
HUMAN EVOLUTION AND MOTHERHOOD in Fall 2020 (IDISC1099FB4)

Course Code	IDISC1099FB4	Professor(s)	Elena Berg
Prerequisites	None	Office Number	C-202
Class Schedule	F: 14:30-16:05 in C-104 F: 14:30-16:05 in RMOTE-00 T: 10:50-12:25 in Q-704 T: 10:50-12:25 in RMOTE-00	Office Hours	Tuesday period 3 (12:40 PM - 2:15 PM), via Teams
Credits	4	Email	eberg@aup.edu
Semester	Fall 2020	Office Tel. Ext.	614

Course Description

In this course, we will investigate how we are shaped by evolution and by the human mating and social systems in which we live. We will learn about the biology of sex, sexuality, and mating systems and our notions about motherhood and the role of women in society. What does biology have to say about the roles of men and women, challenging assumptions about how men and women are different? This class will explore the notion of cooperative breeding in human mating systems and how we evolved in the context of other primate species.

Course Learning Outcomes

General Education

This course can be used to fulfill the **Integrative Inquiry** category of the new Global Liberal Arts Core Curriculum, with the following learning outcomes:

- *Exploring and Engaging Difference*: Students will think critically about cultural and social difference; they will identify and understand power structures that determine hierarchies and inequalities that can relate to race, ethnicity, gender, nationhood, religion, or class.
- *Civic and Ethical Engagement*: Students will demonstrate awareness of ethical

considerations relating to specific societal problems, values, or practices (historical or contemporary; global or local) and learn to articulate possible solutions to prominent challenges facing societies and institutions today so as to become engaged actors at various levels in our interconnected world.

Course Outline

Preliminary course schedule (subject to change)

Class	Date	Topic of discussion & quiz topics	Readings/assignments due th
RS 1	Fri Sept 25	REFLECTIVE SEMINAR: Introductions, life at AUP, study skills, etc Introduce the theme for the joint project, discuss press analysis assignment	
1	Fri Sept 25	What can science tell us about us about motherhood? How has parenthood evolved over time in the human lineage?	
2	Tues Sept 29	What is evolution? How does life evolve?	Watch the following videos, available on Blackboard: 1) the history of the evolution works, 3) adaptation in (min total)
RS 2	Fri Oct 2	REFLECTIVE SEMINAR: Sex ed! What is sex? What are males and females? the biology of menstruation, pregnancy, and orgasm.	
3	Fri Oct 2	Evolution, continued... Why is Darwin so famous? Quick Quiz 1 (evolution and Darwin)	Read Ch 2 of Zimmer's <i>The Tale of the Fish</i> "Before and After Darwin"
4	Tues Oct 6	Sexual selection	Read Ch 1 of Konner's <i>Women</i> "Diverge, Say the Cells"
RS 3	Fri Oct 9	REFLECTIVE SEMINAR: Field work – visit a playground!	
5	Fri Oct 9	Sexual selection, continued	Read Ch 1-2 of Judson's <i>Dr. T. A. M. Advice to All Creation</i>

		Quick Quiz 2 (sexual selection)	Due: Press analysis 1
6	Tues Oct 13	Mating systems	Read Ch 8 of Dugatkin's <i>Principles of Behavior</i> : "Mating Systems" Due by midnight: post your independent project ideas on Blackboard.
RS 4	Fri Oct 16	REFLECTIVE SEMINAR: How to give a good talk Work on scripts and storyboards for your joint projects	
7	Fri Oct 16	How did humans evolve? Quick Quiz 3 (mating systems)	Read Ch 14 of Zimmer: "A New History of Life" Watch the 20 min video "Great t... Origins of Humans"
8	Tues Oct 20	Human evolution, continued We will watch the sales pitches and workshop your ideas together	Post before class: Flipgrid sales pitches Independent projects (make sales pitches, get Elena's feedback on your project ideas BEFORE you create your sales pitches)
RS 5	Fri Oct 23	REFLECTIVE SEMINAR: Library information session: how to find scholarly articles for your individual and joint research projects	
9	Fri Oct 23	The changing role of women in human evolution Quick Quiz 4 (human evolution, Zihlman)	Read Zihlman 2013: Engendering evolution
10	Tues Oct 27	Why do humans cooperate so well?	Read Ch 1 of Hrdy's <i>Mothers and Others</i> Due: Press analysis 2
RS 6	Fri Oct 30	REFLECTIVE SEMINAR: Sexism and racism	
11	Fri Oct 30	Motherhood and alloparenting in humans, primates, and other animals	Read Hrdy Ch. 3 Due: Draft of Abstract and annotated bibliography for independent project
12	Tues Nov 3	What did prehistoric parenting look like?	Read Hrdy Ch 5

RS 7	Fri Nov 6	GROUP ADVISING SESSION with both professors! Plan ahead – review possible major/s, look through the spring course catalog, and come with a plan for 2021. Continue working on your joint projects while you are waiting for your advising appointment	
13	Fri Nov 6	What is the impact of modern parenting practices? Quick Quiz 5: Hrdy	Read Hrdy Ch 9
14	Tues Nov 10	The evolution of homosexuality	Read Bailey and Zuk 2009, Savin-White and Hodgson 2017 Due: Press analysis 3
<i>Fall break – Nov 11-13 – NO CLASS on Friday Nov 13</i>			
15	Tues Nov 17	Did humans evolve from promiscuous ancestors??	Read Wilson et al. 2017, excerpt from Jetha 2010
RS 8	Fri Nov 20	REFLECTIVE SEMINAR: Panel on Parenthood with outside guests	
16	Fri Nov 20	Debate about evolution of human mating systems	Due: Rough drafts of Powerpoint presentations
17	Tues Nov 24	No class – read and prepare feedback on students' Powerpoint presentations	Online appointments to discuss presentations
22	Fri Nov 27	No class	Due: feedback on your fellow presentations Online appointments to discuss presentations
23	Tues Dec 1	No class	

24	Fri Dec 4	No class	
Due by 5 PM on Mon Dec 7: 1. final versions of your PPT presentations 2. final Abstract and Bibliography (not annotated)			
25	Tues Dec 8	Oral presentations	
26	Fri Dec 11	Oral presentations	

You will be presenting your IDISC1099-CL/GS1099 joint projects during the final exam period (date and time to be announced).

Textbooks

This course doesn't have any textbook.

Attendance Policy

OFFICIAL AUP ATTENDANCE POLICY:

Students studying at The American University of Paris are expected to attend ALL scheduled classes, and in case of absence, should contact their professors to explain the situation. It is the student's responsibility to be aware of any specific attendance policy that a faculty member might have set in the course syllabus. The French Department, for example, has its own attendance policy, and students are responsible for compliance. Academic Affairs will excuse an absence for students' participation in study trips related to their courses.

Covid-19 temporary amendments:

Students studying at The American University of Paris are still expected to attend ALL scheduled classes. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, students will have the option of attending classes remotely when special circumstances apply. For example when students are placed under quarantine by the French authorities or by their doctor, or when students present symptoms of Covid-19 and are directed, by their doctor or the AUP Health Office, to remain home. It is still the student's responsibility to be aware of any specific attendance policy that their professor might have set in the course syllabus. In particular, Students attending remotely from distant Time Zones should check with their professors about the specific attendance policy for remote learners.

Attendance at all exams is mandatory.

In all cases of missed course meetings, the responsibility for communication with the professor, and for arranging to make up missed work, rests solely with the student.

Whether an absence is excused or not is ALWAYS up to the discretion of the professor or the department. Unexcused absences can result in a low or failing participation grade. In the case of excessive absences, it is up to the professor or the department to decide if the student will receive an "F" for the course. An instructor may also recommend that a student withdraw, if absences have made it impossible to continue in the course at a satisfactory level.

Students must be mindful of this policy when making their travel arrangements, and especially during the Drop/Add and Exam Periods.

Grading Policy

Press article analyses	Three times during the semester, you will write a 600-word critical review of a recent news piece that covers a topic relevant to our class readings and discussions.	20%
Quizzes	Short comprehension quizzes – either online or in class – on the lectures and assigned readings (lowest grade will be dropped).	10%
Individual research project	You will plan and carry out an individual research project, resulting in a 15-minute Powerpoint presentation (12 min with 3 min for questions) without notes, a one-paragraph abstract, and a bibliography that conforms to MLA format. In preparation, earlier in the semester you will give a "sales pitch" to your peers and submit drafts of your abstracts, bibliographies, and slides.	30%
Joint project	Joint project with Elizabeth Kinne's class CL/GS1099: Sex Ed video	15%

Attendance	It is extraordinarily important to come to class and to participate actively, whether you are joining us in person or online. Note: anyone who misses more than 4 class periods will receive a zero.	10%
Class participation, including leading discussions	You are expected to have continuous, active, high-quality contribution to in-class discussions. You will also be working together in small groups to present various topics in class and guide class discussion of related readings.	15%

Other

CLASSROOM ETIQUETTE AND HEALTH & SAFETY MEASURES

- **Bring all assigned online readings to class.** If you prefer to read online, you may bring a portable device instead – but please talk to me first so I know you're not using the device to surf the web during class time.
- **Submit all assignments on time.** All assignments are to be submitted on Blackboard. Written assignments submitted late will go down by a proportion of a letter grade for every day late, i.e. A becomes A-, A- becomes B+, etc.
- **Any assignment that is proven to be plagiarised will receive a zero and serious cases will result in an automatic F for the course.** Plagiarism is academic misconduct and a serious breach of university policy. University disciplinary procedures will be carried out in case of infraction.
- Please be respectful of others and **do not use your mobile phones or computers for personal reasons** during class. If you are joining us online or we have to move classes online for any reason, please try your best to find a quiet location where you can focus on the class, without interruption. To the extent possible, please maintain a professional appearance (that is, don't call in from your bed wearing PJs, or wander off to bake cookies in the kitchen). If bandwidth permits, turn on your video so we can see everyone's faces during class time. That is a nice way to create community even during a pandemic!
- It is vitally important to **come to class and be on time, regardless of whether we are meeting in person or online. Please, do not be late** unless you have an excellent excuse. If you are more than 10 minutes late to class, you will be marked absent. If you have to be absent from class, please inform me as soon as possible, by e-mail, about the reasons for your absence. If you are late or absent, it is always your responsibility to catch up on any missed material. Four or more unexcused absences will lead to a 0 for the attendance grade. Excessive absence (more than four missed classes) will jeopardize your success in this course. If you miss three consecutive classes, you must explain your absence to Student Affairs, who will then contact me.
- **Special health and safety measures during the reign of COVID-19:**
 - Please, for everyone's safety you must **wash your hands** well before you enter the classroom. You are required to **wear a mask** during all face-to-face classroom time or for individual meetings with me or other students. The mask must cover your nose and mouth at all times. No exceptions!
 - Respect social distancing measures! Remain **at least 1 meter** from each other and from your instructor for the duration of the class.
 - Unfortunately, **no food or drink** will be allowed inside the classroom. Don't worry, during our long sessions on Fridays we'll take breaks, and you'll be able to go out of the classroom to eat lunch.

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- **If you feel ill, DO NOT COME TO CLASS.** If you are well enough, you can join us online instead. If you experience ANY symptoms consistent with COVID-19 (fever, dry cough, aches and pains, respiratory difficulty), please seek medical help immediately. Make sure to keep me informed, and get a note from the doctor if you have to be absent from class.
 - It may be that at some point in the semester, some or all of us will be in **quarantine**. No matter what, we'll find a way to keep learning together! I have plans in place for adapting our activities and assignments to an online platform. If you are unable to come to class because of quarantine, make sure you communicate with me immediately – in that case, please join the class remotely via Teams (at the same time as our class is scheduled). If I am quarantined, I'll tune in via Teams – in that case, either you will all tune in from home, OR you will come to class and project me onto the screen in Teams. We'll discuss the details if/when necessary.