PREVIEW OF FINAL EXAM

You will have 3 hours to complete the final exam, although it will be designed to take only about half that time (i.e., it will be comparable in length to the mid-term). The exam covers the Buss text and the accompanying lecture material. Like Exam 1, the exam will consist of two parts: identify/define and short essay.

Part I: Identify/Define. In this section I will ask you to define between 4 and 6 of the terms below in about 2-3 sentences each.

Garcia effect  Wason card task
the “Modern Synthesis” social contract theory
EEA Banker's paradox and “deep engagement”
evolutionary byproducts strategic interference theory
pregnancy sickness dominance theory
savannah hypothesis social attention-holding theory
waist-to-hip ratio theory of mind modules
paternity uncertainty evoked culture
reproductive value (vs. fertility) commitment device (a la Frank)
sperm morphs sociometer theory of self-esteem
spandrel emotional vs. sexual infidelity
exaptation double-shot hypothesis (re jealousy)
Hamilton's rule attachment theory
sexual strategies theory

Part II: Essay. In this section there will be 4 essay questions, from which you will choose 3. Each is to be answered in about 2-3 paragraphs. Here are a few examples of the kinds of questions I have in mind. At least one of the exam questions will come from this sample list.

1. Discuss two common, and mainly dysfunctional (today), human fears or phobias with respect to the idea of “Stone-age minds in modern environments.”

2. Discuss at least three kinds of evidence/argument that are sometimes cited as evidence that religion reflects an adaptation, and explain why (according to your beloved instructor) they are not convincing.

3. Discuss the adaptive costs and benefits of short-term mating strategies for women, as compared to men.

4. Summarize at least three common misunderstandings about evolutionary theory discussed by Buss, and explain why they are “mis”-understandings.

5. Is aggression part of human nature? [Note: This one’s a “thinker.”]