

Topics in Social Psychology: Human Evolution

Spring 2004 - S431 (J974)

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Office Crestview 125 *Office Hours* 11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.; 2:30-4:15 p.m.; 5:30 - 6:00 (M&W)
Classroom LF236 from 6:00 to 8:30 P.M. Monday evenings
Textbooks *Evolution and Human Behavior* by John Cartwright
The Journey of Man: A Genetic Odyssey by Spencer Wells
DNA: The Secrets of Life by James D. Watson and Andrew Berry
 Selected articles will be placed on ONCOURSE
WEB sites ONCOURSE - We use it in this class. Check it regularly!
http://homepages.ius.edu/AK/GSLOSS/web_docs/homepage.htm

Date	Topic	Readings/Assignments
January 12	Introduction to the course	
19	Martin Luther King Day	No Classes
26	Darwin's legacy	Cartwright - Chapters 1-3
February 2	Sex	Cartwright - Chapter 4-5; <i>Paper topic is due</i>
9	The Brain	Cartwright - Chapter 6-7
16	Human Cultures	Cartwright - Chapter 8-9
23	Social Groups	Cartwright - Chapter 10-12
March 1	The rise of Homo Sapiens Sapiens	Wells - Chapters 1-4
8	Migration routes	Wells - Chapters 5-6; Watson - Chapter 9
15	Culture and survival	Wells - Chapters 7-9; <i>First draft of papers are due</i>
22	<i>Spring Break - No Classes</i>	
29	History of Genetics Revolution	Watson - Chapters 1-4
April 5	In the labs	Watson - Chapters 5-8
12	Applied Genetics	Watson - Chapters 10-12
19	Who are we?	Watson - Chapter 13 & Coda; <i>Final Papers are due</i>
26	Paper presentations	You will have between 15 and 20 minutes to present the highlights of your research.
May 3	Paper presentations	

Where can I get Help? - For a variety of reasons, you may need help during the semester. IUS provides a number of services to aid students in their college work. Don't be shy about seeking help when you need it - it beats failing.

Your instructor - don't be shy in asking your instructor for help. He won't bite and it is part of his job description. You are encouraged to ask questions in class, over e-mail, or during office hours. Don't be shy.

ONCOURSE - handouts, hints, discussion groups, etc. will be available.

Social Problems Primer - http://homepages.ius.edu/AK/GSLOSS/web_docs/homepage.htm

The Library - for a college student, learning to use this is a must.

Student Development Center (941-2312) - for assistance with study habits, test taking, reading skills and tutoring services.

The Writing Center (941-2498) - to improve writing skills including how to use references properly.

Computing Services (941-2287) - for Jump Start classes in basic computer use.

Student Financial Assistance (941-2246) - for assistance with scholarships, loans and financial aid.

University Division (941-2243) - advising for freshman and undecided majors, disability services, student leaders.

Personal Counseling Services (941-2243) - provides services for personal, family, and marital problems.

Social Science office (941-2391) - the main office for Social Sciences Division.

Other students - ask other students, they are often the best help and you can make a new acquaintance or friend.

Design, Goals & Objectives of Course

This course introduces students to the basic theories and evidence related to human evolution. Specifically we look at three areas:

1. What aspects of our primate heritage contribute to our human behavior patterns?
2. When and how did our species spread about the planet?
3. What are the implications of modern genetic knowledge and technology for the future of our species?

What are Dr. Sloss's expectations of students? A recent survey commissioned by IUS (STAMATS), reported that some people in our community think of IUS as a junior college. Some even refer to our campus as Grant Line High. This perception is not accurate. IUS is an Indiana University regional campus that offers Bachelor and Masters degrees. You are expected to read assignments *before* class and make a personal contribution to the class discussions, exercises, etc. Students should understand, that it is their responsibility as students to actively participate in this educational experience. Experts recommend undergraduate college students put in three hours of outside work for every hour they are in class - you do the math. If you are behind in your command of basic skills (e.g., reading, math, logic, critical thinking) you may need to spend more time. IUS provides a number of services to improve your basic skills and help you through this experience (*see the list below*). Do not be shy about using these services.

What is the classroom format? Basically the class will be a seminar format. As such, students will be expected to contribute to the class discussion. To insure informed discussions, most classes will begin with a short quiz reviewing recent lectures and readings assigned for that evening. Don't be late. The rest of the class time will be used for discussion, lecture, movies, simulations, exercises, etc. *You should be prepared for class!*

How are grades earned? Grades are based on weekly quizzes (30%), a research paper (50%), and class participation (20%). Final grades are based on the following formula: A - 90 -100%; B - 80-89%; C - 70-79%; D - 60-69%; F - 59% or lower.

What are the quizzes like? Quizzes cover recent and current readings and class lectures/activities. The questions will be multiple choice & short answer. We will have approximately 10 quizzes of which your best 8 will count toward your grade.

What do you mean by class participation? Participation does not mean talking a lot. Nor does it mean speaking only when you are absolutely sure you know the "answer." There might not be "an" answer. To be a good participant you need to have read and studied the material. Participation mean paying attention to the ongoing discussion and making relevant comments or asking appropriate and sensible questions.

The Research paper The paper is a traditional library research paper over some aspect of human evolution. You are to chose a topic that has personal significance to you (or a close family member). The topic should involve some inherited genetic trait. The paper is to deal with the *social aspects* of this trait. Keep it upmost in your mind that this is a sociology class not a biology or genetics class! You should use your experiences as examples to support and/or refute your research findings. Note that your personal experiences are to be examples of the social and genetic principles not the major theme of the paper.

For example, you might select something as basic as height (tall or short) or hair color. Your paper would address the genetic survival value of that trait and the literature associated with the social aspects of the characteristic. Do blonds have more fun? Do tall people make more money? Is there a prejudice toward this trait? You might also select a disease with a genetic source.

Paper topics are due February 2nd. This needs to be a couple of paragraphs describing the topic and what you know (or think you know) about the topic. First drafts of your paper are due March 15th with the final copy due April 19th. *Do not miss deadlines!*