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# HUNTER

The City University of New York

## Evolution & Behavior (Psych 16000-01)

Fall 2023

HN-536

Tu & Fr 4:00 - 5:15 pm

**Instructor:** Dr. Jennifer Savoie

**Department:** Psychology, 611HN

**Email:** profjensavoie@gmail.com (*this email is the best way to reach me*)

**Office Hours:** Drop in anytime via Zoom between 11 and noon on Wednesdays.

The office hour zoom link is available under *Course Information* in Blackboard.

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**Prerequisites:** *PSYCH 1000 - Introduction to Psychology*

**Required Materials:** This course uses Open Educational Resources (OER) which means they are all FREE and available online or on Blackboard.

**Hunter College Course Description:** Aggression, sleep, learning, communication, emotion, motivation and social behavior in humans and other species; underlying mechanisms, development, evolutionary history.

### Hunter College Learning Objectives

1. Understand the evolutionary forces that can influence behavior, including selection, mutation, gene flow, and genetic drift.
2. Be able to fully describe animal behaviors by considering different but complementary perspectives.
3. Explain why animals evolve different behavioral solutions to similar problems.
4. Describe the diversity of behaviors that have evolved to help humans and nonhuman animals survive and reproduce, such as mating, foraging, communicating, etc.
5. Gain knowledge of how animal behavior research is conducted both conceptually and in practice.

**Course Overview:** In this course, we will learn about the study of behavior from an evolutionary perspective. In the first part of the course, we will focus on evolutionary mechanisms and ask how and why behaviors occur (mechanisms, development, adaptive function, evolution). Then, in the second part of the course, we will apply these concepts to a variety of species and behaviors. During this portion, you will be introduced to important findings from the field of Animal Behavior that have impacted our understanding of behavior. Ultimately, you will be able to use your understanding of evolution and insights from a diverse array of species and behaviors to better explain and contextualize human and non-human animal behavior.

**Your Expectations of Me:** You can expect me to arrive to class and office hours on time, to respond to e-mail messages within 48 hours on business days, to be willing to meet with you for any reason, to present class material in a clear and organized fashion, to do my best to help you grasp the material, to always be enthusiastic about the material, and to maintain a sense of humor. I always intend to be respectful, but if you feel I did not respect you, or offended you or someone, please let me know. I am learning and will continue to learn and your feedback can help me improve how I interact with others and conduct this course.

### **How to succeed in PSYCH 160**

- COMPLETE the readings and/or assignments **before** each class.
- CHECK Blackboard, the class schedule, and your email regularly for announcements, assignments, discussions, and more.
- PARTICIPATE in class discussions and activities. The individual and group activities we will do are designed to increase your engagement and processing of the material. This has been shown to lead to longer-lasting, more flexible learning.
- SEEK my assistance. We've all needed help with something at some point in our lives. If you find yourself not understanding something, please talk to me or your classmates.

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### **Grading:**

<b>Assessment</b>	<b>Percent of Grade</b>
1. Discussion Boards & Speaker Duty	20%
2. Homework Assignments	20%
3. Museum Assignment	10%
4. Three Section Exams	30%
5. Cumulative Final Exam	20%

### Total Percent Possible/Corresponding Letter Grade

A+	97.5-100.0	B-	80.0-82.4
A	92.5-97.4	C+	77.5-79.9
A-	90.0-92.4	C	70.0-77.4
B+	87.5-89.9	D	60.0-69.9
B	82.5-87.4	F	0.0-59.9

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#### 1. Discussion Boards & Speaker Duty (20%)

- Most weeks will have a prompt that you will need to respond to (on Blackboard) that is related to the material we will cover in class.
- Discussion board posts are graded as complete/incomplete.
- There will be approximately 12 throughout the semester and you will be able to drop 2 (i.e., you can miss 2 short responses without impacting your grade).
- In addition to completing at least 10 of the discussion boards, you will be required to share your response at least once in class and engage in the class discussion on the date you sign up for (Speaker Duty).
- **No late discussion boards are accepted** because we will discuss the prompt in class soon after it is due.

#### 2. Homework Assignments (20%)

- There are **4 HW Assignments** that are submitted through blackboard. These assignments are based on in-class activities.
- While these are graded, most of the grade is based on effort, and a smaller portion of the grade is based on correctness.
- **LATE HW assignments:** There is a 24-hour grace period after the due date (i.e., you can hand in the paper late as long as that submission is within 24 hrs of the due date). After this grace period, you will be deducted 10% for every late day. No HW assignments will be accepted 5 days after the due date.

#### 3. Museum Visit Assignment (10%)

- During the second half of the semester, before we cover Human Evolution & Behavior, you will be asked to visit the Museum of Natural History. At the museum you will complete an assignment that requires you to engage with the exhibits in the *Hall of Human Origin*.

#### 4. & 5. Section Exams (30%) & Cumulative Final Exam (20%)

- All exams will consist of multiple-choice and short-answer questions.
- There will be **three section exams** that are not cumulative.

- The final exam is cumulative, it will cover the material on the three-section exams and the new material on Human Evolution and Behavior.
- All students must take the cumulative exam during the university-assigned exam period.
- Inform Me within 48 Hours of a Missed Exam. Serious illness, death in the family, and other grave events are unfortunately a part of life. A make-up exam will be provided for those with extenuating circumstances. Make-up exams must be completed within 10 days of the original test date.

### **Attendance Information**

- You will not be graded on your attendance but the HW assignments and some of the discussion boards will be based on in-class activities. If you miss a class with an activity it is your responsibility to acquire the information needed to complete the assignment from your classmates.
- An absence, regardless of the cause, does not relieve you from the responsibilities of that class period.
- If you miss a class, please do NOT notify me. \*\*\*If you are going to miss multiple classes due to a personal issue please let me know.\*\*\*

### **Interactions in and outside of Class**

- During the semester, I will encourage you to share your opinions. Please remember that each of us is unique, and therefore each of us has the right to our views. Having said that, it is perfectly fine for you to disagree with each other's views, but you must always remain respectful.
- Sharing in this class is not an agreement to have that information shared with people outside of this class. Uploading lecture video/audio to the internet or sharing with anyone outside the class is disrespectful and should never be done. Especially if it contains your classmates or myself.

### **Tools we will use:**

#### **Blackboard (BB)**

- We will use BB and many of its features. Make sure you have access.
- BB works best with Chrome, Safari, Firefox, and Edge2. Make sure the browser is up to date.
- I will contact you through your BB email, make sure it is set to an email you check regularly.

#### **Socrative**

- We may occasionally use Socrative to answer questions in class.
- This is a free live-polling app that you can access at [socrative.com](http://socrative.com).

- If you do not have a device to access Socrative you can answer prompts on paper and hand them in at the end of the class.

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## Policies and Places

**Syllabus Change Policy:** Except for changes that substantially affect the implementation of the evaluation (grading) statement, this syllabus is a guide for the course and is subject to change with advance notice. When the syllabus is changed there will be an announcement in class and on blackboard.

**Recording of Remote Classes:** Students who participate in this class with their camera on or use a profile image are agreeing to have their video or image recorded solely for the purpose of creating a record for students enrolled in the class to refer to, including those enrolled students who are unable to attend live. If you are unwilling to consent to have your profile or video image recorded, be sure to keep your camera off and do not use a profile image. Likewise, students who un-mute during class and participate orally are agreeing to have their voices recorded. If you are not willing to consent to have your voice recorded during class, you will need to keep your mute button activated and communicate exclusively using the “chat” feature, which allows students to type questions and comments live.

**ADA Policy:** In compliance with the American Disability Act of 1990 (ADA) and with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Hunter College is committed to ensuring educational parity and accommodations for all students with documented disabilities and/or medical conditions. It is recommended that all students with documented disabilities (Emotional, Medical, Physical, and/or Learning) consult the Office of AccessABILITY, located in Room E1214B, to secure necessary academic accommodations. For further information and assistance, please call: (212) 772- 4857 or (212) 650-3230.

**Counseling & Wellness Services:** Counseling Services, a division of Hunter College Counseling & Wellness Services, offers confidential and free short-term counseling to all Hunter College students. For information and appointments contact the Counseling Services in **Room E1123, call (212)772-4931, or email at PersonalCounseling@hunter.cuny.edu**

**The Reading/Writing Center:** The Hunter College Reading/Writing Center offers free tutorial writing services to all registered students at the college – I strongly encourage you to take advantage of these services! The writing center offers both regular weekly tutorial sessions and drop-in assistance Monday - Saturday. The Reading/Writing Center is located in **Room TH416**.

**Hunter College Policy on Academic Integrity:** Hunter College regards acts of academic dishonesty (e.g., plagiarism, cheating on examinations, obtaining unfair advantage, and falsification of records and official documents) as serious offenses against the values of intellectual honesty. The College is committed to enforcing the CUNY Policy on Academic Integrity and will pursue cases of academic dishonesty according to the Hunter College Academic Integrity Procedures:  
<http://www.hunter.cuny.edu/studentaffairs/student-conduct/academic-integrity/welcome-academic-integrity/?searchterm=integrity>

**Sexual Misconduct:** In compliance with the CUNY Policy on Sexual Misconduct, Hunter College reaffirms the prohibition of any sexual misconduct, which includes sexual violence, sexual harassment, and gender-based harassment retaliation against students, employees, or visitors, as well as certain intimate relationships. Students who have experienced any form of sexual violence on or off campus (including CUNY-sponsored trips and events) are entitled to the rights outlined in the Bill of Rights for Hunter College. a. Sexual Violence: Students are strongly encouraged to immediately report the incident by calling 911, contacting NYPD Special Victims Division Hotline (646-610-7272) or their local police precinct, or contacting the College's Public Safety Office (212-772-4444). b. All Other Forms of Sexual Misconduct: Students are also encouraged to contact the College's Title IX Campus Coordinator, Dean John Rose (jtrose@hunter.cuny.edu or 212-650-3262) or Colleen Barry (colleen.barry@hunter.cuny.edu or 212-772-4534) and seek complimentary services through the Counseling and Wellness Services Office, Hunter East 1123.

CUNY Policy on Sexual Misconduct

<http://www.hunter.cuny.edu/diversityandcompliance/repository/files/cuny-policy-on-sexual-misconduct.pdf>

## Class Schedule

DB - discussion board, HW - homework

Week #	Day of Class	Topic	Major Deadlines
1	Fr 8/25	Intro & Orientation	
2	Tu 8/29	History & Natural Selection 1	DB1 - Evolution before Darwin
2	Fr 9/1	Natural Selection 2 with ACTIVITY	
3	Tu 9/5	Raw Material	HW1 - Natural selection; DB2 - Example of convergent evolution
3	Fr 9/8	Mechanisms of Evolution 1 with ACTIVITY	
4	Tu 9/12	Mechanisms of Evolution 2	HW2 - Genetic drift; DB3 - Bottleneck or founder effect example
	Th 9/14	<i>Last day to drop course without a grade of "W"</i>	
	Fr 9/15	NO CLASS	
5	Tu 9/19	Sexual Selection 1 with ACTIVITY	

5	Fr 9/22	Sexual Selection 2 & Review	DB4 - Human example of inter or intrasexual selection
6	Tu 9/26	<b>Exam 1</b>	
6	Fr 9/29	Explaining Behavior 1 (online - ASYNC)	
7	Tu 10/3	Explaining Behavior 2	DB5 - Interesting sleeping behavior
7	Fr 10/6	Mating Systems with ACTIVITY	
	Tu 10/10	NO CLASS (Classes follow a Monday Schedule)	
8	Fr 10/13	Mating Systems & Sexual Behaviors 2	DB6 - Monogamy in humans
9	Tu 10/17	Parenting Behavior	HW3 - Mating systems; DB7 - Example of low- and high-parental care
9	Fr 10/20	Communication 1	
10	Tu 10/24	Communication 2 & Review	DB8 - Example of human-animal communication
10	Fr 10/27	Aggression & Emotions (on Exam 3)	
11	Tu 10/31	<b>Exam 2</b>	
11	Fr 11/3	Altruism & Kinship 1	
12	Tu 11/7	Altruism & Kinship 2	DB9 - Natural selection of menopause
12	Fr 11/10	Sociality & Cooperation 1 with ACTIVITY	DB10 - Costs and benefits of group living
13	Tu 11/14	Sociality & Cooperation 2	
13	Fr 11/17	Animal Cognition 1	HW4 - Evolution of cooperation; DB11 - Example of an animal thinking
14	Tu 11/21	Animal Cognition 2	
	Fr 11/24	NO CLASS	

15	Tu 11/28	<b>Exam 3</b>	
15	Fr 12/1	Human Evolution & Behavior 1 (Museum Visit)	
16	Tu 12/5	Human Evolution & Behavior 2	Museum Trip Assignment; DB12 - Museum trip
16	Fr 12/8	Finishing Up & Review	
	Tu 12/12	NO CLASS Reading day	
	12/13-12/20	Final Exam	