

# Intro to Evolution

Wednesday, August 25, 2021 11:14 AM

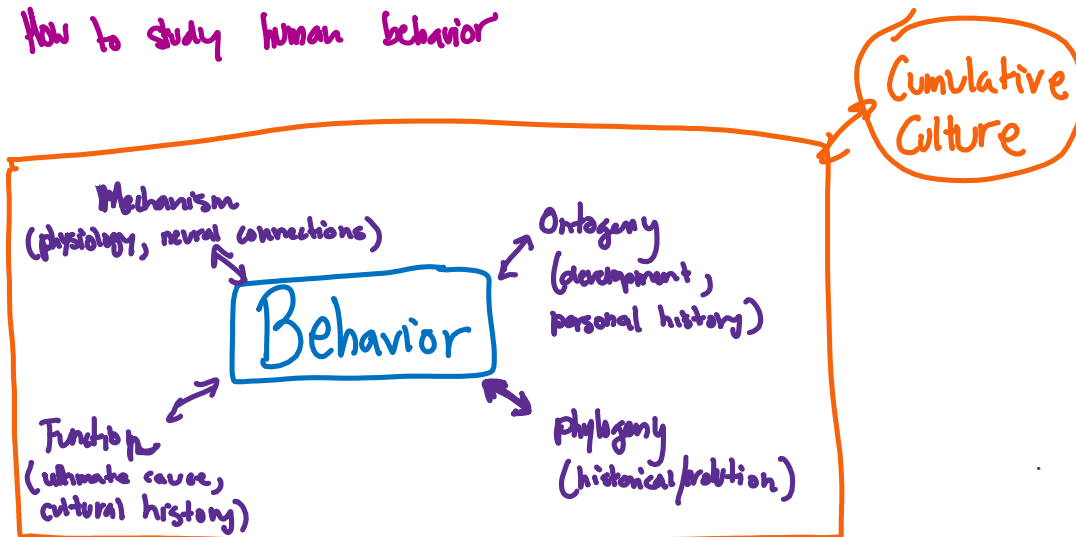
## Evolution is History:

- What ancestors did for a living
  - north vs south cultural differences = farmers vs. herders

## The goal of studying evolution:

- understand why humans behave similarly to animals
- much of human behavior can be explained w/ classic evolutionary principles
- humans are uniquely shaped by adaptations for culture
- culture has shaped human genetic evolution

## How to study human behavior



## Example: birdsong

### Why does a bird sing?

- ontogeny: exposed to parents singing at critical development period
- phylogeny: they are part of a bird species that sings
- mechanism: brain has song nuclei that enables them to learn song
- function: reproduction (appear attractive to females)
  - familiarity
  - demonstration of learning ability
  - possession of territory

### Evolution of Culture and Violence

- Culture of Honor in American South: historically, resources were difficult to defend, so default response is violence
- Experimentally, Southern individuals have a higher likelihood of violent response, higher aggression, faster heartrate, higher testosterone levels

<b>Tinbergen's 4 levels of analysis</b>	Individual/ Contemporary	Historical / Evolutionary Time
Proximate (how)	Mechanism	Ontogeny
Ultimate (why)	Function	Phylogeny