

Research Paper Guidelines

The course research paper requirement asks you to deal with a “hot button” issue in society that can be usefully informed by an evolutionary understanding of human nature. Ideally, this research will have something to say about an “evolutionary pragmatics”; i.e., what it means for developing the policies by which we live. You can also research an issue where an evolutionary view has been applied but is not proving to be so helpful to our understanding. Pinker’s book, Barash’s article about “The Mysteries of Becoming Human”, and other assigned readings are guides to identifying interesting issues. You may also approach the paper from the standpoint of your particular discipline and consider how that discipline might benefit if it engages more closely with the perspective of Evolutionary Psychology, OR how that discipline challenges Evolutionary Psychology. **You would be wise to run your topic by me before proceeding too far with it.**

Note: a “**Research Paper Prospectus**”, due on May 11, is part of the writing requirement for this course. The Prospectus will outline the topic that you’re working on, why you find the topic interesting, and how you’re researching the topic. In other words, it should provide a “peek behind the curtain” of your thinking and research process. More about this later...

I expect you to delve into the **primary literature** on your topic. You’ll need to cite a minimum of **six** relevant and up-to-date sources from traditional books, scholarly journals, or respectable popular magazines (e.g., *Scientific American*, *New Scientist*, *Discover*, etc.). Using websites is OK, but you shouldn’t overly depend on them. Some good Evolutionary Psychology/Anthropology websites are the following:

- <http://evp.sagepub.com>
- <http://0-link.springer.com.bianca.penlib.du.edu/journal/volumesAndIssues/12110>
- [http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/journal/10.1002/\(ISSN\)1520-6505](http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/journal/10.1002/(ISSN)1520-6505)
- <http://www.hbes.com>
- <http://cogweb.ucla.edu/ep/>
- <http://www.psych.ucsb.edu/research/cep/>

You should frame your paper in a coherent and scholarly way. Be clear about what the focus is. In writing the paper use as many **subheadings** in the body of the paper as you need to break up the text and thereby make it easier to read. An “Introduction” should identify the topic and why it is worth researching. A “Conclusion” should summarize what has been learned and what still needs to be researched.

You should produce a **Title Page** containing the title of the paper and your name, and an **Abstract** page containing a one paragraph summary of what you did and what you learned.

An accurate and properly-formatted **bibliography** of references is expected and will be scrutinized for accuracy and format. **You should use the bibliographic format that Jerome Barkow uses in his article “Biology is Destiny Only if We Ignore It”, that’s posted as a required reading on the course portfolio site.**

Expected research paper length is 10-12 pages. Margins should be one inch on all sides, font should be Times New Roman 12 point. Manuscript pages should be numbered.

The paper is due on Friday, May 27 by 4:00. A hard copy should be delivered to my mailbox in the Anthropology Department, Sturm 146.