Instructions for the Essay Assignment

The essay assignment is worth 25% of your final grade and is due in class on Tuesday May 5. LATE ESSAYS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.

Choose one of the following essay topics.

Topic 1.

"Give me a dozen healthy infants, well-formed, and in my own specified world to bring them up, and I will guarantee to take any one at random and train him to become any type of specialist I might select - doctor, lawyer, artist, merchant-chief and yes, even beggar-man and thief, regardless of his talents, penchants, tendencies, abilities, vocations and race of ancestors" (JB Watson 1930 in Cartwright 2008: 12).

Discuss Watson's famous quote with regard to Margaret Mead's (1928) rationale for conducting research in Samoa OR contrast with Napoleon Chagnon’s (1988) rationale for reproductive success amongst the Yanomamo. How do these varied perspectives reflect historical ideas about the workings of the Mind?

Develop your essay with reference to several of the following readings (Reserve Book Room):


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- Hobbes T. 1651/1957. Leviathan. New York: Oxford University Press. Extract “Chapter XIII. Of the Natural Condition of Mankind as Concerning Their Felicity and Misery”. (also available online at Wikisource)

**Topic 3.** Compare and contrast early (Schepartz 1993) vs late emergence models (Mellars 2005) of the evolution of human language.

Develop your essay with reference to several of the following readings (Reserve Book Room):

**Topic 4.** Do selfish genes inevitably lead to selfish behavior? Discuss whether the gene selectionist perspective is deterministic in regard to human behavior and psychology.

Develop your essay with reference to the following readings:

**Topic 5.** In what ways do human life stages (Kaplan et al. 2000) relate to the mating strategies and conflicts discussed in Dawkins and Cartwright?

Develop your essay with reference to the following readings:

**Topic 6.** Compare and contrast the different approaches to understanding the evolution of human behavior represented in the studies by Betzig (1988) and Sugiyama et al. (2002). Refer specifically to the discussion by Symons (1992) when constructing your essay.

Develop your essay with reference to the following readings (Reserve Book Room):


**Essay Length**
The body of your essay will be a minimum of six and a maximum of eight double-spaced pages, 12-point font, 1" margins, excluding references and title page. Use a separate title page with your name and chosen essay topic, and start your reference list on a new page.

**Essay Structure and Grading Expectations**
Refer to *Dr. Sullivan's Undergraduate Essay Guide* (available from the class webpage) for further information on how to plan and organize your essay and my expectations in terms of grading your work.

**Useful full-text journals that are available online at the CSUS library:**
- American Anthropologist
- American Journal of Human Biology
- American Journal of Physical Anthropology
- Current Anthropology
- Evolutionary Anthropology
- Evolution and Human Behavior
- Human Biology
- Journal of Human Evolution
- Nature (except the current year)
- Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences (except the previous 6 months)
- Science (except the current year)