PSYH4439
Evolution of Social, Sexual and Emotional Behaviour
Session 2, Weekday attendance, North Ryde 2021

Department of Psychology

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Disclaimer
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Notice
Some on-campus classes have moved online for the first two weeks of Session, before returning to campus in Week 3. If you are studying a unit outside of the primary Session 2 timetable, please contact your teaching staff team for further details.

Some classes/teaching activities cannot be moved online and must be taught on campus. To find out if you are enrolled in one of these classes/teaching activities, you can check to see if your unit is on the list of units with mandatory on-campus classes/teaching activities.

Your Unit Convenor will provide more information via an iLearn announcement when your iLearn unit becomes available.
## General Information

### Unit convenor and teaching staff

**Unit convenor**
A/Prof Ian Stephen  
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Contact via Email  
By appointment

**Lecturer**
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### Credit points
10

### Prerequisites

### Corequisites
PSYH490 or PSHY4490 or PSYH495 or PSYH4495 or PSYH4492

### Co-badged status
PSYH7739
Important Academic Dates
Information about important academic dates including deadlines for withdrawing from units are available at [https://students.mq.edu.au/important-dates](https://students.mq.edu.au/important-dates)

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

- **ULO1**: Explain evolutionary theory and describe how it can be applied to human behaviour.
- **ULO2**: Critically discuss the different methodological frameworks in evolutionary studies of human behaviour and their relationship with other branches of the social sciences.
- **ULO3**: Articulate the criticisms that have been leveled at evolutionary psychology, and their basis in fact or misconception.
- **ULO4**: Describe current research questions in evolution of brain and behaviour.
- **ULO5**: Make oral and written presentations of critiques and syntheses of published work, and engage with feedback 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 PSYH4439, who will analyse the results in reference to the [University’s standard policy on plagiarism](https://students.mq.edu.au/important-dates).
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 essay 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 with supporting documentary evidence (such as medical certificate, counsellor note, or similar). The staff in the Student Centre will make all decisions regarding 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 PSYH4439 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 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 examination will take place in class time in Week 13.
The only exception to 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 original exam date.

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. 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. 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.

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.

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
Assessment Tasks

Name | Weighting | Hurdle | Due
--- | --- | --- | ---
Essay | 30% | No | 5pm Fri 8th Oct 2021
Individual Class presentation | 20% | No | Sign up for a timeslot via iLearn
Final Examination | 50% | No | Week 13 during class time

Essay

Assessment Type 1: Essay
Indicative Time on Task 2: 40 hours
Due: 5pm Fri 8th Oct 2021
Weighting: 30%

Dishonesty – Schedule of Penalties.

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, Prof Kerry Sherman, Deputy Head of Department for Teaching and Learning, or Dr Trevor Case, Director of the Honours Programme. Students with disabilities or mental health issues should consult Campus Wellbeing. If your difficulties cannot be resolved by these members of staff, you should consult the Head of Department.

APPEALS AGAINST GRADES

Please refer to the Grade Appeal Policy.

https://unitguides.mq.edu.au/unit_offerings/138107/unit_guide/print
Students will be required to submit an essay that critically discusses a current question in evolutionary approaches to behaviour.

On successful completion you will be able to:

• Articulate the criticisms that have been leveled at evolutionary psychology, and their basis in fact or misconception.
• Describe current research questions in evolution of brain and behaviour.
• Make oral and written presentations of critiques and syntheses of published work, and engage with feedback from peers.

**Individual Class presentation**

Assessment Type 1: Presentation
Indicative Time on Task 2: 10 hours
Due: **Sign up for a timeslot via iLearn**
Weighting: 20%

Students present and critique a new or classic research paper for discussion in the class.

On successful completion you will be able to:

• Explain evolutionary theory and describe how it can be applied to human behaviour.
• Critically discuss the different methodological frameworks in evolutionary studies of human behaviour and their relationship with other branches of the social sciences.
• Describe current research questions in evolution of brain and behaviour.
• Make oral and written presentations of critiques and syntheses of published work, and engage with feedback from peers.

**Final Examination**

Assessment Type 1: Examination
Indicative Time on Task 2: 50 hours
Due: **Week 13 during class time**
Weighting: 50%

Final examination held in scheduled class time, in accordance with relevant requirements.
On successful completion you will be able to:

- Explain evolutionary theory and describe how it can be applied to human behaviour.
- Critically discuss the different methodological frameworks in evolutionary studies of human behaviour and their relationship with other branches of the social sciences.
- Articulate the criticisms that have been leveled at evolutionary psychology, and their basis in fact or misconception.
- Describe current research questions in evolution of brain and behaviour.
- Make oral and written presentations of critiques and syntheses of published work, and engage with feedback from peers.

1 If you need help with your assignment, please contact:

- the academic teaching staff in your unit for guidance in understanding or completing this type of assessment
- the Learning Skills Unit for academic skills support.

2 Indicative time-on-task is an estimate of the time required for completion of the assessment task and is subject to individual variation

**Delivery and Resources**

Lectures/seminars are held weekly online via Zoom.

The core textbook for this unit is:


This is available as an ebook through the library, or you may purchase it online or via the Coop (dependent on stock).

A weekly reading list is available via Leganto (linked on iLearn).

**Unit Schedule**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Length of Lecture</th>
<th>Lecture Topic</th>
<th>Lecturer</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Introduction to Evolutionary Theory</td>
<td>A/Prof Ian Stephen</td>
<td>24 Feb</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Encephalisation and the evolution of the brain</td>
<td>A/Prof Ian Stephen</td>
<td>2 Mar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>The Evolution of Cooperation</td>
<td>A/Prof Ian Stephen</td>
<td>9 Mar</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Policies and Procedures

Macquarie University policies and procedures are accessible from [Policy Central](https://staff.mq.edu.au/work стратегия и управление/управление/ политик и процедуры/policy-central). Students should be aware of the following policies in particular with regard to Learning and Teaching:

- **Academic Appeals Policy**
- **Academic Integrity Policy**
- **Academic Progression Policy**
- **Assessment Policy**
- **Fitness to Practice Procedure**
- **Grade Appeal Policy**
- **Complaint Management Procedure for Students and Members of the Public**
- **Special Consideration Policy** *(Note: The Special Consideration Policy is effective from 4 December 2017 and replaces the Disruption to Studies Policy.)*
Students seeking more policy resources can visit the Student Policy Gateway (https://students.mq.edu.au/support/study/student-policy-gateway). It is your one-stop-shop for the key policies you need to know about throughout your undergraduate student journey.

If you would like to see all the policies relevant to Learning and Teaching visit Policy Central (https://staff.mq.edu.au/work/strategy-planning-and-governance/university-policies-and-procedures/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/admin/other-resources/student-conduct

**Results**

Results published on platform other than eStudent, (eg. iLearn, Coursera etc.) 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 or if you are a Global MBA student contact globalmba.support@mq.edu.au

**Grading**

Macquarie University, and Psychology undergraduate courses, follow standards-based assessment of student performance. All individual assessment tasks are subject to moderation, consistent with the Assessment Policy and Procedure. A student’s final mark for this unit, and associated grade, must reflect their attainment of the unit learning outcomes, and isn’t necessarily a simple summation of their individual assessment items.

**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) provides academic writing resources and study strategies to help you improve your marks and take control of your study.

- Getting help with your assignment
- Workshops
- StudyWise
- Academic Integrity Module

The Library provides online and face to face support to help you find and use relevant information resources.

- Subject and Research Guides
- Ask a Librarian
Student Enquiry Service
For all student enquiries, visit Student Connect at ask.mq.edu.au
If you are a Global MBA student contact globalmba.support@mq.edu.au

Equity 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.

IT Help
For help with University computer systems and technology, visit 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.