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| **Class name** | Main Topics in Evolutionary Psychology |  |
| **Field of study** | Cognitive Science |
| **Erasmus code** | PL\_UMCS\_Phil\_25 |
| **Course level** | Undergraduate Course |
| **Department** | Department of Philosophy |
| **Study semester** | Winter / Summer |
| **Course duration** | 30 hours (class) |
| **Course description** | The main purpose of the class is to acquaint students with the scientific literature about the evolutionary perspective on selected topic of contemporary psychological research. Some of the topics discussed during the class include: the mechanism of natural selection, sexual selection and genetic drift, as well as their influence on the formation of *homo sapiens sapiens* foraging, anti-predatory and mating behaviour. The partial list of topics to be presented:1) The hypothesis of behavioural immune system (BIS), postulating a direct connection between the parasite avoidance strategies and a variety of psychological phenomena, such as food aversions, ethnocentrism, xenophoby or a disgust resulting from the violation of moral norms2) The diversity of parenting investment strategies, their influence on the formation of social bonds and the link between the investment type and personality development 3) Different types of cooperation behaviour resulting from kin altruism, reciprocal altruism or by-product mutualism 4) The nascent field of evolutionary psychopathology offering the ultimate-level explanations of mental diseases, and the reasons behind their prevalence in modern society5) The link between biological evolution and culture, along with the mechanism of horizontal and vertical transmission of cultural innovations6) The evolutionary explanations of superstitious behaviour and religious beliefs7) Different foraging models and their relevance to modern human food acquisition strategies |
| **Learning outcomes** | **Knowledge** | **Assessment methods** | **Departmental educational outcomes**  |
|  | 1 Student knows some advanced biological terminology and applies it to the description of human behaviour | Active classroom participation, oral exam | [K\_W04] |
| 2 Student knows the difference between proximal explanations, widely used in cognitive and social psychology, and ultimate explanations, scrutinized by the evolutionary psychologists | Active classroom participation, oral exam | [K\_W05] |
| 3 Student knows the detailed explanation of some core phenomena described by the evolutionary psychology, such as the behavioural immune system and kin altruism | Active classroom participation, oral exam | [K\_W12] |
| 4 Student know the basic methodology of evolutionary psychology | Active classroom participation, oral exam | [K\_W15] |
| 5 Student knows how to formulate a scientifically valid hypothesis and roughly distinguish between scientific and pseudo-scientific hypotheses | Active classroom participation, oral exam | [K\_W16] |
| **Intellectual skills** |  |
| 1 Student can efficiently communicate his/her observations and analyse the results of scientific researches presented in books and papers about the evolutionary psychology | Active classroom participation, presentation of a chosen topic | [K\_U01] |
| 2 Student can discuss the explanatory power of alternative hypotheses about the subject in question  | Active classroom participation, presentation of a chosen topic | [K\_U02] |
| 3 Student can choose his/her topic of interests and subject it to the scientific scrutiny by studying properly selected scientific literature of the subject | Active classroom participation, presentation of a chosen topic | [K\_U05] |
| 4 Student understands and properly uses technical terms form the field of evolutionary psychology  | Active classroom participation, oral exam | [K\_U11] |
| 5 Student can clearly explain his/her opinion and support it with a proper argument, as well as objectively asses some counter-arguments formulated by other course participants | Active classroom participation, presentation of a chosen topic, oral exam | [K\_U15] |
| **Personal and Social Attitudes** |  |
| 1 Student actively seeks knowledge in the form of papers and books about his/her topic of interest | Active classroom participation, presentation of a chosen topic | [K\_K01]  |
| 2 Student can critically assess hypotheses from the field of evolutionary psychology and formulate his/her own position about the topic presented | Active classroom participation, presentation of a chosen topic | [K\_K03] |
| 3 Student is aware of the fact that many popular books about the evolutionary psychology are considerably biased. | Active classroom participation, presentation of a chosen topic | [K\_K05] |
| **Educational outcomes verification method** | Oral exam |  |
| **Language** | English |
| **Course Supervisor** | Marcin Rządeczka |