Metropolitan State University

PSYC 373 : Evolutionary Psychology

A. Course Description

Credits: 4

Lab Hours/ Weeks: Corequisites: None

Lecture Hours/ Week :

MnTC Goals: None

Evolutionary psychology is a branch of psychology that explores how a variety of physiological and psychological traits have evolved through the mechanisms of natural selection and adaptation. Psychological traits such as aggression, attraction, communication, and cooperation are explored as a means of facilitating survival among humans and how human behaviors have adapted as a means of improving survival and reproductive fitness. Evolutionary psychology combines the concepts of biology, anthropology, cognitive psychology and the neurosciences to provide students with a contemporary perspective in understanding human behavior.

B. Course Effective Dates: 05/10/2014 - Present

C. Outline of Major Content Areas:

See Course Description for major content areas.

D. Learning Outcomes (General)

1. Students will be required to demonstrate critical thinking skills necessary to understand basic principles and processes of evolutionary theory;
2. Students will learn the genetic basis of evolution and how variability plays a critical role in evolutionary theory;
3. Students will learn the basic principles of natural and sex selection;
4. Students will learn the basic principles of reproductive fitness, sexual attraction and the psychology of social interaction;
5. Students will understand how principles of cooperation and prosocial behaviors co-existed and evolved with aggression conflict;
6. Students will describe how the psychological concepts relative to interdependency and superordinate goals have contributed to community development and influences social interaction;
7. Students will learn the role of facial and emotional expressions as key mechanisms influencing group interaction;
8. Students will learn how complex emotions and behaviors (i.e., guilt, forgiveness and empathy) have influenced and contributed to group interaction.

E. Learning Outcomes (MN Transfer Curriculum)

This contains no goal areas.

G. Special Information

None