

Socy 4090/5090 001 Evolution and Gender

FALL 2009
Class meets:
MW 12:30 pm - 1:45 pm
Smith 217
e-mail: rlhopcro@uncc.edu

Prof. Rosemary Hopcroft
Office: Fretwell 490B
Office Hours: 2 pm-3 pm MW
and By Appointment
Phone: (704) 687 4156
Web site: www.uncc.edu/rlhopcro

Introduction:

This class looks at the implications of evolution for gender and gender differences. These include gender differences in mate selection, sexual behavior, aggression, emotion, communication styles, as well as differences in parental investment by gender. We also examine the evolutionary origins of patriarchy.

Required Readings:

There are three required readings:

Nancy Etcoff. 1999. *Survival of the Prettiest*.
Dianne Hales. 1999. *Just Like a Woman*.
Robert Wright. 1994. *The Moral Animal*.

All of these books are on sale at the UNC Charlotte bookstore and Gray's bookstore, or you may order them from Amazon.com (latest edition, paper back is fine). You will be reading each of these books in full, so feel free to start reading them whenever you have the time.

Course Requirements and Grading:

There will be **three exams**. Each exam will consist of ten short answer questions and one essay question. A **book report** will also be required for the course, **due Monday, Nov 30**, at the beginning of class. No e-mailed book reports are accepted.

Each student must choose one book from a list of books (see website) for their book report. *The final exam will be Wednesday DEC 16, 12.30-1.45 pm.*

Each exam counts as 30% of the final grade. The **book report counts as 10%** of the final grade.

General Course Policies:

My most general policy is this: if you have a problem with completing the course requirements, see me about it AHEAD of time.

Makeups of exams will be given only under the following circumstances: (a) you contact me *prior* to the exam date with an *unavoidable, legitimate reason* for not taking the exam on time, (voice mail is OK, as long as you let me know BEFORE class); and/or (b) you provide *written* evidence (medical excuse, funeral notice) for why you did not take the exam at the scheduled time.

All makeups must be completed within one week of the originally scheduled exam date -- it is *your responsibility* to contact me to arrange for the makeup. Leaving a message for me is not adequate, as it is not my responsibility to contact you. Missed makeup exams will be recorded as a zero.

Please note: Due to problems with computer viruses, I do not accept e-mailed papers or assignments.

The reading schedule follows below. Lectures will not typically follow the readings. In addition, the reading schedule and general announcements are posted on my web site at www.uncc.edu/rhopro. You are responsible for reading the assigned material before class, attending class, and participating in class activities.

STATEMENT ON ACADEMIC INTEGRITY
(from Faculty Handbook, May 1992, p. 16)

"All UNCC students have the responsibility to be familiar with and to observe the requirements of The UNCC Code of Student Academic Integrity (see the Catalog, or go to <http://www.uncc.edu/policystate/ps-105.html>). This code forbids cheating, fabrication or falsification of information, multiple submission of academic work, plagiarism, abuse of academic materials (such as Library books on reserve), and complicity in academic dishonesty (helping others to violate the code). Any further specific requirements or permission regarding academic integrity in this course will be stated by the instructor, and are also binding on the students in this course. Students who violate the code can be punished to the extent of being permanently expelled from UNCC and having this fact recorded on their official transcripts. The normal penalty is zero credit on the work involving dishonesty and further substantial reduction of the course grade. In almost all cases, the course grade is reduced to 'F'. If you do not have a copy of the code, you can obtain one from the web or from the Dean of Students Office. Standards of academic integrity will be enforced in this course. Students are expected to report cases of academic dishonesty they become aware of to the course instructor who is responsible for dealing with them."

Reading Schedule:

Note: This schedule may flex. Pay attention in class to any changes.

Week 1 (Aug 24): Intro. The Evolutionary approach to human behavior and common misunderstandings about evolutionary theory

Reading: *The Moral Animal* Chapters 1 and 2

Video: *The Human Quest: The nature of human nature*

Part I: Sex Differences in Evolved Mating Strategies

Week 2 (Aug 31): Gender and evolution
Reading: *The Moral Animal* Chapters 3 and 4

Week 3 (Sep 9): Women's evolved long term mating strategies
Reading: From *Just Like a Woman* Chapters 1, 2 & 3
Video: *The Human Quest: The social brain*
(No classes Monday, Sep 7, Labor Day)

Week 4 (Sep 14): Men's evolved long term mating strategies
Reading: *The Moral Animal* Chapters 5 & 6

Week 5 (Sep 21): What is beauty? Why do we want it?
Reading: *Survival of the Prettiest* Chapters 4, 5 & 6
Video: *The Human Face*

Week 6 (Sep 28): Sex differences in short term sexual strategies
Reading: *Survival of the Prettiest* Chapters 1, 2 & 3
Exam 1 (tentative)

Part II. Women and Men

Week 7 (Oct 5): Are women weaker? Biological differences between the sexes
Reading: From *Just Like a Woman*: Chapters 4, 5 & 6
Video: *The Hunters*

Week 8 (Oct 14): The reproductive lifecourse of women
Reading: From *Just Like a Woman*: Chapters 7, 8, 9 & 10

Week 9 (Oct 19) Gender differences in aggression and criminality
Reading: From *The Moral Animal* Chapters 11, 12 and 13
Video: *Biosociology of Dominance and Deference*
No classes October 12-13, Fall Break.

Week 10 (Oct 26): Gender and emotion
Reading: From *Just Like a Woman*
Chapters 11, 12 & 13
Exam 2 (tentative)

Part III. Implications of Sex Differences

Week 11 (Nov 2): Evolutionary origins of patriarchy: Societal control of women through the ages

Reading: *The Moral Animal* Chapters 7, 8, 9 & 10
Video: *Men and women and the sex difference*

Week 12 (Nov 9): Parental strategies: Differences by child's gender
Reading: *The Moral Animal* Chapters 14 & 15

Week 13: (Nov 16) Boys and girls in school
Reading: *Survival of the Prettiest* Chapters 7 & 8
Video: *The Human Quest: The way of science*

Week 14: (Nov 23) Conflict between the sexes
Reading: *The Moral Animal* Chapters 16, 17 and 18

Week 15: (Nov 30) But can they talk it out? Problems of communication
Reading: *Just Like a Woman* Chapters 14 & 15
No classes November 25-27, Thanksgiving Break.
Book Report Due Monday Nov 30.

Week 16: (Dec 7)
Video: *He Said, She Said- Gender, language and communication*

Review
Last day of classes is December 9.
Final exam will be Wednesday, DEC 16, 12.30-1:45 pm.