

**FAS2882H Cognitive Origin: The Evolution of Primate Intelligence**  
**FASStrack 2025**

Note: This is a new course, pending NUS approval. Please note the class will be cancelled if the course is not approved by March. Otherwise, more course details will be updated when it is approved.

**Schedule: PM Session (2pm-6pm, Singapore Time)**  
**Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday**

**Tentative Course Description**

This introductory course examines the evolution of intelligence in humans by exploring the overlap between human and non-human cognition. It introduces students to basic evolutionary theory to provide insights into the origins of human cognition, and trace how intelligence has evolved across different species. Students will be introduced to the biological study of behaviour and its intersection with the psychological study of intelligence. They will learn how to assess and compare cognition across species, equipping them with a comprehensive understanding of the evolution and development of intelligence.

**Tentative Course Syllabus**

- Lecture 1: Unlocking the Story of Life – An introduction to Evolution
- Lecture 2: Decoding the Mind – What is Complex Cognition?
- Lecture 3: The Brain's Puzzle – Exploring Intelligence and Neural Complexity
- Lecture 4: Why We Do What We Do – Human Behavioural Ecology
- Lecture 5: Thinking Hands – The Evolution of Tool Use
- Lecture 6: The Mirror Within – Tracing the Evolution of the Self
- Lecture 7: Midterm
- Lecture 8: Shared Minds – The Evolution of Culture
- Lecture 9: From Myths to Metaverse – The Evolution of Stories
- Lecture 10: Into the Wild – Measuring Behaviour in Primates
- Lecture 11: A Day in the Field – Primate Behaviour Fieldtrip
- Lecture 12: Unlikely Geniuses – Convergent Evolution of Intelligence in Birds & Cephalopods