of human behaviour is considered controversial by many. This module will introduce the different evolutionary approaches to human behaviour: evolutionary psychology and human behavioural ecology. We will cover evolutionary explanations of behaviours such as cooperation, altruism, violence, murder, gossip, sexual attraction, relationships, culture and religion.

## Important Academic Dates

Information about important academic dates including deadlines for withdrawing from units are available at <https://www.mq.edu.au/study/calendar-of-dates>

## Learning Outcomes

On successful completion of this unit, you will be able to:

1. Explain evolutionary theory and describe how it can be applied to human behaviour
2. Critically discuss the different methodological frameworks in evolutionary studies of human behaviour
3. Articulate the relationship between evolutionary psychology and other branches of the social sciences
4. Articulate the criticisms that have been leveled at evolutionary psychology, and their basis in fact or misconception
5. Describe current research questions in evolution of brain and behaviour
6. Design research projects to address current questions in brain and behaviour
7. Make oral and written presentations of critiques and syntheses of published work
8. Respond to critiques from peers

## General Assessment Information

All the relevant Macquarie University policies will apply, including the following.

### The essay must be submitted to Turnitin (via iLearn)

- **TURNITIN ELECTRONIC COPY:** You will be required to submit your assignment to Turnitin plagiarism detection software via the Internet. Your assignment will be automatically compared to work of other students in this unit, previous students in this unit and at other universities, and material available on the Internet in subscription-based journal format or otherwise freely accessible information. The results of the analysis will be sent only to the unit chair of PSYC739, who will analyse the results in reference to the

University's standard policy on plagiarism <http://www.student.mq.edu.au/plagiarism/>

- Marked essays will be returned to students within three weeks of submission.

This unit does not require coversheets with your essays.

***A copy of the assignment must be kept as proof that the assignment was completed and submitted.***

#### **AFTER AN ASSIGNMENT IS SUBMITTED:**

***Penalties will be levied for late submission of assignment and for exceeding the word limit:***

- Written work that exceeds the word count will be penalised 5% for every 100 words over. For example, the essay is worth 30% of the overall assessment for the Unit and if the word length is exceeded by 100 words, then  $5\% \times 30 = 1.5\%$  of the final unit grade.
- Work that is submitted late (and without extension) will receive a 5% penalty for every day late. For example, the report is worth 30% of the overall assessment for the Unit and if one day late, then  $5\% \times 30 = 1.5\%$  of the final unit grade.

***Ordinarily, no extensions of time for submission of written work will be granted since ample time for preparation will have been given. If an extension is required for medical or other extenuating circumstances, students may request this in writing through [ask.mq.edu.au](http://ask.mq.edu.au) with supporting documentary evidence (such as medical certificate, counsellor note, or similar). The staff in the Student Centre will make all decisions regarding extensions. Neither individual tutors nor the course convenor will grant extensions.***

***All requests for extensions must be made prior to the due date for the assignment.***

***If an extension is granted, the approval email must be included as the first page of the submitted assignment to avoid any late penalty.***

#### **PRESENTATION AND CLASS PARTICIPATION**

The classes for PSYC739 will include lecture and discussion components. Students will take turns to introduce a new or classic research paper for discussion in the class. You will be graded on your presentation and contributions to the discussions during the classes. Grades will be determined by the unit convenor, who will take into account feedback from other lecturers and anonymous feedback from peers on your presentation. Notes will be kept to support the grading.

The dates for individual students' presentations will be determined at the beginning of the session. You will be required to submit a special consideration request via [ask.mq.edu.au](http://ask.mq.edu.au) with supporting documentation of your unavoidable and serious circumstances if you are going to miss your presentation date. These requests must be made in advance of the presentation date,

and you must email the unit chair as soon as possible to ensure that an alternative activity can be prepared.

## **FINAL EXAMS**

The University Examination period in **Session 1**, is from **14 June to 1st July 2016**.

You are expected to present yourself for examination at the time and place designated in the University Examination Timetable. The timetable will be available in Draft form approximately eight weeks before the commencement of the examinations and in Final form approximately four weeks before the commencement of the examinations.

[http://students.mq.edu.au/student\\_admin/exams/](http://students.mq.edu.au/student_admin/exams/)

The only exception to not sitting an examination at the designated time is because of documented illness or unavoidable disruption. In these circumstances you may wish to consider applying for Special Consideration. Information about unavoidable disruption and the special consideration process is available at <http://www.psy.mq.edu.au/speccond/scrules.htm>

***If a Supplementary Examination is granted as a result of the Special Consideration process, the examination will be scheduled after the conclusion of the official examination period.***

***Supplementary Exams are only offered to students who have satisfactorily completed all other assessments for the unit and were unable to sit the final exam because of documented illness or unavoidable disruption.***

***Instructions on applying for sitting of a supplementary exam are available from the website, [www.psy.mq.edu.au/speccond](http://www.psy.mq.edu.au/speccond). It is the student's responsibility to follow the steps outlined in this website. An email will be sent to the student advising them of the outcome of their request for a supplementary exam. If a supplementary exam has been granted it is the student's responsibility to check the Department of Psychology Special Consideration website for information relating to the date and location of the supplementary exam. Students who are granted to sit for a supplementary exam must make themselves available to sit for the supplementary exam on the specified date. There will only be one time. It is the student's responsibility to email Student Centre to confirm attendance at the supplementary exam.***

You are advised that it is Macquarie University policy not to set early examinations for individuals or groups of students. All students are expected to ensure that they are available until the end of the teaching session, which is the final day of the official examination period.

## **Academic honesty**

Academic honesty is an integral part of the core values and principles contained in the Macquarie University Ethics Statement. The Policy covering Academic Honesty is available on the web at: [http://www.mq.edu.au/policy/docs/academic\\_honesty/policy.html](http://www.mq.edu.au/policy/docs/academic_honesty/policy.html)

Plagiarism is an example of dishonest academic behaviour and is defined by the Policy on Academic honesty as: “Using the work or ideas of another person and presenting this as your own without clear acknowledgement of the source of the work or ideas”.

Plagiarism is a serious breach of the University's rules and carries significant penalties. The Academic honesty Procedure is available at [http://www.mq.edu.au/policy/docs/academic\\_honesty/procedure.html](http://www.mq.edu.au/policy/docs/academic_honesty/procedure.html)

This procedure notes the following responsibilities for students:

- Act in accordance with the principles of the Academic Honesty Policy.
- Become familiar with what academic dishonesty is, what are appropriate referencing techniques and the consequences of poor practice.
- Seek assistance from the unit convenor (or their nominee) to remedy any deficits or if you are unsure of discipline specific practice.
- Submit only work of which you are the author or that properly acknowledges others.
- Do not lend your original work to any other person for any reason.
- Keep drafts of your own authored work and notes showing the authorship or source of ideas that are not your own.

The penalties which can be applied for academic dishonesty are outlined in the Academic Dishonesty – Schedule of Penalties which can be found at: [http://www.mq.edu.au/policy/docs/academic\\_honesty/schedule\\_penalties.html](http://www.mq.edu.au/policy/docs/academic_honesty/schedule_penalties.html)

The penalties range from applying a fail grade for the assessment task or requiring the student to re-submit the assessment task for a mark no greater than 50 to applying a fail grade to the unit of study and referral to the University Discipline committee.

You must read the University's Policy and Procedure on Academic Honesty.

### **University Policy on Grading**

Academic Senate has a set of guidelines for the achievement of grades across the range from fail to high distinction. Your final result will include one of these grades plus a standardised numerical grade (SNG).

On occasion your raw mark for a unit (i.e., the total of your marks for each assessment item) may not be the same as the SNG which you receive.

For more information please refer to the Macquarie University Handbook.

### **Student Support Services**

Macquarie University provides a range of Academic Student Support Services. Details of these services can be accessed at <http://www.student.mq.edu.au>.

On matters pertaining to the regulations, the Registrar's Office should be consulted or, within the Department of Psychology, **Dr Julia Irwin**, Director of Undergraduate Studies. Students with disabilities who have problems within the Department should consult **Dr Eugene Chekaluk**, the Disability Liaison Officer. If your difficulties cannot be resolved by these members of staff, you should consult the Head of Department.

If you have a major difficulty associated with learning skills, you could enrol in a short course. For details go to: [http://www.students.mq.edu.au/support/learning\\_skills/undergraduate/workshops\\_for\\_undergraduate\\_students/](http://www.students.mq.edu.au/support/learning_skills/undergraduate/workshops_for_undergraduate_students/)

## APPEALS AGAINST GRADES

Please refer to the [Grade Appeal Policy](#)

## Assessment Tasks

Name	Weighting	Due
<a href="#">Exam</a>	50%	S1 exam session
<a href="#">Presentation</a>	20%	During class
<a href="#">Essay</a>	30%	6 May 2016

### Exam

Due: **S1 exam session**

Weighting: **50%**

Consisting of one long answer and MCQs

On successful completion you will be able to:

- 1. Explain evolutionary theory and describe how it can be applied to human behaviour
- 2. Critically discuss the different methodological frameworks in evolutionary studies of human behaviour
- 3. Articulate the relationship between evolutionary psychology and other branches of the social sciences
- 4. Articulate the criticisms that have been leveled at evolutionary psychology, and their basis in fact or misconception
- 5. Describe current research questions in evolution of brain and behaviour
- 6. Design research projects to address current questions in brain and behaviour
- 7. Make oral and written presentations of critiques and syntheses of published work

## Presentation

Due: **During class**

Weighting: **20%**

The classes for PSYC439 will include lecture and discussion components. Students will take turns to introduce a new or classic research paper for discussion in the class. You will be graded on your presentation and contributions to the discussions during the classes. Grades will be determined by the unit convenor, who will take into account feedback from other lecturers and from anonymous feedback from peers on your presentation. Notes will be kept to support the grading.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- 1. Explain evolutionary theory and describe how it can be applied to human behaviour
- 2. Critically discuss the different methodological frameworks in evolutionary studies of human behaviour
- 3. Articulate the relationship between evolutionary psychology and other branches of the social sciences
- 5. Describe current research questions in evolution of brain and behaviour
- 7. Make oral and written presentations of critiques and syntheses of published work
- 8. Respond to critiques from peers

## Essay

Due: **6 May 2016**

Weighting: **30%**

The essay will be submitted via Turnitin. Late submissions will be penalised at a rate of 5% of the available marks per day.

The question will be announced in the lecture and on iLearn 1 month before the deadline.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- 1. Explain evolutionary theory and describe how it can be applied to human behaviour
- 2. Critically discuss the different methodological frameworks in evolutionary studies of human behaviour
- 3. Articulate the relationship between evolutionary psychology and other branches of the social sciences
- 5. Describe current research questions in evolution of brain and behaviour
- 7. Make oral and written presentations of critiques and syntheses of published work



## Delivery and Resources

The core textbook for this unit is:

Buss, D.M. (2015) Evolutionary Psychology: The New Science of the Mind (5th edition). Boston: Pearson.

Further readings will be announced in class and on iLearn.

## Unit Schedule

The unit schedule is as follows:

Week	Lecture Topic
1	Introduction to Evolutionary Theory
2	Encephalisation and the evolution of the brain
3	Personality in Evolutionary Context
4	The Evolution of Emotion
5	Disgust and Disease Avoidance
6	The Evolution of Cooperation
7	Violence and Aggression
8	Sex, Sexual Selection and Sexual Strategies
9	Faces, Bodies and Attraction
10	The Evolution of Culture
11	The Evolution of Religion
12	Applied Evolutionary Psychology
13	History, Controversy and Criticisms

## Policies and Procedures

Macquarie University policies and procedures are accessible from [Policy Central](#). Students should be aware of the following policies in particular with regard to Learning and Teaching:

Academic Honesty Policy [http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/academic\\_honesty/policy.html](http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/academic_honesty/policy.html)

**New Assessment Policy in effect from Session 2 2016** [http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/assessment/policy\\_2016.html](http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/assessment/policy_2016.html). For more information visit [http://students.mq.edu.au/events/2016/07/19/new\\_assessment\\_policy\\_in\\_place\\_from\\_session\\_2/](http://students.mq.edu.au/events/2016/07/19/new_assessment_policy_in_place_from_session_2/)

Assessment Policy prior to Session 2 2016 <http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/assessment/policy.html>

Grading Policy prior to Session 2 2016 <http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/grading/policy.html>

Grade Appeal Policy <http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/gradeappeal/policy.html>

Complaint Management Procedure for Students and Members of the Public [http://www.mq.edu.au/policy/docs/complaint\\_management/procedure.html](http://www.mq.edu.au/policy/docs/complaint_management/procedure.html)

Disruption to Studies Policy [http://www.mq.edu.au/policy/docs/disruption\\_studies/policy.html](http://www.mq.edu.au/policy/docs/disruption_studies/policy.html) *The Disruption to Studies Policy is effective from March 3 2014 and replaces the Special Consideration Policy.*

In addition, a number of other policies can be found in the [Learning and Teaching Category](#) of Policy Central.

## Student Code of Conduct

Macquarie University students have a responsibility to be familiar with the Student Code of Conduct: [https://students.mq.edu.au/support/student\\_conduct/](https://students.mq.edu.au/support/student_conduct/)

## Results

Results shown in *iLearn*, or released directly by your Unit Convenor, are not confirmed as they are subject to final approval by the University. Once approved, final results will be sent to your student email address and will be made available in [eStudent](#). For more information visit [ask.mq.edu.au](http://ask.mq.edu.au).

## Student Support

Macquarie University provides a range of support services for students. For details, visit <http://students.mq.edu.au/support/>

## Learning Skills

Learning Skills ([mq.edu.au/learningskills](http://mq.edu.au/learningskills)) provides academic writing resources and study strategies to improve your marks and take control of your study.

- [Workshops](#)
- [StudyWise](#)
- [Academic Integrity Module for Students](#)
- [Ask a Learning Adviser](#)

## Student Services and Support

Students with a disability are encouraged to contact the [Disability Service](#) who can provide appropriate help with any issues that arise during their studies.

## Student Enquiries

For all student enquiries, visit Student Connect at [ask.mq.edu.au](http://ask.mq.edu.au)

## IT Help

For help with University computer systems and technology, visit [http://www.mq.edu.au/about\\_us/offices\\_and\\_units/information\\_technology/help/](http://www.mq.edu.au/about_us/offices_and_units/information_technology/help/).

When using the University's IT, you must adhere to the [Acceptable Use of IT Resources Policy](#). The policy applies to all who connect to the MQ network including students.

## Graduate Capabilities

### PG - Capable of Professional and Personal Judgment and Initiative

Our postgraduates will demonstrate a high standard of discernment and common sense in their professional and personal judgment. They will have the ability to make informed choices and decisions that reflect both the nature of their professional work and their personal perspectives.

This graduate capability is supported by:

#### Learning outcome

- 8. Respond to critiques from peers

#### Assessment task

- Presentation

### PG - Discipline Knowledge and Skills

Our postgraduates will be able to demonstrate a significantly enhanced depth and breadth of knowledge, scholarly understanding, and specific subject content knowledge in their chosen fields.

This graduate capability is supported by:

#### Learning outcomes

- 1. Explain evolutionary theory and describe how it can be applied to human behaviour
- 2. Critically discuss the different methodological frameworks in evolutionary studies of human behaviour
- 3. Articulate the relationship between evolutionary psychology and other branches of the social sciences
- 4. Articulate the criticisms that have been leveled at evolutionary psychology, and their basis in fact or misconception
- 5. Describe current research questions in evolution of brain and behaviour

- 6. Design research projects to address current questions in brain and behaviour
- 7. Make oral and written presentations of critiques and syntheses of published work
- 8. Respond to critiques from peers

## **Assessment tasks**

- Exam
- Presentation
- Essay

## **PG - Critical, Analytical and Integrative Thinking**

Our postgraduates will be capable of utilising and reflecting on prior knowledge and experience, of applying higher level critical thinking skills, and of integrating and synthesising learning and knowledge from a range of sources and environments. A characteristic of this form of thinking is the generation of new, professionally oriented knowledge through personal or group-based critique of practice and theory.

This graduate capability is supported by:

## **Learning outcomes**

- 1. Explain evolutionary theory and describe how it can be applied to human behaviour
- 2. Critically discuss the different methodological frameworks in evolutionary studies of human behaviour
- 3. Articulate the relationship between evolutionary psychology and other branches of the social sciences
- 4. Articulate the criticisms that have been leveled at evolutionary psychology, and their basis in fact or misconception
- 5. Describe current research questions in evolution of brain and behaviour
- 6. Design research projects to address current questions in brain and behaviour
- 7. Make oral and written presentations of critiques and syntheses of published work
- 8. Respond to critiques from peers

## **Assessment tasks**

- Exam
- Presentation
- Essay

## **PG - Research and Problem Solving Capability**

Our postgraduates will be capable of systematic enquiry; able to use research skills to create new knowledge that can be applied to real world issues, or contribute to a field of study or practice to enhance society. They will be capable of creative questioning, problem finding and

problem solving.

This graduate capability is supported by:

## **Learning outcomes**

- 5. Describe current research questions in evolution of brain and behaviour
- 6. Design research projects to address current questions in brain and behaviour

## **Assessment tasks**

- Exam
- Presentation
- Essay

## **PG - Effective Communication**

Our postgraduates will be able to communicate effectively and convey their views to different social, cultural, and professional audiences. They will be able to use a variety of technologically supported media to communicate with empathy using a range of written, spoken or visual formats.

This graduate capability is supported by:

## **Learning outcomes**

- 1. Explain evolutionary theory and describe how it can be applied to human behaviour
- 2. Critically discuss the different methodological frameworks in evolutionary studies of human behaviour
- 3. Articulate the relationship between evolutionary psychology and other branches of the social sciences
- 4. Articulate the criticisms that have been leveled at evolutionary psychology, and their basis in fact or misconception
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- 8. Respond to critiques from peers

## **Assessment tasks**

- Exam
- Presentation
- Essay