

## **CHDV 242**

### **Ethology and Biological Approaches**

#### **I. Ethology**

##### **A. Position on developmental issues**

##### **B. Assumptions**

1. Evolutionary perspective
2. Innate behavior/learning predispositions
3. What develops?

##### **C. Methodology**

1. ethogram
2. deprivation study

##### **D. Examples:**

1. Attachment – Bowlby
  - Development of attachment
2. Peer relations - Dominance hierarchies

##### **E. Discussion**

1. Is the ethological approach useful in studying attachment and peer relations? Are there other behaviors/developmental outcome you think might be useful to examine using an ethological approach?
2. Consider the role that culture plays in the ethological approach. How might culture help us adapt?
3. Why do you think that developmental researchers are inclined to focus on the “immediate causes” of behavior rather than examining traditional broader evolutionary explanations? What problems do you see with studying evolutionary explanations?
4. Evaluate the ethological approach. What are its strengths and limitations?

#### **II. Other Biological Approaches**

##### **A. The Behavioral Genetics Approach**

1. "How much" rather than "how" /differences in phenotype.
2. Heritability estimates and Concordance rates
3. Discussion Questions
  - Is this a developmental model?
  - What are some problems with this model's definition of environment?

##### **B. Genetic-environment correlation (Scarr & McCartney, 1983)**

1. Simple effects
2. Passive
3. Evocative
4. Active/niche-picking
5. A developmental perspective