

Dr. Cronk  
Anthropology 201: Evolution and Human Behavior (01:070:201:01)  
Fall 2015  
Mondays and Thursdays, 10:20am – 11:40am  
Classroom: 254 Tillett Hall, Livingston Campus  
Index number: 17903

**Course web site:** Available through [sakai.rutgers.edu](http://sakai.rutgers.edu).

**Office:** Biological Sciences Building 309, Douglass Campus; email: [lcronk@anthropology.rutgers.edu](mailto:lcronk@anthropology.rutgers.edu); phone: 848-932-9285.

**Office hours:** Mondays and Thursdays, after class until 1pm, and by appointment. Regular office hours will be held in the Livingston Student Center. “By appointment” office hours will be held in my office.

**Catalog course description:** An introduction to the evolutionary biological study of human behavior. Topics covered include basic evolutionary theory, cultural learning, mating, parenting, and cooperation.

**Required book:**

Buss, David. 2011. *Evolutionary Psychology: The New Science of the Mind*. Fourth edition. Pearson.

**Specific course learning goals:**

The attentive, serious student will, by the end of the course, gain an understanding of

1. Evolutionary theory
2. The levels of selection debate
3. Phylogeny and adaptation
4. The naturalistic fallacy
5. Levels of explanation
6. Cultural learning as an adaptation
7. Theories of intrasexual and intersexual selection
8. Parenting in evolutionary perspective
9. Inclusive fitness theory
10. Theories of direct reciprocity, indirect reciprocity, mutualism, and risk-pooling
11. Coordination problems
12. Examples of the applications of these theories to human behavior in both field and laboratory settings

**Exams:** There will be two midterms and a final. The first midterm will be held on Thursday, October 1, the second midterm will be held on Thursday, November 5, and the final exam will be held in our regular classroom on Wednesday, December 16 at noon. Each test will be worth 30% of your final grade. The first midterm will cover roughly the first third of the course, the second midterm will cover the middle third of the course, and the final will cover the last third of the course. Neither the second midterm nor the final will be fully cumulative, but you will probably do better on them if you retain material covered earlier in the course. Because this is a small section, the exams will consist primarily or exclusively of short answer and essay questions. The class period immediately preceding each exam will be used as a review session,

and a review sheet will be available online through the course's web page. My curve policy is that if the mean grade for a test is below 80% and if no one receives a perfect score on the exam, then I will add the difference between 100% and the highest score in the class to everyone's score. I also reserve the right to give both announced and pop quizzes on specific topics throughout the course.

**Make-up exams:** You are required to take the exams at the regularly scheduled times. Make-up exams will be given only to those students who are able to provide well-documented written excuses that have been approved in writing by an appropriate dean. Legitimate excuses are limited to your own serious illness, family emergencies, and religious observances. Make-up exams will consist entirely of essay and short answer questions. Arrangements for make-ups should be made as soon as possible after you have missed an exam and certainly as soon as your excuse for having missed the exam no longer applies.

**Essay:** Visit this web site:

[http://www.dmoz.org/Science/Social\\_Sciences/Psychology/Tests\\_and\\_Testing/Online\\_Experiments/](http://www.dmoz.org/Science/Social_Sciences/Psychology/Tests_and_Testing/Online_Experiments/).

Click on at least one of the links provided and participate in at least one of the studies listed. Then write a five page essay (excluding cover page and any other supplementary material) describing the study or studies in which you have participated and relating them to the material covered in class and in the book. This will be easier for some of the studies listed on the site than for others, so choose your study or studies carefully. Essays should be typed and double-spaced with one inch margins and no larger than 12 point font. Points will be taken off for errors in grammar, spelling, punctuation, and word usage. All pages should be numbered, and your name should appear as a running head on all pages. All essays should be stapled in the upper left hand corner. Be sure to clearly indicate the studies in which you participated, including their URLs (i.e., their web addresses). You do not need to provide bibliographic information for the Buss textbook, but if you cite any other literature then you should attach a complete list of references cited. **Papers are in class on Thursday, December 10** and will be worth 10% of your grade for the course.

**Classroom etiquette:** While students are in class, they are expected to give their full attention to the professor. Reading, talking, sleeping, eating, leaving before the professor has dismissed the class, and packing up to leave before the professor has dismissed the class are all inappropriate classroom behaviors and will not be tolerated. In case talking during class does become a problem during the semester, I reserve the right to assign seats. If for some reason you know before coming to class that you will need to leave early, let me know before class begins, try to sit near a door, and leave quietly and unobtrusively. If you come to class late, be sure to enter quietly and take care not to disturb the class in progress. Also, please make sure that your watch alarms and cell phones do not ring during class.

**Class discussion and questions:** Although this class is taught primarily through lectures, questions are encouraged, and we may have some interesting discussions as the semester goes by. The subject matter of this class is developing rapidly and no doubt will be revised greatly over the coming years and decades. Therefore, my hope is that we can approach this material not so much as a lot of facts to be memorized (although you will indeed have to memorize some facts) but rather as an ongoing research project whose knowledge claims, like all scientific knowledge claims, are tentative and subject to revision.

When you ask questions or participate in such discussions, please be sure to be respectful of everyone concerned: other members of the class, the professor and teaching assistant, the

people who conducted the research being discussed, the people who were the subjects of the research discussed, and so on. This is particularly important in this class because many of the topics we will be covering are quite sensitive, and it can be surprisingly easy to offend when discussing them, even if that is not one's primary purpose. I reserve the right to ignore questions or comments made in a disrespectful or uncivil manner.

**Evaluation:** Grades will be assigned according to the usual system of ten percentage points per passing grade (A=90-100%, B+=88-89%, B=80-87%, C+=78-79%, C=70-77%, D=60-69%, F=0-59%).

**Attendance:** Students are expected to attend all classes; if you expect to miss one or two classes, please use the University absence reporting website <https://sims.rutgers.edu/ssra/> <<https://sims.rutgers.edu/ssra/>> to indicate the date and reason for your absence. An email is automatically sent to me.

**Academic integrity:** Cheating lowers the value of a Rutgers degree and the learning experience for all students. No form of cheating, including plagiarism, will be tolerated. One commits plagiarism when one represents the text or ideas of others as one's own creation. Please visit the website of the Rutgers Office of Academic Integrity (<http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu>) for a fuller explanation of plagiarism and of the penalties for it. Convicted plagiarists may receive a disciplinary F in the course and possibly face expulsion from the University.

### **Course outline and reading assignments:**

Note: Although we will try to keep to this schedule, the dates on which particular topics will be covered in class are subject to change without notice. The dates of the exams will not be changed.

In the schedule below, I have listed the readings on first day that we'll be dealing with a given topic in class. Try to have them read by those dates, but keep in mind that I won't actually be going through the book itself in class except during the review sessions before the exams. Note that the chapters are not assigned in the same order that they appear in the book and that the readings are not evenly distributed throughout the semester. Plan your reading schedule accordingly.

Th 9/3 - Introduction

T 9/9 - REDEFINED DAY - Introduction to evolutionary theory - Chapters 1 and 2

Th 9/10 - Introduction to evolutionary theory

M 9/14 - Introduction to evolutionary theory

Th 9/17 - Introduction to evolutionary theory

M 9/21 - Evolution and behavior

Th 9/24 - Evolution and behavior

M 9/28 Review for first midterm

Th 10/1 – First midterm

M 10/5 - Mating – Chapters 4, 5, 6, and 11

Th 10/8 – Mating

M 10/12 - Mating  
Th 10/15 - Mating

M 10/19 - Mating  
Th 10/22 - Mating

M 10/26 – Parenting – Chapter 7  
Th 10/29 - Parenting

M 11/2 – Review for second midterm  
Th 11/5 – Second midterm

M 11/9 - Parenting  
Th 11/12 – Parenting

M 11/16 – Sociality – Chapters 8 and 9  
Th 11/19 – Sociality

M 11/23 - Sociality  
Th 11/26 - **THANKSGIVING**

M 11/30 - Sociality  
Th 12/3 - Sociality

M 12/10 – Review for final exam

Wednesday, December 16, noon, in our regular classroom: Final exam.

**Please note that the professor reserves the right to record all class sessions.**

## Frequently Asked Questions about Anthropology 204, “Introduction to Social Evolution”

**How can I get a good grade in this class?** Attend all classes, pay attention to what is being said, take good notes, and read all of the assigned material. If you do all of these things and still do poorly on the first exam, please come see me or the teaching assistant.

**How should I take notes for this class?** Because the class is large, I make extensive use of overheads and PowerPoint slides. However, you should not try to copy the slides word-for-word (and, often, slides will go by too quickly for that to be possible, anyway). The most important thing to do while taking notes is *listen*. Jot down notes only after your brain has had a chance to process the information, and feel free to ask questions if you do not understand something.

**How should I read the book for this class?** When you read the book, I recommend taking notes on a separate sheet of paper. This forces your brain to process the information, which increases the chance that you will retain it. For the most part, highlighter pens should be thrown away. They give you the illusion that you are reading actively but do very little to improve your retention. Try to focus on the major ideas and general themes in the books rather than all of the tiny details.

**Are there any prerequisites for this class?** There are no specific courses that are required before you take this class, but I have to assume that you have a working knowledge of basic biology. In practical terms, what this means is that I will feel free to use words like “genotype,” “phenotype,” “cytoplasm,” “meiosis,” “mitosis,” “chromosome,” and “genome” without having to explain them. The biology class you took in high school should have provided you with this level of expertise.

I also have to assume that you have a variety of types of general knowledge, including the following:

(a) **A working knowledge of world geography.** I expect to be able to use the names of countries (e.g., Botswana), continents (e.g., South America), bodies of water (e.g., the Caspian Sea), major mountain ranges (e.g., the Andes), and other major geographical features (e.g., the Yucatan peninsula) around the world without having to explain where they are. You can feel free to ask questions about geography during lectures, but those sorts of questions will not be entertained during exams.

(b) **A college-level vocabulary.** I do not go out of my way to use unusual words in class, but I also do not try to avoid using the sorts of words found in college-level assigned readings. If I use a word in class that you are not familiar with, feel free to ask about it during lectures, but, again, those sorts of questions will not be entertained during exams. And, of course, if you see a word in your readings that you do not know, be sure to look it up.

(c) **A knowledge of basic arithmetic and mathematics.** The arithmetic ability required in this class does not go much beyond having the ability to use fractions, but you also should be able to read and understand various types of charts, graphs, and tables, some of which may appear on the exams.

**Should I wait until after the final exam to begin to think about what my grade will be in this class?** No. The time to set your goals for this class and to begin to work toward them is now, not after the final exam. Requests for grade changes after course grades have been submitted will not be entertained.