

Anthropology 505.2
Conference Course in Primatology: Human Evolution
Winter 2013

Tuesdays and Thursdays 12:30 – 1:45 pm

Room #: ES 614

Instructor: Dr. Susanne Cote

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Office Hours: Thursdays 2 – 4 pm, or by appointment

TA: TBA

Office:

Email:

Office Hours:

Course Description:

This course will provide students with an in-depth understanding of the origin and evolution of our species. We will work chronologically and thematically through the last six million years surveying the major phases of human evolution, with an emphasis on understanding how specific human adaptations evolved and why. In laboratories, students will learn how to reconstruct behavior from anatomical and paleontological evidence.

Prerequisites: ANTH 201 and ARKY 203, or permission of instructor.

Required Readings:

- *Reconstructing Human Origins*, 3rd Edition (2012). G. Conroy and H. Pontzer. Norton & Co, Inc.
- Additional readings from the scientific literature – links provided on Blackboard

Course Objectives:

Upon completion of this course, students should have a better understanding of the following:

- The basic outline of human evolution over the past 6 million years, including major evolutionary developments and important fossil sites and specimens
- How questions are asked and addressed in the fossil record. How we ‘know’ what happened in the past, and how scientific methods are applied to a historical science, like paleoanthropology.
- How fossil morphology can be used to reconstruct function and behaviour
- How to critically read the paleoanthropology scientific literature

Course Requirements:

Six In-class Lab Assignments – 15%

Timeline – 5%

Midterm Exam – 25%

Research Paper – 20%

Final Exam – 35%

Lab Assignments – 15%

Six (6) **in-class** laboratory assignments throughout the semester (see Class Schedule). Each assignment will be worth 2.5% of your final grade. These assignments are **mandatory**, and must be **handed in at the end of class**. All work needed to successfully complete the lab assignment will be done **in class**.

Timeline – 5% - due April 11th in class

During the first laboratory section, you will receive a blank ‘timeline’ (6 Ma – 0 Ma). You will fill this out as we proceed through the semester. This assignment is intended to summarize your knowledge on important events in human evolution, as well as to help you as a study aid. It will be returned April 16th in class so that you have it to prepare for the final exam.

Mid-term Examination – 25% - February 28th in class

This exam will take place in class on Thursday, February 28th and will cover lectures, laboratories, and readings assigned since the beginning of term through February 14th (inclusive). The format will include a mixture of different types of short answer questions.

Research Paper – Article Critique – 20% - due April 4th in class

Select a recent research paper that is controversial, or gives a surprising finding. You will write an 8-10 page critique of this paper, placing it into the larger body of research on that subject and evaluating its merits and flaws. You are welcome to work individually or in teams of up to three students. A detailed handout with a list of suggested papers will be provided by January 31st.

Final Examination – 35% - Registrar scheduled (April 19-30th 2012)

The final examination will cover ALL lectures, laboratories, and assigned readings for the term. It will be largely short answer format, with some long answer questions.

Grade Breakdown:

A+	100-94.9%	B	79.8-74.9%	C-	62.8-58.9%
A	94.8-89.9%	B-	74.8-70.9%	D+	58.8-54.9%
A-	89.8-84.9%	C+	70.8-66.9%	D	54.8-49.9%
B+	84.8-79.9%	C	66.8-62.9%	F	49.8% and less

Course Policies:

Classroom behavior and attendance:

- It is in your own best interest to attend all classes. You are responsible for taking your own notes, or for obtaining notes from a classmate if you have to miss a class for unavoidable reasons.
- You are welcome to use a laptop to take notes, but please sit in the back or along the sides so as to not disturb other students.

- Please turn OFF your cell phones.
- Examinations will cover lectures, laboratories, and readings.

Late Assignments:

- Lab exercises are due at the end of class on the day of that lab. NO EXCEPTIONS.
- Assignments are due AT THE BEGINNING OF CLASS on the day indicated in this course outline. Late assignments are penalized 5% per day (calendar day, not business day).

Missed labs and exams:

- Missed exams automatically receive a score of zero. In the event of an emergency or illness, the Anthropology main office (403-220-6516) or the instructor MUST be notified BEFORE the exam, and documentation (e.g. doctor's note) must be provided. Make up exams may be in any format (including oral examination); performance on make-up exams is often poorer.
- Labs are mandatory and may only be missed in the case of serious illness or personal emergency, and you must contact the instructor as soon as possible (preferably before class). The only opportunity to make-up missed laboratory exercises will be on April 11th, 2013.

Communication Guidelines:

- The best place to ask questions is IN CLASS or during office hours. This is a small class, so take advantage of that and speak with your instructor and TA in person!
- I will answer questions over email, however due to the volume of emails I receive I cannot commit to answering email questions immediately. It may take up to 3 business days (72 hours), so do not send questions last minute.
- I reserve the right to share questions and answers transmitted over email on Blackboard or in class if the answers are pertinent to everyone in the class. This saves time, and ensures that all students have access to the same information as they prepare for assignments and exams.
- Before emailing a question, please make sure that it hasn't already been addressed on Blackboard. If you have follow-up questions, post them on the same thread in Blackboard and I will respond to them there.

ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATIONS

It is the student's responsibility to request academic accommodations. If you are a student with a documented disability who may require academic accommodation and have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre, please contact their office at 220-8237. You are required to discuss your needs with your instructor no later than fourteen (14) days after the start of this course. Students who have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre are not eligible for formal academic accommodation.

PLAGIARISM AND CHEATING

Plagiarism: “to steal and pass off the ideas or words of another as one’s own” (Webster’s). Plagiarism will not be tolerated and will automatically result in a failing grade for the submission. Any student caught plagiarizing July also be subject to additional University sanctions. Students are expected to be familiar with the Anthropology Departments policy on intellectual honesty available at: <https://www.anth.ucalgary.ca/home/links/intellectual-honesty-guidelines>

EMERGENCY EVACUATION:

In the event that the classroom should need to be evacuated due to an emergency situation please note that the primary assembly point shall be at the ICT Food Court and the Social Sciences Food Court shall be used as a secondary assembly point.

Class Schedule

The schedule of lectures and readings is subject to change

Date	Topics	Readings
January 8	Course Introduction; Human Origins	
January 10	History of Discovery	
January 15	Asking questions of the fossil record – how do we know what we know about human evolution?	Chapter 2: 56-61; Chapter 4
January 17	The Human Skeleton; Evolutionary Anatomy Lab #1: Human Anatomy; Timeline	Chapter 1: 10-25
January 22	Last Common Ancestor – history and expectations	
January 24	Bipedality	Chapter 8: 270-310
January 29	Early hominins – <i>Sahelanthropus</i> , <i>Orrorin</i> , <i>Ardipithecus</i>	Chapter 7: 204-216; 235-238; Gibbons 2009
January 31	<i>Ardipithecus</i> continued Lab #2: Earliest Hominins	
February 5	Australopithecines – East Africa	p. 217-234; 238-248
February 7	Australopithecines – South Africa	Chapter 6 (to p.191)
February 12	Australopithecines – adaptations and phylogeny	Chapter 8:256-269; 311-325
February 14	Tools Lab #3: Australopithecines #1 – <i>Australopithecus</i>	p.51-56; Ch 9: 326-334
February 19 and 21	NO CLASS – READING WEEK	
February 26	<i>Paranthropus</i> I – species and sites	Ch 6: p.192-203; Ch 7: p. 248-255
February 28	Mid Term Examination	
March 5	<i>Paranthropus</i> II – adaptations	
March 7	Early <i>Homo</i> - expectations	Ch 9: 335-375

	Lab #4: Australopithecines #2 – <i>Paranthropus</i>	
March 12	<i>Homo erectus</i> ...and friends	Chapter 10: 376-399; 403-424; 440-447
March 14	<i>Homo erectus</i> – migrations out of Africa	Tattersall 2003
March 19	Muddle in the Middle: Middle Pleistocene hominins	Chapter 11; Stringer 2012
March 21	Fire Lab #5: Early <i>Homo</i>	
March 26	Origins of Modern Humans	Chapter 12
March 28	Out of Africa II	Ch 13: 516-534
April 2	Neanderthals	Ch 13: 534-587
April 4	Modern Human Variation Lab #6: Later <i>Homo</i> Research Paper Due	
April 9	The Hobbit: <i>Homo floresiensis</i>	Ch 10: 400-402; Aiello 2010
April 11	Lab Review: Self-directed review of lab materials; Make-Up Labs; Timeline Due	
April 16	Synthesis and Final Thoughts	
April 19-30	Final Exam (to be scheduled by the Registrar)	