Part II of the Syllabus is a WORK IN PROGRESS; it will be updated frequently during the term. Assigned readings and videos will change as we discover better material. (Suggestions are ALWAYS welcome!) Dates will inevitably be adjusted as we find that some topics need extra discussion and debate while others can be covered more quickly. Changes in Part II of the Syllabus will be announced in lecture, in the Announcements on Sakai, and via e-mail.

Books to buy:


These book are available at the Rutgers Barnes & Noble bookstore. They can also be purchased on-line are often less expensive on-line. All other readings for the course will be available on the Sakai site for the course.

Topics & Readings:

January 18

Lecture topic: Introduction to the Course:

- A Very Brief Discussion of the Mechanics of the Course
- What Is Human Nature?
- An Overview of the Topics We'll Be Exploring (Part 1)

Reading (to be completed prior to the lecture):

Course Syllabus, Parts I & II; Policies on Behavior in the Classroom; Grading Scale

Videos

i) To be viewed before the lecture: Judgment Day: Intelligent Design on Trial (available on Sakai in the Streaming Video folder) – from the beginning thru 1:00:25

January 22
Lecture topic: Introduction to the Course:
   An Overview of the Topics We’ll Be Exploring (Part 2)
Reading (to be completed prior to the lecture):
   Workman & Reader, *Evolutionary Psychology*, Ch. 1
Videos
   i) To be viewed before the lecture: *Judgment Day: Intelligent Design on Trial*
      (available on Sakai in the Streaming Video folder) – from 1:00:25 to the end

January 25
Lecture topic: Evolutionary Psychology. Part I: Evolution & Natural Selection
Reading (to be completed prior to the lecture):
   Workman & Reader, *Evolutionary Psychology*, Ch. 2

January 29
Lecture topic: Evolutionary Psychology. Part II: Some Important Ideas from Cognitive Science – Descartes’ Challenge & Functionalism
Reading (to be completed prior to the lecture):
   (i) Anderson, “Introduction to Functionalism”
   (ii) Pinker, *How the Mind Works*, selections from Ch. 2 “Thinking Machines”

February 1
Reading (to be completed prior to the lecture):
   Cosmides & Tooby, “Evolutionary Psychology: A Primer”
   Pinker, *The Language Instinct*, Ch. 1, pp. 15-24

I>Clicker quizzes begin on February 1. Attendance will be taken in discussion sections beginning on February 1.

February 5
Lecture topic: Evolutionary Psychology. Part II: Some Important Ideas from Cognitive Science: Nativism (continued) & Modularity
Reading (to be completed prior to the lecture):
   Pinker, *The Language Instinct*, Ch. 2, pp. 25-54

February 8
Lecture topic: Evolutionary Psychology: Part III: Darwinian Modules, Stone Age Minds & How Evolution Has Shaped Our Emotions and Desires
Video (to watch on-line prior to the lecture):
“Why Everyone (else) is a Hypocrite” a lecture by Prof. Robert Kurzban

February 12
**GUEST LECTURE:** Prof. Alan Leslie (Dept. of Psychology & Center for Cognitive Science, Rutgers University)
Lecture Topic: “How Pre-Schoolers Think About Thinking in Other Minds”
Reading: TBA

February 15
Lecture topic: Sexual Selection, Parental Investment and Human Mate Choice – The Theory & The Evidence
Reading (to be completed prior to the lecture):
  Workman & Reader, *Evolutionary Psychology*, Ch. 3
Video (to watch on-line prior to the lecture):
  “Why Sex?” (available on Sakai in the Streaming Video folder)
Video (in lecture): *The Science of Sex Appeal*, Part 8

February 19
**GUEST LECTURE:** Prof. Daniel Fessler (Dept. of Anthropology, UCLA).
Lecture Topic: “Psychological and Evolutionary Explanations of Homosexuality”
Reading: TBA

February 22
Lecture topic: Sexual Selection, Parental Investment and Human Mate Choice – The Experimental Findings of David Buss and Others
Reading (to be completed prior to the lecture):
  Workman & Reader, *Evolutionary Psychology*, Ch. 4

February 26
Lecture topic: Another Key Component of Human Nature: Culture, Cultural Learning and Culture-Gene Coevolution – Part I: The Cultural Inheritance System
Reading (to be completed prior to the lecture):
  Henrich, *The Secret of Our Success*, Chs. 1-4

March 1
Lecture topic: Culture, Cultural Learning and Culture-Gene Coevolution – Part II: How Culture Has Shaped Our Bodies & Our Genes, and Why Following Local Traditions Can Often Be A Very Good Idea
Reading (to be completed prior to the lecture):
  Henrich, *The Secret of Our Success*, Chs. 5-7
March 5
Lecture topic: Culture, Cultural Learning and Culture-Gene Coevolution – Part III: Prestige, Taboos & Intergroup Competition
Reading (to be completed prior to the lecture):
Henrich, *The Secret of Our Success*, Chs. 8 & 9 & Ch. 10, pp. 166-169

March 8
**MIDTERM EXAM**

March 10-18 [Spring Break]

March 19
Lecture topic: Culture, Cultural Learning and Culture-Gene Coevolution – Part IV: Self-Domestication & Our Collective Brain
Reading (to be completed prior to the lecture):
Henrich, *The Secret of Our Success*, Chs. 11-12

March 22
**GUEST LECTURE:** Q&A with Prof. Joseph Henrich (Dept. of Human Evolutionary Biology, Harvard University)
Reading (to be completed prior to the lecture):

March 26
Lecture topic: Some Basic Concepts in Moral Philosophy: Moral Realism, Cultural Relativism & Moral Skepticism
Reading (to be completed prior to the lecture)
Shafer-Landau, *Whatever Happened to Good and Evil?* selections
Video (to watch on-line prior to the lecture):
“Blood Feuds in Albania” (available on Sakai)

March 29
**GUEST LECTURE:** Prof. Lee Cronk (Department of Anthropology, Rutgers University)
Lecture topic: The Psychology & Evolution of Generosity
Reading: TBA

April 2
Reading (to be completed prior to the lecture):
(i) Harris, *Good to Eat*, Ch. 10, “People Eating”
(ii) Haidt, *The Righteous Mind*, Ch. 1 & 2
April 5
Reading (to be completed prior to the lecture)
Haidt, The Righteous Mind, Chs. 3 & 4
Video (to watch on-line prior to the lecture):

April 9
Reading (to be completed prior to the lecture)
Haidt, The Righteous Mind, Chs. 5, 6 & 7

April 12
**GUEST LECTURE:** Prof. Julien Musolino (Dept. of Psychology & Center for Cognitive Science, Rutgers University)
Lecture topic: The Psychology of Religion
Reading (to be completed prior to the lecture)
Haidt, The Righteous Mind, Chs. 9, 10 & 11

April 16
Lecture topic: Religion: Why Do People Believe in God?
Reading (to be completed prior to the lecture):
(i) Barrett, Why Would Anyone Believe in God, Chs. 2 & 3
(ii) Bloom, “Is God an Accident?”

April 19
Reading (to be completed prior to the lecture):
Norenzayan, Big Gods, Chs. 1, 2 & 7
Video to watch before class: Dawkins, “The Root of All Evil,” Part 1
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8nAos1M__Ts

April 23
Lecture topic: Race & Biology
Reading (to be completed prior to the lecture)
Boyd & Silk, “Explaining Human Variation” & “The Race Concept”

April 26
Video to watch before class: Race: The Power of an Illusion, Part 1 “The Difference Between Us” (from the beginning to 56:00) & Part 2 “The Story We Tell” (from 57:45 to 1:54:30) available in the video folder on Sakai
April 30

Lecture topic: Race & IQ,
Reading (to be completed prior to the lecture)
   Nisbett, *Intelligence and How to Get It*, Ch. 1 “Varieties of Intelligence, & Ch. 2
   “Heritability and Mutability”

The Final Exam is on Thursday, May 3, from 9:30 AM to 11:00 AM in our regular
lecture room, Voorhees 105.