Anthropology 220
Selected Topics in Evolutionary Psychology

Winter 2007
Clark Barrett

Anthro 220, SEM 1
Units: 4.0
Catalog # 511083200
Time: T 2:00PM-4:50PM
Room: HAINES 350

Course Overview

This class is a graduate level survey of evolutionary psychology, focusing in particular on the study of specialized information-processing mechanisms. The first half of the course will cover the theoretical foundations of evolutionary psychology, and the second half will focus on empirical research on specialized evolved mechanisms, including mechanisms involved in face recognition, kin detection, intentional inference, and cultural transmission.

Format

The course will consist of weekly meetings in which the week’s readings will be discussed. Readings will be posted online on the password-protected course website. Students are expected to complete each week’s readings before that week’s discussion. Each week, one student will serve as discussant, and will prepare a brief presentation and discussion questions on that week’s material.

Grading

Grading will be based on class participation (30%), each students’ presentation and performance as discussant (20%), and a final paper (50%). Grading will be letter basis unless otherwise arranged with the instructor.

Weekly schedule of topics (readings TBA)

Part 1: Theory

Week 1: Introduction

Week 2: Adaptive specialization

Week 3: Domain specificity and modularity
Week 4: EEA, ancestral and derived traits in humans

Part 2: Case studies

Week 5: Phylogenetic and comparative approaches

Week 6: Development

Week 7: Face recognition, Kin detection

Week 8: Theory of mind and intentionality

Week 9: Language

Week 10: Cultural transmission