

Assignment #8: Evolution (of Language)

Due Date: All contributions to the answer to this question must be made by noon on December 12, 2008 [Stop Day].

Shortly you will receive an e-mail invitation from **pbwiki.com** to join the **kupsyc418** wiki. Please use this wiki to complete the writing assignment.

Goals for this assignment:

- 1) **Consider the theory of evolution and whether it applies to cognitive processes, specifically language,**
- 2) **understand observations made in another field, and explore the implications of those observations for your field of interest,**
- 3) **cultivate the habit of being a lifelong learner by exploring resources outside of a formal classroom setting,**
- 4) **gain experience engaging in a collaborative effort to solve a problem.**

For this assignment you must:

- 1) Go to the Explore Evolution Exhibit at the KU Natural History Museum (see the sidebar),
- 2) Answer the question below.

According to Darwin, what are the basic mechanisms that lead to evolutionary change? Can these mechanisms explain evolutionary changes in cognitive processes, such as language? Why or why not?