

**Psy 120: Psychology and Life**  
**Barry X. Friedman**

**Section 120-2: Monday 4:00 – 5:45**

**Section 120-3: Monday 6:00 –7:45**

**Langner Hall 235**

**Spring, 2002**

**Instructor Information**

Office: Langner Hall Room 102

Office hours: Mondays, 7:45 PM - 9:45 PM, and by appointment.\*

\*Please make appointments for meetings via email, even during designated office hours, in order to ensure that we will be able to meet. By-appointment meetings will be adapted to your scheduling needs. Appointments may be scheduled as often as necessary or desired. Feel free to drop by my office hours to discuss the class, what graduate school is like, what one can do with a psychology degree, or to generally shoot the breeze...

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**Brief Autobiography**

I was born and raised on Long Island, New York. After receiving my B.A. in psychology from Binghamton University, I made my academic manifest destiny west to study evolutionary psychology at The University of Texas, Austin. My research interests lie mainly in the area of interpersonal relationships, with a primary focus on the evolved psychological mechanisms that underlie romantic relationships. I am also interested in the evolution and development of menopause, and the psychological changes that accompany it. As for my non-academic life, I enjoy playing golf (poorly), disc golf (somewhat better), baseball (pretty good) and racquetball (good). I'm also a huge movie buff (e.g., Kubrik, Kevin Smith, Paul Thomas Anderson, Linklater) and music fanatic (e.g., U2, Radiohead, Counting Crows, Led Zeppelin, Ani DiFranco).

**Textbook**

Mean Genes: From Sex to Money to Food, Taming Our Primal Instincts by Terry Burnham & Jay Phelan (2000). USA: Penguin Books. Available at the campus bookstore for \$24.00. Reviews of the book, bios of the authors, and references/explanatory notes of the cited literature can be found at [www.meangenes.org](http://www.meangenes.org). I highly encourage you to visit this site if you'd like a reference or some background information on studies discussed in the book.

**Course Description and Objectives**

The TLU Bulletin intends *PSY 120: Psychology and Life* to examine major areas of adult development from a personal management perspective. Our course will explore how psychological knowledge can assist in understanding, evaluating, and shaping one's

personal experience and relationships with others. The special topic for these sections is evolutionary psychology applied to everyday life.