PNP 495/496: PNP Seminar

T Th 10:00-11:30 AM

Instructor: Dr. Ron Mallon rmallon@artsci.wustl.edu

Office 204 Wilson

Hours: By appt. (I’m in most days.)


Other readings on Ares.

Syllabus on Telesis.

Course Description:

In this course, we consider the connection between evolution and culture, considering a range of research programs that connect them.

Course Requirements:

The course requirements consist in two papers on topics of your choosing, participation, and one (optional for undergraduates, required for graduate students) presentation.

First paper (6-8 pages): 45% MARCH 8th

Second paper (6-8 pages): 45% APRIL 27th

Participation: 10%

Presentation: REQUIRED for graduates.

Graduate students may complete a single, approximately 15 page paper.

Plagiarism will result in a failing grade.

I am happy to make accommodations in accordance with the WUSTL’s policies on accommodation. Please see me if you need accommodation.

Readings are tentative, and may change. Current reading list will be available on Telesis.

Late work is accepted, but penalized unless prior arrangements are made.

All papers should be submitted so as to be graded anonymously.
Tentative Schedule of Topics by Week

Introduction
Tuesday, January 17th: Introduction

What is Evolution?
Thursday, January 19th:

Tuesday, January 24th:

Evolution and Behavioral Ecology
Thursday, January 26th:

Evolutionary Psychology
Tuesday, January 31st:

Thursday, February 2nd: Catch-up.

Critical Response to Evolutionary Psychology
Tuesday, February 7th:
David Buller and Valerie Gray Hardcastle. 2005, “Modularity” from *Adapting Minds*. (pp. 127-200)

Thursday, February 9th:
More Buller & Hardcastle.

Tuesday, February 14th:
More Buller & Hardcastle.

Wednesday, February 15th: PAPER 1 DUE TODAY!

Evolutionary Psychology in Action: Disgust
Thursday, February 16th:
Kelly, *Yuck!* Introduction and Chp. 1 (1-42)

Tuesday, February 21st:
Kelly, *Yuck!* Chp. 2 pp. 43-60

Thursday, February 23rd:
Kelly, Yuck! Chp. 3 pp. 61-100

Tuesday, February 28th:
Kelly, Yuck! Chp. 4 pp. 101-136

Evolutionary Psychology and the Explanation of Culture
Thursday, March 1st:

Tuesday, March 6th:

Thursday, March 8th:

March 13th and 15th: Spring Break

Niche Construction
Tuesday, March 20th:

Thursday, March 22nd:
No class. Instructor absent.

Evolution and Dual-Inheritance Models:
Tuesday, March 27th:
Richerson and Boyd, Chp. 1

Thursday, March 29th:
Richerson and Boyd, Chp. 2

Tuesday, April 3rd:
Richerson and Boyd, Chp. 3

Thursday, April 5th:
catch up.

Tuesday, April 10th:
Richerson and Boyd, Chp. 4

Thursday, April 12th:
Richerson and Boyd, Chp. 5

Cultural Evolution and Transmission
Tuesday, April 17th:

Evolution and Moral Psychology
Psychopaths:
Thursday, April 19th: (STAY TUNED – INSTRUCTOR MAY BE ABSENT)

Incest avoidance:
Tuesday, April 24th:

Thursday, April 26th:
Catch-up

April 27th is the last day of classes.