

ANTHROPOLOGY 201.02
An Introduction to Primatology & Human Evolution
Fall 2011

Time: T-TR 9:30-10:45
Location: MFH 162

Instructor: Dr. Pascale Sicotte Office: SS 804
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Office Hours: Wednesdays 2-3 pm or by appointment

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E-mail: epotvinr@ucalgary.ca
Office Hours: Tuesday 11-12 am and Thursday 1-2 pm
Location: SS 821

REQUIRED TEXT

Boyd R, and Silk JB (2009) *How humans evolved*, 5th Edition. New York: W.W. Norton & Company.

If you have an earlier edition, it is your responsibility to check for differences in content between editions.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course examines the place of humans and of our closest relatives the non-human primates in the natural world. It provides an introduction to evolutionary principles and processes, an exploration of the patterns of anatomical, behavioural, and genetic variation in the Order Primates, and an overview of the evolution of our species as reconstructed from the fossil record.

We begin with a review of the history of evolutionary thought, focusing on the theoretical contributions of Charles Darwin and his contemporaries. We will also see how evolutionary theory developed during the 20th century and up until the present, incorporating modern genetics, population biology, microevolution, and macroevolution. The goal is to clarify these fundamental biological concepts for a better understanding of the evolution of unique primate and hominin features.

In the second section, we will review the various groups making up the Order Primates. We will discuss what makes primates unique among mammals, and how primate taxonomic groupings vary in morphology, ecology, and social behaviour. We will discuss the contribution of comparative primatology to our understanding of the human phenomenon.

Finally, we will focus on human evolution. We will trace our lineage through the appearance of major new radiations, including the hominoids, the early hominins, the early species of the genus *Homo*, and, finally, anatomically modern humans. We will examine the fossil, molecular, and archaeological evidence for these major developments in human evolution.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Exam	Date	% Overall Grade
#1	Oct 6	33.3%
#2	Nov 15	33.3%
#3	Registrar-scheduled	33.4%

NOTE: Exams are not cumulative and are all multiple-choice

Final course grades will be calculated as follows:

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

Important:

1- Deferred exams are possible only for serious reasons (and the demand needs to be backed up by proper documents). A missed examination automatically receives a score of zero. In the event of an emergency or illness, the anthropology office (220 6516), the instructor or the teaching assistant must be notified BEFORE the exam, and documentation must be provided. Performance on make up exams is typically lower.

3- Results of the exams will be posted on the web within one week. Exams are NOT returned to the students. The teaching assistant will offer office hours if you want to consult your exam. If you have concerns about your evaluation, you will be asked to provide a detailed written statement of your concern. Deadline for the submission of written statement is one week after results of an examination have been posted.

3- Students are responsible for materials covered in the textbooks and in the lectures, including the films and any guest lectures. Classroom materials missed due to absenteeism are the sole responsibility of the student.

4- It is fine for students to take notes during class using their laptop. However, be considerate and do not use electronic devices during class time for purposes unrelated to class (e.g., checking email, watching movies, Facebook, games etc), as this has the potential to disturb other students. And equally importantly, allow yourself to focus on the class content by turning off these devices.

Useful Numbers:

Department of anthropology: 220 6516
SafeWalk/Campus Security: 220 5333

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.

CLASS SCHEDULE

The dates are approximate; changes can occur.

Part I: Introduction to Evolutionary Theory

- Wk of Sept 12 General Introduction to Course
History of Evolutionary Theory
Darwin: Adaptation by Natural Selection
Reading: Prologue & Chapter 1
- Wk of Sept 19 Darwin: Adaptation by Natural Selection (cont.)
Genetics
Population Genetics
Reading: Chapter 2
- Wk of Sept 26 The Modern Synthesis
Species Concepts & Processes
Reconstructing Evolutionary Histories
- Oct 4 Taxonomy
Reading: Chapters 3, 4
- Oct 6 1st Exam

Part II: Introduction to Primate Studies

- Oct 11 Film: The Primates
- Oct 13 What Are Primates & Why Do We Study Them?
Reading: Chapter 5
- Wk of Oct 17 Review Primate Taxonomic Groups
Reading: Chapter 6
- Wk of Oct 24 Primate Ecology
Primate Social Systems
Reading: Chapter 7
- Wk of Oct 31 Two examples of field work: Karisoke and Boabeng Fiema
Reading: Chapter 8
- Nov 8 The usefulness of comparative primatology to understand the “human pattern”: examples of kinship and infant care.
- Nov 15 2nd Exam

Part III: Human Evolution

- Nov 17 Film from the series “Becoming Humans”
Reading: Chapters 9-10
- Wk of Nov 21 Primate Evolution; Early Hominids
Reading: Chapter 11

Wk of Nov 28 Material Culture; Emergence of *Homo*
Reading: Chapter 12

Wk of Dec 5 Modern Humans
Reading: Chapter 13

3rd Exam will take place during the Registrar-scheduled final exam period.

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 will also be subject to additional University sanctions. Students are expected to be familiar with the Anthropology Department’s 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 please note that the primary assembly point shall be the Education Block Food Court and the secondary assembly point shall be the Scurfield Hall Atrium.