

## **Anthropology 306: Human Behavioral Ecology**

MW 9:30-10:45

Manchester Hall 327

**Spring 2001**

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This class is designed as an introductory graduate-level anthropology course in human behavioral ecology. The principal purpose of the class is to provide students with a broad, but deep, overview of the major theoretical issues in Human Behavioral Ecology and of the empirical data that have been brought to bear on those issues. The class will have a seminar format. This means that all students are *required* to read all assigned readings *before* the class, and must be *prepared to discuss* them in class. Preparation for discussion implies both note-taking and time allocated to synthesizing the material. Students should expect to be called on and to evidence preparation for discussion. The general tone of the discussion should be supportive of a free exchange of ideas. Approximately, 45% of the grade for the class will be based on the *quality* of class participation. Students will be expected to make at least one presentation during the semester (20%). The remainder of the grade (35%) will be based on a critical literature review or research paper that explores a topic in behavioral ecology. All paper topics will need to be approved. Determination of whether to pursue a critical literature review or a research paper should be based on where you are in your own research program in graduate school. All papers are due by noon on May 11.

Readings will primarily consist of book chapters and journal articles. The two required texts for the class are available at the UConn Co-op:

Evolutionary Ecology and Human Behavior, edited by Smith and Winterhalder

Adaptation and Human Behavior: An Anthropological Perspective, edited by Cronk et al.

### **Topics and Readings**

The following is a tentative schedule of readings. Dates are not posted since they are likely to change depending on the pace of the class. Additional readings will be added throughout the semester based on students' interests.

#### **Introduction to Human Behavioral Ecology**

##### **Introduction to Natural Selection and Behavior**

Winterhalder and Smith: *Evolutionary Ecology and the Social Sciences* (S&W)

Smith and Winterhalder: *Natural Selection and Decision Making* (S&W)

Smith: *Three Styles in the Evolutionary Analysis of Human Behavior* (Cronk)

Smith et al.: *Controversies in the Evolutionary Social Sciences*

##### **Optimization Theory, ESS Theory, and Decision Making**

Parker and Maynard Smith: *Optimality Theory in Evolutionary Biology*

Dawkins: *Good Strategy or Evolutionarily Stable Strategy?*

Krebs and Kacelnik: *Decision Making*

##### **Data Collection**

Hames: *Time Allocation* (S&W)

## **Life History Theory**

- Kaplan et al.: *A Theory of Human Life History Evolution: Diet, Intelligence, and Longevity*  
Borgerhoff Mulder: *Reproductive Decisions (S&W)*  
Wilson and Daly: *Life Expectancy, Economic Inequality, Homicide, and Reproductive Timing in Chicago Neighborhoods*

## **Polygyny**

- Strassman: *Polygyny, Family Structure, and Child Mortality (Cronk)*

## **Fertility**

- Sellen et al.: *Fertility, Offspring Quality, and Wealth in Datoga Pastoralists (Cronk)*  
Borgerhoff Mulder: *Optimizing Offspring: The Quantity-Quality tradeoff in Agropastoral Kipsigis*

## **Parenting**

- Hewlett et al.: *Parental Investment Strategies among Aka Foragers, Ngandu Farmers, and Euro-American Urban Industrialists (Cronk)*  
Lancaster and Kaplan: *Parenting Other Men's Children: Costs, Benefits, and Consequences (Cronk)*  
Hawkes et al.: *The Grandmother Hypothesis and Human Evolution (Cronk)*

## **Demographic Transition**

- Mace: *An Adaptive Model of Human Reproductive Rate Where Wealth is Inherited (Cronk)*  
Kaplan and Lancaster: *The Evolutionary Economics and Psychology of the Demographic Transition to Low Fertility (Cronk)*  
Luttbeg et al.: *To Marry Again or Not: A Dynamic Model of the Demographic Transition (Cronk)*

## **Environmental Conservation**

- Kaplan and Hill: *The Evolutionary Ecology of Food Acquisition (S&W)*  
Alvard: *Intraspecific Prey Choice by Amazonian Hunters*  
Ruttan and Borgerhoff Mulder: *Are East African Pastoralists Truly Conservationists?*

## **Food Sharing**

- Hawkes: *Sharing and Collective Action (S&W)*  
Boone: *Competition, Conflict, and the Development of Social Hierarchies (S&W)*  
Winterhalder: *Social Foraging and the Behavioral Ecology of Intragroup Resource Transfers*  
Kaplan and Hill: *Food Sharing among Ache Foragers: Tests of Explanatory Hypotheses*  
Hames: *Reciprocal Altruism in Yanomamo Food Exchange (Cronk)*  
Sugiyama and Chacon: *Effects of Illness and Injury on Foraging among the Yora and Shiwiari (Cronk)*  
Gurven et al.: *"It's a Wonderful Life": Signaling Generosity among the Ache of Paraguay*  
Gurven et al.: *Food Transfers among Hiwi Foragers: Tests of Reciprocity*

## **Cooperation**

- Jones: *Group Nepotism and Human Kinship*  
McMillan and Hill: *Hunter-Gatherer Residential Group Size*

## **Warfare**

- Patton: *Reciprocal Altruism and Warfare: A Case from the Ecuadorian Amazon (Cronk)*

## **Ethnicity**

- McElreath et al.: *Shared Norms Can Lead to the Evolution of Ethnic Markers*