

Econ 312 Evolutionary Economics  
Syllabus

Donald Cox  
Fall 2018



\*Donald Cox, Bruce Hansen and Emmanuel Jimenez. 2004. "How Responsive are Private Transfers to Income? Evidence from a Laissez-faire Economy."

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Reading: *Biological forces act in concert with environmental influences; they can't be analyzed in a vacuum.*

William H. McNeill. 1997. "History Upside Down." . (A review of ).

Jeffrey D. Sachs, Andrew D. Mellinger and John L. Gallup. 2001. "The Geography of Poverty and Wealth."

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VI.

Reading: *Can having a hair-trigger temper actually facilitate rather than discourage trade? How about a guilty conscience? The term "emotion" often implies being out of control and irrational. But maybe emotions complement rather than work against our rational side.*

Michael Waldman. 1990. Review of  
by Robert Frank.

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Reading: *How many people can you keep track of? Does social media make a difference?*

\*Edward P. Lazear. 1999. "Culture and Language."

Nicholas Lemann. 2010. "Terrorism Studies: Social scientists do counterinsurgency."

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Reading: *How does "fake news" happen? What are the economic consequences of conformity?*

\*Sushil Bikhchandani, David Hirshleifer, and Ivo Welch. 1998. "Learning from the Behavior of Others: Conformity, Fads, and Informational Cascades."

George A. Akerlof, "Social Distance and Social Decisions." 1997.

Robinson Meyer. 2018. "The Grim Conclusions of the Largest-Ever Study of Fake News."

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Reading: *Why did pedophilia in the Catholic Church go unreported for so long, and also why the scandal broke so suddenly? (The same thing's happened with the #MeToo movement.) And what does these events have in common with political revolutions?*

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Reading: *Why do people procrastinate? Is it because of a quirk in their utility functions, or because of their upbringing?*

James Surowiecki. 2010. "Later: What does procrastination tell us about ourselves?"

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Reading: *How 'groupish' are humans?*

Jonathan Haidt. 2012. "Why Are We So Groupish?" Chapter 9 of

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August 28