

Issues in Evolutionary Medicine

Syllabus

(subject to change, so do pay attention in class)

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Requirements

Attendance is mandatory.

Class participation (including in-class exercises) will count for 10% of the final grade.

Students are expected to arrive on time, to participate vigorously in discussion and activities, and to attend all classes (there will be a penalty for missing more than two classes).

Topic presentation – 5-min by each student on preliminary work on final project (10%)

2 in-class presentations/leading discussion on readings with handout (10% each = 20%).

4 “response” papers (5% each of final grade = 20%)

“Response papers” 1-2 pages each. Choose the reading assignment from any week and give a thoughtful response to it. What struck you the most about the reading? How does it fit in with the other material we’ve covered? Can include thoughts, comments, queries, etc.

Status report on final project (10%)

Status report should comprise: a synopsis (at least 2 paragraphs) and a 1-2 page outline (or annotated overview) with at least 4 references.

Final project consists of a poster or powerpoint presentation and an 8-12 page paper. Most papers will take the form of a review of the literature on the student's choice of topic related to evolutionary medicine. The paper should include a brief discussion (perhaps in the conclusion) of how the student perceives the emerging field of evolutionary medicine as it is now and what future directions s/he feels it might fruitfully take, and how the paper topic relates to those considerations.

5-page rough draft of final project paper (10%)

Final project poster or powerpoint presentation (10%)

Final project paper (20%)

Extra Credit

Because of the many speakers who come to Case Western Reserve University, numerous opportunities exist for extra credit. To receive extra credit attend the talk and send a 1-paragraph email to the instructor discussing what you found most intellectually stimulating in the talk. If the talk isn't explicitly about evolutionary medicine, you must discuss evolutionary implications (if a medically-oriented talk) or medical implications (if it's an evolution-oriented talk). One-time double extra credit if you ask the speaker a question and include a second paragraph outlining the question & the speaker's response. Total EC: 1/2 pt each toward final grade, max of 6 EC events = max 3 pts, plus one-time double = 3-1/2 total EC points available.

Class structure

This is a hybrid lecture/seminar course. There will be frequent in-class activities, videos and guest lecturers. Students are encouraged to interrupt lecture at any time to ask questions.

Books

(additional course materials will be available on Blackboard)

Perlman, Robert. (2013) *Evolution and Medicine*. Oxford

Zuk, Marlene. (2012) *Paleofantasy: What Evolution Really Tells Us About Sex, Diet, and How We Live*. Norton Books

Jablonski, Nina (2012) *Living Color: The Biological and Social Meaning of Skin Color*; Univ of California Press

Course schedule is available on Blackboard

Check the Blackboard site frequently for announcements & changes to the syllabus