

Emory University Emeritus College

Interdisciplinary Seminar on Robert Sapolsky's *Behave*

Fall Semester, 2017
Thursdays at 1:30 p.m.
Luce Center, Room 103

SYLLABUS

<u>DATE</u>	<u>LEADER / PRESENTER</u>	<u>TOPIC & READINGS</u>
Sept 21	Don McCormick, Biochemistry	Genes and Behavior: Molecular Foundations Read: Sapolsky, Chapter 8 + Appendix 3 McCormick, Addendum on Epigenetics _____, Outline _____, Chapter 8 summary
Sept 28	Paul Plotsky, Yerkes Primate Center Mel Konner, Anthropology	A Conversation: Robert Sapolsky and His Work
Oct 5	John Juricek, History	<i>Us-ing and Them-ing</i> in America: White over Black Read: Sapolsky, Chapter 11 Oscar and Mary Handlin, "Origin of the Southern Labor System," <i>William and Mary Quarterly</i> , 3rd ser., VII (1950), 199-222. Winthrop D. Jordan, <i>White Over Black: American Attitudes Toward the Negro, 1550-1812</i> (1968), Chapter 1, pp. 28-43.
Oct 12	Marilynne McKay, Medicine	Asymmetrical Communication: A Male-Female Dichotomy (based on various chapters of <i>Behave</i>) Read: Deborah Tannen: <i>You Just Don't Understand: Women and Men in Conversation</i> (NY: Ballentine, 1990) pp. 23-73, 123-148. Robert Sapolsky, "The Graying of the Troop," in <i>The Trouble with Testosterone and Other Essays . . .</i> (NY: Scribner, 1997), pp. 161-174.
Oct 19	Tolly Williamson, Medical Ministry	War / peace. <i>Behave</i> , Chapter 15, Metaphors We Kill By Read: George Lakoff & Mark Johnson, <i>Metaphors We Live By</i> , Chapters 1-4. J. D. Casnig, <i>War Metaphors</i>
Oct 26	Rudi Makkreel, Philosophy	Morality and Doing the Right Thing: <i>Behave</i> , Chapter 13 Read: Rudi Makkreel, "The Role of Feeling and Judgment in Kant's Moral Philosophy: Recontextualizing Sympathy and Honor"

Nov 2	K. V. Thrivikraman, Medicine	The Neuroanatomical Substrate of Behavior, or Neurons that Fire Together Wire Together. <i>Behave</i> , Chapter 2. Read: [13 selections, all on aspects of neurobiology, brain, and behavior.]
Nov 9	Spencer King, Medicine	Sacred Values. <i>Behave</i> , Chapter 15, Metaphors We Kill By Read: W. J. Cash, <i>The Mind of the South</i> , pp. vii-xi, 246-53, 296-99, 336-37, 428-29. Sapolsky, <i>Behave</i> , focus on pp. 584-86 and also 288-89.
Nov 16	Andy Nahmias, Medicine	Chapter 7 of <i>Behave</i> , Back to the Crib, Back to the Womb Read: from Alison Gopnik, <i>The Gardener and the Carpenter</i> . from Richard Dawkins, <i>The Magic of Reality</i> Selected readings on the microbiome and the placenta.
	Thanksgiving Holiday	
Nov 30	Jim Keller, Medicine	Health Insurance and The Relationship between Poverty and Health. <i>Behave</i> , Chapter 12: Hierarchy, Obedience, and Resistance. Take: the Harvard Implicit Social Attitudes test online Read: Sommers, BD, Gawande, AA, and Baicker, K: Health insurance coverage and health - what the recent evidence tells us. <i>NEJM</i> 377:586-593, 2017 Obama, B: United States health care reform: progress to date and next steps, <i>JAMA</i> 316:525-32, 2016. Gawande, Atul: Is Health Care a Right? <i>The New Yorker</i> p. 48-55, Oct 2, 2017. Daniel Patrick Moynihan, The Negro Family: The Case for National Action (Washington, D.C: Office of Policy Planning and Research, US Department of Labor (1965).
Dec 7	John Bugge, English	Empathy and the Novel. Sapolsky, Chapter 14 Read: Suzanne Keen, <i>Empathy and the Novel</i> , Preface Selection from Virginia Woolf, <i>Mrs. Dalloway</i> Frans de Waal, "Do Animals Feel Empathy?" <i>Scientific American</i> , Dec. 2007 / Jan. 2008 Thrity Umrigar, "I'm Indian. Can I Write Black Characters?" <i>New York Times</i> , Sept. 14, 2017
Dec 14	Gretchen Schulz, English at Oxford	<i>The Iliad, The Odyssey</i> : Sex, Evolution, and the End of Male Supremacy Read: Simone Weil, " <i>The Iliad</i> : The Poem of Force" Selections from <i>The Iliad and The Odyssey</i>