This class is designed as a graduate-level introduction to the evolution of human sociality. The principal purpose of the class is to provide students with a broad, but deep, overview of the major theoretical issues concerning the evolution of human sociality and of the empirical data that have been brought to bear on those issues. The approach to our subject will be cross-disciplinary and readings will be drawn from anthropology, biology, economics, political science, and psychology.

This class will have a seminar format. 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. 40% of the grade for the class will be based on the quality of class participation. 25% of the grade will be based on a class presentation. The remainder of the grade (35%) will be based on a critical literature review or research paper that explores one of the topics covered in class. All presentation and 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.

Book chapters and journal articles will be placed in the Anthropology Reading Room. Readings may only be removed to photocopy and may not leave the 3rd floor of Manchester Hall. In addition to book chapters and journal articles, there are three required texts for this class, which are available at the UConn Co-op.

The Evolution of Cooperation by Robert Axelrod
Passions Within Reason by Robert Frank
The Evolution of Culture by Robin Dunbar, Chris Knight, and Camilla Power

The following is list of possible presentation topics. Other topics may be pursued if approved.
alloparental care
cooperation and punishment
cooperation and uncertainty
cooperative foraging
costly signaling
cultural evolution
cultural transmission models
ESS theory
evolution of morality
evolution of religion
fairness
food sharing
group selection
handicap principle
hierarchy
inter-group competition
optimal group size
origins of art
prisoner’s dilemma (theory, laboratory experiments, computer simulations)
public goods
reciprocity
sexual division of labor
social contracts and cheater/altruist detection
social dilemmas / collective action problems
social organization
trust
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 may be added. Student presentations will be interspersed with class discussions.

**Wed., Jan 26**
Introduction
The evolution of human sociality: clarifying the problem

1. **Mon., Jan 31**  The evolution of cooperation
   Readings:
   *The Evolution of Cooperation*, Chapters: 1, 2, 3

2. The evolution of cooperation
   Readings:
   *The Evolution of Cooperation*, Chapters: 5, 6

3. The evolution of cooperation
   Readings:
   *The Evolution of Cooperation*, Chapters: 7, 8, 9

4. Beyond self interest
   Readings:
   Caporael et al. 1989
   *Selfishness examined: cooperation in the absence of egoistic incentives*

5. Moral sentiments
   Readings:
   *Passions Within Reason*, Chapters: 1, 2, 3

6. Reputation and Signaling
   Readings:
   *Passions Within Reason*, Chapters: 4, 5, 6

7. Fairness
   Readings:
   *Passions Within Reason*, Chapters: 7, 8, 9

8. Altruism
   Readings:
   *Passions Within Reason*, Chapter: 11

9. Group Selection
   Readings:
   Wilson and Sober 1994
   *Reintroducing group selection to the human behavioral sciences*

10. Social organization
    Readings:
    Rodseth et al. 1991
    *The human community as a primate society*

11. Social Organization
    Readings:
    *The Evolution of Culture*, Chapters: 1, 2

12. Symbolism
    Readings:
    *The Evolution of Culture*, Chapters: 3, 4

13. Origins of art
    Readings:
    *The Evolution of Culture*, Chapter: 6

14. Supernatural beliefs
    Readings:
    *The Evolution of Culture*, Chapter: 8

15. Evolution of Language
    Readings:
    *The Evolution of Culture*, Chapter: 9

16. Evolution of Language
    Readings:
    *The Evolution of Culture*, Chapters: 10, 11

17. Food Sharing
    Readings:
    Gurven et al. 2000
    *‘It’s a wonderful life’: signaling generosity among the Ache of Paraguay*

18. Sexual division of labor
    Readings:
    Bliege-Bird 1999
    *Cooperation and conflict: the behavioral ecology of the sexual division of labor*
    K. Hill et al. 2000
    Title TBA

19. Social Niche Hypothesis
    Readings:
    L. Sugiyma
    Title TBA

20. Inter-group competition
    Readings:
    J. Rabbie
    Title TBA