

ANTH 233, HUMAN EVOLUTION
McBREARTY, SPRING, 2001

COURSE DESCRIPTION

In this course we will examine the processes and events that have led to the origin of human beings. Using the approaches of physical anthropology and archaeology, we will trace human physical and behavioral development from its earliest beginnings to the appearance of complex societies.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS:

TURNBAUGH, W.A., R. JURMAIN, H. NELSON, L. KILGORE. 1999. *Understanding Physical Anthropology & Archaeology*, seventh edition. Belmont, CA: Wadsworth Publishing.

LEWIN, R. 1999. *Human Evolution: an Illustrated Introduction*. Fourth edition. Boston: Blackwell Scientific.

OPTIONAL CD-ROM (Also on reserve in Babbidge Library)

SEPT, J. 1996. *Exploring Olduvai*. Indiana University Press.

COURSE ORGANIZATION

In the first part of this course you will be introduced to the principles of evolution and biological inheritance, and take a look at modern human diversity and the anatomy and behavior of our nearest relatives, the primates. Next we will begin a survey the field of human paleontology or paleoanthropology, examining the fossil and archaeological record, which is made up of the physical remains of our ancestors and the traces of their behavior. We will look at the evidence for the appearance of the earliest primates, apes, and bipedal hominids. We will examine the behavior of the early bipeds and early members of the genus *Homo* in some detail. We will then address the appearance of modern *Homo sapiens*, and examine the innovations of early modern people, including agriculture and the beginnings of settled ways of life.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

You are expected to attend all lectures and discussion sections. It is a good idea to get into the habit of taking detailed notes because material may be presented in the lectures or discussion sections that is not covered in your textbooks. There will be a **midterm** taken during normal class meeting time and a **final** exam during final exam week. The final exam will be cumulative, but will stress material from the latter part of the semester. Both exams will be a mixture of "objective" questions and short essays. You are also required to write **two short papers** for the course, on topics that will be announced in class and posted on the website. Your grade will be computed as follows: papers: 15% each; midterm exam: 30%; final exam: 40% of your final grade.

**Anthropology 233, Human Evolution
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Class Schedule & Readings**

Date	Topic	Turnbaugh	Lewin
24-Jan	Historical perspectives	Chs 1 & 2	Part 1
29-Jan	Principles of evolution	Chs 1 & 2	Part 1
31-Jan	Principles of inheritance	Chs 3 & 4	xx
5-Feb	Human variation & adaptation	Ch 5	xx
7-Feb	Living primates	Chs 6 & 7	Part 3
12-Feb	Living primates	Chs 6 & 7	Part 3
14-Feb	Vertebrate & early primate evolution	Ch 8	Part 4
19-Feb	Principles of earth history & paleoanthropology	Ch 9	Part 2
21-Feb	Origin of Hominidae	Chs 9, 10,11	Parts 4 & 5
26-Feb	Diversity within early Hominidae	Chs 9, 10,11	Parts 4 & 5
28-Feb	Origin of genus <i>Homo</i>	Chs 9, 10,11	Parts 4 & 5
5-Mar	Behavior & relationships in early Hominidae	Ch 11	Parts 4 & 5
7-Mar	Behavior & relationships in early Hominidae	Ch 11	Parts 4 & 5
9-Mar	(Friday section meeting) First paper due		
12-Mar	Review	Chs 1-11	Parts 1-5
14-Mar	Midterm exam		
19-Mar	Spring break		
21-Mar	Spring break		
26-Mar	African <i>Homo erectus</i>	Ch 12	Part 6
28-Mar	Asian <i>Homo erectus</i>	Ch 12	Part 6
2-Apr	"Archaic <i>Homo sapiens</i> " & Neanderthals	Ch 13	Part 7
4-Apr	"Archaic <i>Homo sapiens</i> " & Neanderthals	Ch 13	Part 7
9-Apr	"Archaic <i>Homo sapiens</i> " & Neanderthals	Ch 13	Part 7
11-Apr	Origin & Old World dispersal of modern humans	Ch 13	Parts 7 & 8
16-Apr	Origin & Old World dispersal of modern humans	Ch 13	Parts 7 & 8
18-Apr	Behavior of early modern people	Ch 14	Part 8
23-Apr	New Worlds	Ch 14	Part 9
25-Apr	Animal & plant domesticaton	Ch 15	Part 9
27-Apr	(Friday section meeting) Second paper due		
30-Apr	Animal & plant domesticaton, village life	Ch 15 & 16	Part 9
2-May	Village & early urban life	Chs 15 & 16	Part 9
7-May	Review	Chs 1-16	Parts 1-9

Instructor's whereabouts: 433 Beach Hall, office hours: Mon & Wed 4-5 p.m. tel: 486-2857 or 486-2137 (message). Email: mcbrearty@uconn.edu.

This syllabus and other course documents are available at the UConn Anthropology Department **website**.