Course description: This is a seminar course focused on the topic of kinship. We will explore various themes that will extend our understanding of the role of kinship in the everyday lives of human and nonhuman animals. Kinship might be considered the bedrock of sociality, but has been largely neglected in social psychology. We will draw on theories and empirical findings from evolutionary biology, behavioural ecology, anthropology and other social sciences in order to develop a broader view of the domains in which kinship is important and the psychological mediation of decisions and behaviour in these domains.

It is assumed that everyone has adequate background to understand the hypotheses, methodologies, and interpretations of findings of primary literature in the fields of animal behaviour, behavioural ecology, social cognition, evolutionary psychology, and social psychology. We will read, discuss, and evaluate theories and findings on various topics with the general aim of scientific discovery. To this end everyone will write a grant proposal (with the hope that someday these proposals will be carried out). Everyone will give a presentation of theory and findings from the published literature relevant to their research proposal.

Course Evaluation: The course marks will be based on the following:

- In-class presentation: 30%
- Final research proposal: 50%
- Seminar participation: 20%
- Total = 100%