

Human Origins

Archaeology 131

Section: D100

Term: 2009 Spring

Instructor: Mark Skinner, Ph.D.

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Discussion Topics: A non-technical survey of the primate background of humans, fossil primates, and fossil humans, and the associated evidence of cultural development. An introduction to physical anthropology. Emphasis is placed on understanding variation in human physical differences in space and time including evolutionary changes, growth patterns and geographic variation.

Course Construction: The class meets three hours a week for formal lecture.

Weekly Lecture Sequence (from text)

Wk 1.

Ch1. Introduction to Biological Anthropology

Ch2. The Development of Evolutionary Theory

Wk 2.

Ch3. The Biological Basis of Life

Ch4. Heredity and Evolution

Wk 3.

Ch5. An Overview of the Primates

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Wk 4.

Ch6. Fundamentals of Primate Behavior

Mid-term

Wk 5.

Ch7. Models for Human Evolution

Wk 6.

Ch8. Processes of Macroevolution: Mammalian/Primate Evolutionary History

Wk 7.

Ch9. Paleoanthropology: Reconstructing Early Hominid Behavior and Ecology

Ch10. Hominid Origins

Wk 8.

Ch11. Homo erectus and Contemporaries

Wk 9.

Ch12. Neandertals and other archaic Homo sapiens

Wk 10.

Ch13. Homo sapiens sapiens

Wk 11.

Ch14. Microevolution in Modern Human populations

Wk 12.

Ch15. Human Variation and Adaptation

Wk 13.

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Ch16. Legacies of Human Evolutionary History

Grading: In addition to attendance at lectures the students will be required to write a mid-term multiple choice exam (35%), a final multiple choice exam (35%) and a critical review of two opposing articles on a topic of your choice worth 30%. The final exam does not cover materials tested in the mid-term. All assignments must be completed on time; failure to meet a deadline requires a written explanation as well as a letter of explanation from a doctor.

Required Texts: Jurmain R, Kilgore L, Trevathan W and Nelson H. 2005. Introduction to Physical Anthropology (Tenth Edition). Thomson Wadsworth.

Recommended Texts: None

Materials/Supplies: None

Prerequisite/Corequisite: None

Notes: This is a lecture course with NO tutorials

Deferred grades will only be given on the basis of authenticated medical disability

This outline is derived from a course outline repository database that was maintained by SFU Student Services and the University's IT Services Department. The database was retired in 2014 and the data migrated to SFU Archives in 2015.