

**ANTHROPOLOGY 201.02**  
**An Introduction to Primatology & Human Evolution**  
**Fall 2012**

Time: T-TR 9:30-10:45

Location: EDC 179

Instructor: Dr. Pascale Sicotte

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Office Hours: Tuesday 11-12 am and Thursday 1-2 pm

Location: ES 722

**REQUIRED TEXT**

Boyd R, and Silk JB (2009) *How humans evolved*, 6th 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 20<sup>th</sup> 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 4	33.3%
#2	Nov 6	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.

2- Results of the exams should be posted on blackboard one week after the examination. 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.

### **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 situation please note that the primary assembly point shall be at the Scurfield Hall Atrium and the Professional faculties Food Court shall be used as a secondary assembly point.

## **CLASS SCHEDULE ON A WEEKLY BASIS**

**The dates are approximate; changes can occur.**

### **Part I: Introduction to Evolutionary Theory**

- Sept 11                    General Introduction to Course  
History of Evolutionary Theory  
Darwin: Adaptation by Natural Selection  
**Reading:**            Prologue & Chapter 1
- Sept 18                    Darwin: Adaptation by Natural Selection (cont.)  
Genetics  
Population Genetics  
**Reading:**            Chapter 2
- Sept 25                    The Modern Synthesis  
Species Concepts & Processes  
Reconstructing Evolutionary Histories
- Oct 2                        Taxonomy  
**Reading:**            Chapters 3, 4
- Oct 4                        1<sup>st</sup> Exam

### **Part II: Introduction to Primate Studies**

- Oct 9                        Film: The Primates  
What Are Primates & Why Do We Study Them?  
**Reading:**            Chapter 5
- Oct 16                      Primate Taxonomic Groups  
**Reading:**            Chapter 6
- Oct 23                      Primate Taxonomic Groups (contd)  
Primate Ecology  
**Reading:**            Chapter 7
- Oct 30                      Primate Social Systems  
Examples of field work: Karisoke  
**Reading:**            Chapter 8
- Nov 6                        2<sup>nd</sup> Exam

### **Part III: Human Evolution**

- Nov 8                        Film from the series "Becoming Humans"  
**Reading:**            Chapters 9-10
- Nov 13                      Reading Day; no class
- Nov 15                      Primate Evolution  
**Reading:**            Chapter 11

Nov 20                    Early Hominins; Material Culture and way of life of early hominins  
**Reading:**            Chapter 12

Nov 27                    Emergence of *Homo*  
**Reading:**            Chapter 13

Dec 4                      Modern Humans

**3<sup>rd</sup> Exam will take place during the Registrar-scheduled final exam period.**