

CCGL9042

The Evolution of Civilization

Study Load

Activities	Number of hours
Lectures	24
Tutorials	12
Reading / Self-study	64
Assessment: Poster presentation (incl preparation)	20
Total:	120

Course Learning Outcomes

1. Demonstrate an understanding and awareness of the various domains of human progress.
2. Describe and explain the basic principles of evolutionary theory as a model for human progress.
3. Demonstrate an understanding of how trade and specialization are central to human advancement.
4. Apply knowledge and understanding of evolutionary theory, psychology, and the scientific method to solving several societal problems.
5. Develop and demonstrate ability to speak effectively, display data in graphs, and convey messages by integrating text and graphics.

Assessment Tasks

Assessment Method	Weighting
Class discussion	30
Presentation	40
In-class quizzes	30

Course Content and Topics

1. Introduction to evolutionary theory and overview of civilization
2. Putting our heads together: Exchange after 200,000 years ago
3. Trading emotions: Trust and rules after 50,000 years ago
4. Growing agriculture: Farming after 10,000 years ago
5. Rising cities: Market places after 5,000 years ago
6. Population explosion: Malthus's trap after 1,000 years ago
7. Measures of success: The goals of government
8. Energy: Release of slaves after 1700
9. Invention: Accelerating returns after 1800
10. Turning points: Perennial pessimism after 1900
11. Climate change: Causes, consequences, and solutions after 2000
12. The future: Rational optimism