CS184 * Modeling the Evolution of Cognition * Spring 2019

Prof: Christine M. Johnson c8johnson@ucsd.edu Ofc Hrs: Tues 3:30-4:30 CSB 250
Reader: Xinmeng Hermione Xu xix124@ucsd.edu Ofc Hrs: Mon 2-2:50 Pepper Canyon 2nd Floor

Class Website: pages.ucsd.edu/~johnson/COGS184/

Course Requirements: (Further Guidelines will be available on Class Website)

- Two Midterms (on material from Lectures, Readings, & Field Trip) 125 points each = 250 pts
- Weekly Reading Commentary (1-2 pages, typed) and Participation in Discussion 25 points each = 175 pts
  - Commentary: 1) Question 2) Criticism 3) Praise 4) Learned 5) Relation to other class info
  - Participation: Active engagement in each week’s discussion (Commentary will help prepare you for this)
- Site Visit to Bio-Anthrpology, Tuesday April 30 Worksheet to be completed on site. 50 pts
- Final Paper Propose & support an evolutionary scenario for developments in human cognition since 5 MYA. Paper, Due at Final Paper & Timeline = 125 pts
- Final Exam Oral & collaborative; Come prepared to discuss Timeline

Total possible points 625 pts

Week Date Topic Readings
1 Tu – Apr 2 Orientation Shreeve, 2010 (NOTE: No discussion/commentary required on this paper only)
   Th – Apr 4 LEC: Evolutionary Theory: The Basics
2 Tu – Apr 9 Discussion, Commentary Due Suddendorf & Corballis 2007
   Th – Apr 11 LEC: Hominid Prehistory: Bones & Stones
3 Tu – Apr 16 Discussion, Commentary Due Dunbar, 1993
   Th – Apr 18 LEC: The Cooperative Primate
4 Tu – Apr 23 Discussion, Commentary Due Arbib, 2005
   Th – Apr 25 LEC: Comparative Neuroanatomy
5 Tu – Apr 30 Site Visit – Bio-Anthropology Worksheet on Site Visit due in class
   Th – May 2 Midterm 1 (No reading/discussion this week)
6 Tu – May 7 LEC: Mimesis Donald, 1993
   Th – May 9 Discussion, Commentary Due
7 Tu – May 14 LEC: Emergence of Speech (No reading/discussion this week)
   Th – May 16 NO CLASS
8 Tu – May 21 LEC: Ontogeny and Phylogeny Falk, 2004
   Th – May 23 Discussion, Commentary Due
   Th – May 30 Discussion, Commentary Due
10 Tu – June 4 Midterm 2 Pre-Timeline & Bibliography Due in class, June 6
    Th – June 6 How to generate evolutionary scenarios Feedback provided on early submissions only

FINAL June 13 Thursday 7-10 pm Place:TBA Oral/Group Final Exam Timeline & Final Paper Due

NOTE: If you have been assigned to the Friday (vs. Thursday) Discussion Group, you will NOT come to class on Thursday of Week 2, 3, 4, 6, 8, & 9. Instead, on those weeks, you will meet on Friday, 3-4:20 in CSB 272
Required Readings – Included on Class Website


Recommended Readings – For background, alternative views, and/or use in final paper


