TERM PAPER ASSIGNMENT

30% of your grade will be determined by a term paper that is due at the beginning of our last class meeting, 10:00 on Thursday Mar. 14. In this paper, you will evaluate a hypothesis presented in one of the course readings by (1) finding and reading other published scientific literature and (2) critically comparing alternative views of the topic.

Your first step in writing your paper will be to find relevant scientific literature. I have posted on the course website a document entitled “Finding Scientific Literature” which shows you how to use the UCLA Library’s online resources to access relevant literature.

I ask that you tell me, by email or in person, your proposed topic by the end of Week 5 (Friday Feb. 8). Note that you may base your paper on any article that is assigned for any class meeting, even one during Week 10. As you can see from the syllabus, we take up the topic of human behavior late in the course, and I suspect that many of you are more interested in human behavior than in any other topic that we’ll cover. Of course this means that you would need to read ahead.

To get full credit for the paper, you must turn in a rough draft to me by the end of Week 8 (Friday Feb. 29). I will return your draft with comments by Wed. Mar. 5. If your rough draft is late, you will not only lose points, you will also receive my comments later than this.

The paper is to be 4-6 pages, double-spaced, plus references. Obviously, you will cite the article in the course readings that your paper is based on, and you also must cite at least 5 publications that are not in the course readings. These publications can be (1) journal articles; (2) sections of books (i.e. articles from "edited volumes"); or (3) scholarly books. Only one of your five sources can be a popular book or article (ask me if you have any doubts whether a source is scholarly or popular). Only one of your five sources can be an introductory textbook. Online sources (other than online versions of scholarly journals) must be approved by me before you can use them. I will probably not approve them – for example, you may not use Wikipedia. At least three of your sources must have been published in 2000 or later.

Don't use footnotes; instead, enclose the author's name(s) and the year of publication in parentheses, e.g. "Sex differences in parental investment are thought to determine patterns of sexual selection (Trivers 1972)"; or enclose just the year in parentheses, e.g. "Trivers (1972) argued that..." Which style you use depends on how you want to construct a particular sentence that cites published work. Avoid quoting verbatim from the work that you cite. Instead, paraphrase the relevant findings and ideas. If you cite work that you have not read, but which is cited in a more recent source, you must make that clear by using the following format: "Bateman (1948, cited in Trivers 1972) showed
that..." In this case, the Bateman 1948 reference would not count toward your required total of 7 references. Then, at the end of your paper, beginning on a separate page (which won't count toward the 10-12 page paper length), give the complete citation for each article you cite in your paper, in alphabetical order, following the following format:

A. To cite an article from a scientific journal:

Author last name, first initials. Year. Article title. Journal Title Volume number: page #s.

For example:


B. To cite a single-authored book:

Author last name, first initials. Year. Book Title. Location of publishing company: Name of publishing company.

For example:


C. To cite an article appearing in a edited volume:

Author last name, first initials. Year. Article title. "In" Book Title, "ed." Initials Last Name of Book's editor. Location of publishing company: Name of publishing company, "pp." page #s.

For example:


If you cite two or more works published by the same author(s) in the same year, use letters to distinguish them, e.g. "Smith 1989a" "Smith 1989b". List only those articles, book chapters, or books that you cite in your paper; and be sure to include, in your bibliography, every work that you cite in the text of your paper.