

<b>EVOLUTIONARY PSYCHOLOGY</b>				
Instructor in charge of the subject:	Number of classes per semester <sup>1</sup> : <b>30 (lectures / seminars)</b>	Number of credits: <b>3</b>	Prerequisites:	
Instructors: <b>Mihály Berkics</b>	Course status: <b>compulsory / compulsory elective / elective</b>	Semester: <b>autumn / <u>spring</u></b>	language: <b>English</b>	type of grade: exam
			semester: <b>I</b>	<b>method of evaluation:</b> exam
<b><i>Aims and objectives of the course:</i></b>				
<p>This course will introduce basic principles and terms and will cover most relevant topics of evolutionary psychology, aiming to develop a scientific attitude towards the “causes” of various human behaviors and to enhance the ability of students to critically interpret results of related research.</p> <p>Students shall learn about the basic principles of evolutionary theory and its applications to psychological phenomena, and develop an understanding of what an evolutionary approach can bring to our knowledge of human behavior and mental processes: that natural selection affects not only morphological features and physiological processes of living beings, but also the nervous system, the brain, and thus mental processes and behavior, even in humans. Evolutionary accounts of a range of psychological topics will be reviewed: altruism and cooperation, within-group and between-group competition, mating preferences and behavior, parental strategies, social cognition, and even language and culture.</p>				
<b><i>Short summary of topics covered, skills and competences to be developed and acquired:</i></b>				
<b><i>Introduction</i></b>				
What is evolution and what is evolutionary psychology?				
<b><i>Basics: problems and adaptations</i></b>				
How does evolution and natural selection work? Adaptational problems, pressures, and solutions. The ‘logics’ of evolutionary thinking.				
<b><i>Basics: selection at various levels (genes, individuals... and groups?)</i></b>				
From the question of altruism or why people (and animals) are often selfless in a competitive world to kin selection, cooperation and beyond. Three psychological aspects: as humans, we have sexes, we have groups, and we have minds.				
<b><i>We have sexes</i></b>				
Sexual reproduction as the basic context of crucial adaptational problems. Sexual strategies by men and women, with long- and short-term horizons – and just a glimpse of the huge body of literature that has been written (and is being written) on this. Parental investment and parental strategies.				
<b><i>We have groups</i></b>				
The ease and the burden of living in groups: cooperation and competition, often at the same time. How have humans (and animals?) adapted to this? The evolution of moral emotions and morality. Hierarchies in human (and animal) groups. Intergroup relations, see archaeological and historical evidence: war, war, and more war. Sometimes peace and business. Until the next war!				
<b><i>We have minds</i></b>				
Cognitive adaptations in humans – and in animals. Language. The Theory of Mind. Can animals have them? When minds break: the evolutionary psychology of mental disorders.				
<b><i>Closure</i></b>				
What is evolutionary psychology and what it is not. Criticism and bad feelings... if any. What we know, what we don’t know, and what we can (should? may?) ask, including weird questions like the pace of evolution, its possible future directions, the future evolution of humankind, maybe evolution of robots, or evolution of aliens?				
<b><i>Course requirements during the term:</i></b>				
Written exam at the end of the semester.				
<b><i>Available materials to facilitate the acquisition of knowledge contents, skills and competences</i></b>				
Readings + lecture materials (slides)				
<b><i>Required reading:</i></b>				
Dunbar, R., Barrett, L., Lycett, J. (2007) Evolutionary psychology: A beginner’s guide. Oneworld Books.				
<b><i>Recommended reading:</i></b>				
Evans, D., Zarate, O. (2000) Introducing evolutionary psychology. Totem Books.				
<b><i>The course aims to develop the following competences listed in the official programme and outcome requirements:</i></b>				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• knowledge of basic concepts and terms of evolutionary psychology</li> </ul>				

<sup>1</sup> 1 class = 45 minutes

- ability to place acquired material in the larger context of psychology and realize connections between topics
- scientific evaluation of psychological problems related to evolutionary psychology
- critically interpretation of related research and their results
- ability to integrate the contributions of these new and rapidly developing fields into a general framework of psychology
- formulating individual opinion based on the acquired material

## **7.1. Professional competencies to acquire**

### 7.1.1 Human Behavior Analyst

#### *a) Knowledge*

- is familiar with the introductory theories of the history of philosophy, social studies, communication, IT, library studies, Intro courses (Introduction to Psychology; the main areas of psychology; the biological foundations of psychology).
- is familiar with the most important terminology and phenomena of social psychology (social recognition, attitude organization, cognitive style, individual and social theories, social behavior, helping and aggressive behavior, social role, social identity) and the basic texts and contexts dealing with the formation of European identity.
- is familiar with the typical genres of psychology - written, oral, scientific and public psychology and its set of rules.
- has an overview of the standard procedures of how to understand texts and cultural phenomena, the standard professional contexts of interpretation.
- has adequate knowledge about the analytic and interpretation areas of psychology's main scientific issues.
- is aware of the job opportunities available as a Human Behavior Analyst and what protocols and regulations apply to these positions.
- speaks at least one foreign language at a level adequate to his/her specialty with special attention to terminology.
- realises that the her position when taking up a job will be an Assistant Psychologist

#### *b) Abilities*

- is able to interpret psychological phenomena and is familiar the historical roots of psychology.
- is able to identify cause and effect, think logically and prepare overall analyses
- is able to perceive human behavior in a differentiated way and recognise situations effectively.
- is able to record and evaluate simple tests with the guidance of an expert.
- is able to apply modern presentation tools and give individual presentation in various fields of psychology.
- can identify which tasks belong to his/her job competency profile and knows where the limit is.

#### *c) Attitude*

- is able to cooperate, carry out tasks in a group.
- demonstrates sensitivity and interest in psychological phenomena and problems.

- is able to communicate effectively and has good problem-solving skills.
- behaves in an ethical and human way in human relationships.
- shows empathy, tolerance, flexibility and creativity when applying his/her knowledge.
- possesses self-awareness, self-evaluation and is success-oriented in his/her individual work.
- accepts and employs a health preservation approach and lifestyle.

d) *Autonomy and Responsibility*

- is able to cooperate with others within and outside his/her profession.
- is able to self-study and has an intrinsic motivation for continuous personality development.
- has the ability to take the initiative, to make decisions as an individual and in a group.
- has a sense of individual and group responsibility and is able to think responsibly as an individual and as a group.
- feels responsible for the job done and is aware of its potential consequences.
- takes responsibility for the development areas of the groups, communities entrusted with.
- consciously and responsibly represents not crossing the limits of the competence of his/her profession and does not undertake tasks beyond these limits.