

Syllabus
Anthropology 401
Human Evolution and Paleoanthropology

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

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COURSE INFORMATION

Course Title: **Anthropology 401- Human Evolution and Paleoanthropology**

Section 001

Cat. #79332

Room: ILC 204

T/Th 10:40 am - 11:55 am

Credit: 3 hrs.

Office hours: T/Th 12:00-1:30 or by appointment

Room 115 Hemingway Western Studies Center

Course Description: This course examines the fossil record of human evolution. We will focus on the evolution of primates with particular attention to our family (Hominoidea), subfamily (Homininae), genus (Homo) and species (sapiens). Through lectures, discussions, readings, color slides of fossils and hands-on laboratory work with casts of many of the important fossils, you will learn to recognize and evaluate the evidence of human evolution. This is an upper division course and it is taught as such. You will be expected to attend class and be prepared including active participation in discussions. In addition to learning the facts, you will read papers published in professional journals and books describing the discovery and interpretation of fossil evidence for human evolution. These readings are chosen to help you learn to interpret and critically evaluate hypotheses related to human evolution.

Course Objectives and Outcomes:

Gain a basic understanding of human evolution

Understanding of the role of environmental factors in human evolution

Understand and identify important stages in pre-hominin primate evolution

Recognize hominin species by their skulls and skeletons

Learn how these species are related to each other

Become familiar with the diagnostic features of major hominin taxa

Learn how paleontologists ask and answer questions about the past

Identify and understand the significance of species for interpreting evolution

Understand competing arguments about events in human evolution

Critically evaluate important controversies surrounding human evolution

Prerequisites: Anthropology 101 or consent of instructor

Textbook: Understanding Human Evolution 6th edition
McKee, Poirier and McGraw. Pearson Prentice Hall New Jersey

EVALUATION: Four in-class exams (multiple choice, short answer and lab component).

Exam 1 4th week

Exam 2 8th week

Exam 3 12th week

Final Exam Dec 15, 2009 10:30 – 12:30

Article summaries 10pts each

Lab reports 10 pts each

Movie guides 10pts each

All test questions will be from lectures, assigned readings, films, handouts, lab exercises, and class assignments. There will be several lab sessions each lab report will be worth 10 points. Regular attendance is expected of all students and attendance will be taken randomly. If you must be absent it is your responsibility to get the notes or handouts from a fellow student.

GRADING SCALE

A =90%-100%

B = 80%-89%

C = 70%-79%

D = 60%-69%

F = 59% or less

Topics: not necessarily in this order

Primates

Primate anatomy

Taxonomy

Paleoecology

Fossilization

Evolution of Apes (Miocene)

Hominin Origins

Australopiths

Australopithecine biology

Bipedality

Australopithecine culture

African early Homo

Asian early Homo

Archaic Homo

Early Culture

Neandertals

Origin *Homo sapiens*

