

BL4280 Evolution and Human Behaviour

(BL4280 online module handbook version 15)

Credits: 15

Semester: 1

Module Organiser

Dr Mike Webster

mmw1@st-andrews.ac.uk

01334 461690

Pre-requisite Modules:

Permission of biology

honours adviser required

Anti-requisite Modules:

Post-requisite Modules:

Additional Module

Information:

Please [check MMS](#) regularly for additional module information



image: Image by Claude Valette (Own work) [CC BY-SA 4.0 (<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/4.0>)], via Wikimedia Commons

Evolutionary biologists, anthropologists and psychologists have taken evolutionary principles and used them to explain a range of human characteristics, such as homicide, religion and sex differences in behaviour. Other researchers are sceptical of these interpretations, and critical of the methods. Moreover, researchers disagree as to the best ways to use evolution to explore humanity, and a number of schools of thought have emerged. This module will introduce and critically evaluate the main evolutionary approaches currently being used, including socio-biology, evolutionary psychology, behavioural ecology and gene-culture co-evolution.

[View the current Biology Online Module Catalogue for BL4280](#)

[BL4280View BL4280 \(2018/9\) in the University of St Andrews Module Catalogue](#)

Contents:

- Cover
- Contents
- Timetable
- Reading List
- Assessment
- Who To Ask
- Contributing Staff
- Learning Outcomes
- Acquired Skills
- Policies

BL4280: Timetable

Legend (not all modules have every event type):

lecture	tutorial	workshop	practical	other
---------	----------	----------	-----------	-------

Semester 1: Week 1

DATE & TIME	VENUE	STAFF	EVENT
Wednesday 19-09-2018 10:00 to 12:00	Medical and Biological Sciences Building MBS Sem rm 2	Dr Mike Webster	Lecture L1: Introduction <small>2018-9_BL4280_L1</small> Lecture and class discussion

Semester 1: Week 2

DATE & TIME	VENUE	STAFF	EVENT
Wednesday 26-09-2018 10:00 to 12:00	Medical and Biological Sciences Building MBS Sem rm 2	Dr Mike Webster	Lecture L2: Human Sociobiology <small>2018-9_BL4280_L2</small> Lecture and class discussion

Semester 1: Week 3

DATE & TIME	VENUE	STAFF	EVENT
Wednesday 03-10-2018 10:00 to 12:00	Medical and Biological Sciences Building MBS Sem rm 2	Dr Kate Cross	Lecture L3: Evolutionary Psychology <small>2018-9_BL4280_L3</small> Lecture and class discussion

Semester 1: Week 4

DATE & TIME	VENUE	STAFF	EVENT
Wednesday 10-10-2018 10:00 to 12:00	Medical and Biological Sciences Building MBS Sem rm 2	Dr Kate Cross	Lecture L4: Cultural Evolution <small>2018-9_BL4280_L4</small> Lecture and class discussion

Semester 1: Week 5

DATE & TIME	VENUE	STAFF	EVENT
Wednesday 17-10-2018 10:00 to 12:00	Medical and Biological Sciences Building MBS Sem rm 2	Dr Mike Webster	Lecture L5: Human Behavioural Ecology <small>2018-9_BL4280_L5</small> Lecture and class discussion

Semester 1: Week 7

DATE & TIME	VENUE	STAFF	EVENT
Monday 29-10-2018 11:00 to 13:00	Bute Building Lecture Theatre A	Dr Mike Webster	Lecture L6: Comparative Approach <small>2018-9_BL4280_L6</small> Lecture and class discussion

Semester 1: Week 8

DATE & TIME	VENUE	STAFF	EVENT
Monday 05-11-2018 11:00 to 13:00	Bute Building Lecture Theatre A	Dr Mike Webster	Lecture L7: Gene-Culture Co-Evolution <small>2018-9_BL4280_L7</small> Lecture and class discussion

Semester 1: Week 9

DATE & TIME	VENUE	STAFF	EVENT
Monday 12-11-2018 11:00 to 13:00	Bute Building Lecture Theatre A	Dr Mike Webster Dr Kate Cross	Other O1: Class Symposium I <small>2018-9_BL4280_O1</small> Assessed presentations

Semester 1: Week 10

DATE & TIME	VENUE	STAFF	EVENT
Monday 19-11-2018 11:00 to 13:00	Bute Building Lecture Theatre A	Dr Mike Webster Dr Kate Cross	Other O2: Class Symposium II <small>2018-9_BL4280_O2</small> Assessed presentations

Semester 1: Week 11

DATE & TIME	VENUE	STAFF	EVENT
Monday 26-11-2018 11:00 to 13:00	Bute Building Lecture Theatre A	Dr Mike Webster Dr Kate Cross	Other O3: Class Symposium III <small>2018-9_BL4280_O3</small> Assessed presentations

BL4280: Reading List

[BL4280 Click for BL4280 reading list](#)

BL4280: Assessment

1.5-hour Written Examination = 40%, Coursework = 60%

Assessment:

Due by:

Type:

Weight:

Presentation

Feedback due by:

Turnitin

20%

Assessment:

Due by:

Feedback due by:

Type:

Weight:

Reports

19/10/2018 23:59

09/11/2018 23:59

Turnitin

80%

(MMS assessment data cached: 24 April 2019
23:20:18.)

The following related information applies to all
Biology modules:

School of Biology Marking Criteria:

[See School of Biology Undergraduate Handbook](#)

Late submission of continuous assessment work:

All late submissions of coursework that do not require electronic submission should be made via the **late submissions box** in the Biomolecular Science Building (beside the Teaching Office)

Exam details:

[See School of Biology Undergraduate Handbook](#)

Exam timetable:

see

<http://www.st-andrews.ac.uk/students/academic/examinations/examtimetable/current/>

Expected attendance:

[See School of Biology Undergraduate Handbook](#) for detailed attendance requirements.

Good Academic Practice & Avoiding Academic Misconduct:

[See School of Biology Undergraduate Handbook](#)

University Student Handbook:

[University Student Handbook](#)

School and University regulations in the School and University Undergraduate Handbook relating to absence reporting, penalties and rules for late submission of work, extensions for coursework, return of coursework, S-coding, good academic practice and Academic Alerts.:

[School of Biology Undergraduate Handbook](#) [University Student Handbook](#)

Who to ask

(Information in this section applies to all Biology Modules)

Questions about different aspects of the module should be directed to different people:

Questions about

General teaching matters
Rescheduled or cancelled events
Lecture or practical content
Completing assessed practical assignments
Completing assessments

Marking on continuous assessment

Marking on exams

Rearranging practical days

Absence and/or extensions

Difficulties with academic progress which impact more than one module:

Overall performance, progress or future directions:

Disability:

For advice and support on any issue e.g. academic, financial, international, personal or health matters, or if you are unsure of who to go to for help:

University assistance with urgent matters out of office hours:

Contact

Biology Teaching Office (bioteach@st-andrews.ac.uk)

Check your University email

The lecturer who presented the material

The lecturer who set the assignment

Module Organiser (Dr Mike Webster mmw1@st-andrews.ac.uk)

The Demonstrator or Module Organiser (Dr Mike Webster mmw1@st-andrews.ac.uk)

Module Organiser (Dr Mike Webster mmw1@st-andrews.ac.uk)

[Grant Brown](#)

Module Organiser (Dr Mike Webster mmw1@st-andrews.ac.uk) **and** the Biology Teaching Office (bioteach@st-andrews.ac.uk)

Year Coordinator

See [School of Biology Undergraduate student handbook](#) for list:

<http://biology.st-andrews.ac.uk/documents/UndergraduateHandbook.pdf>

Advisor of Studies

Disability Coordinator (Dr Jacqueline Nairn jn37@st-andrews.ac.uk)

Advice & Support Centre

Address: 79 North Street, St Andrews

Email: theasc@st-andrews.ac.uk

Web: <https://www.standrews.ac.uk/ask-a-question/>

Tel: 01334 462020

Tel: 01334 476161

Web: <https://www.st-andrews.ac.uk/students/advice/counselling/incrisis/>

Biology Teaching Office:

We are happy to hear from you about teaching matters. The School of Biology Teaching Office is open Monday to Friday 09.00 - 13.00 and 14.00 - 17.00. School of Biology staff will respond to your emails during these hours. Our team will provide a response to you within three working days.

Biology Teaching Office, The Biology Hive, New Technology Centre, University of St Andrews, North Haugh, St Andrews, Fife KY16 9SR

Email: bioteach@st-andrews.ac.uk

Tel: 01334 463602/3566

BL4280: Contributing Staff



[Dr Mike Webster](#)
(Module Organiser)

Lecturer in Behavioural and
Evolutionary Biology

mmw1@st-andrews.ac.uk



[Dr Kate Cross](#)

Lecturer

cpc2@st-andrews.ac.uk



[Dr Mike Webster](#)
(Module Organiser)

Lecturer in Behavioural and
Evolutionary Biology

mmw1@st-andrews.ac.uk

BL4280: Learning Outcomes

Students completing module BL4280 successfully should be able to:

- Compare and contrast the different approaches taken by researchers in different fields in studying the evolution of human behaviour.
- Critically assess primary research papers in this field.
- Synthesise and communicate research in this field through debates, oral presentations and written critiques.

BL4280: Acquired Skills

Practical Skills

Transferable Skills

- Group discussion - leading
- Group discussion - participating
- Leading short activity
- Short group presentation on given topic (up to 15 min)
- Short individual presentation on given topic (up to 15 min)
- Short individual presentation on project idea (up to 15 min)
- Short informal presentation (using PowerPoint or not)
- Opinion piece
- Paper critique
- Review article on given topic
- Short essay (1000-2000 words)
- Critically evaluating sources/information
- Finding literature
- Referencing
- Generating questions
- Critiquing experimental design
- Working in pairs/small groups

Policies

(Information in this section applies to all Biology Modules)

- The procedures and regulations followed by the School of Biology are outlined in the [University Handbook](#) and in the [School of Biology Undergraduate Handbook](#) (<https://synergy.st-andrews.ac.uk/biocurrentstudent/files/2017/09/UndergraduateHandbook.pdf>).
- All coursework associated with the module must be completed and submitted by its due date.
- Specific School regulations relating to absence reporting, penalties and rules for late submission of work, extensions for coursework, return of coursework, S-coding, Good Academic Practice and Academic Alert are stated in the [School of Biology Undergraduate Handbook](#) and students are required to carefully read these regulations.
- Students are also referred to the University Handbook, available at: <http://www.st-andrews.ac.uk/studenthandbook/>