ESSAY QUESTIONS FOR THE FINAL EXAM The final examination will include all essays. A subset of the essay questions found here will be included on the exam. Please feel free to bring drafts of your work to Glenn or to one of the TAs to get feedback before the exam.

1. Describe the notion of "Evolutionary Psychology" including its basic premises. Next, address some of the main complaints/mis-characterizations held by critics of evolutionary psychology? Finally, summarize two points made by Geher (2006) in addressing two specific criticisms of this field.
2. Wilson wrote extensively on Teilhard de Chardin and his book *The Phenomenon of Man*. Briefly describe Teilhard’s work as it pertains to both evolution and religion. Finally, describe one specific implication of Teilhard's work that Wilson draws to the attention of the reader - and address how this implication can inform current research related to evolution and humanity.
3. Wilson dedicated a chapter to the immune system. Explain how this system is described as both an adaptation and an evolutionary process in its own right. In your answer, address how evolution creates adaptations that are "context-sensitive."
4. In his book, Wilson tries to improve the city of Binghamton using evolutionarily informed scholarship. Explain his basic reasoning - along with some of the findings of his work that shed light on the nature of the city's problems.
5. Describe the ideas of "natural selection," "adaptation," "genetic fitness," and "reproductive success." In your essay, address how these concepts are inter-related. Finally, address what these concepts imply about understanding evolution at level of genes or of individual organisms (compared with evolution at the level of a species).

6. Skinner conceptualized “operant conditioning” as “selection by consequences.” Briefly describe what this means. In your answer, address the distinction between an “ontogenetic” and a “phylogenetic” timescale. Finally, address how learning, from this perspective, may be thought to parallel Wilson’s conception of the immune system as “an evolutionary process created by an evolutionary process.”

7. Rosemarie Chang’s work on the evolutionary psychology of whining suggests that whining may be an adaptation designed to help children acquire attention from parental caregivers. Briefly describe this idea – and briefly summarize her research that speaks to the cognitive effects of whining.

8. In his summary of the work of Peter Kropotkin, Dugatkin talks about Kropotkin’s interest in evolution and his explorations across the globe to help inform his ideas. Briefly describe Kropotkin’s interest in “mutualistic behaviors” of animals – and address how this idea pertains to the issue of whether evolution can create adaptations that lead to altruism toward conspecifics (i.e., members of the same species).

9. Describe the main findings that Dan Kruger unveiled regarding the male-to-female mortality ratio across the lifespan. In your answer, address how these findings are thought to reflect male-male competition related to intrasexual selection. Finally, address how changes from socialism to capitalism in Eastern Europe seemed to affect this ratio.

10. Dave Michelson’s work on personality reflected in literature used evolution as a basis in several respects. Address the idea of the Big Five personality traits that he used in his work. Additionally, address how (based on the work of Dan Nettle), Michelson sees extreme scores on each of the Big Five traits as having evolutionary costs and benefits. Finally, briefly summarize his analysis of Andrews’ Trine Erotic - in your answer, be sure to address the idea of art of courtship signaling.

11. Robb Wolf’s work on the Paleo Solution is rooted in the idea of an evolutionary mismatch between ancestral and modern conditions. Describe the nature of this mismatch – and specifically address the importance of the advent of agriculture in leading to the nutritional issues he raises. Finally, address some specific health problems that result from this mismatch – and describe his “solution” to facilitating improved health in modern times.