

ANTHROPOLOGY 505.2
Conference Course in Primatology: HUMAN EVOLUTION
FALL 2013

Tuesdays and Thursdays 12:30 – 1:45 pm
Room #: ES 614

Instructor: Dr. Susanne Cote
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COURSE DESCRIPTION:

How did our species evolve and who are our fossil ancestors? 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 identify fossils and how to reconstruct behavior from anatomical and paleontological evidence by studying fossil casts.

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

READINGS:

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

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

Upon completion of this course, students will know:

- 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 and how we 'know' what happened in the past
- How paleoanthropologists identify and study new fossil finds.
- How fossil morphology can be used to reconstruct function and behaviour
- How to research and write a scientific research paper in the field of biological anthropology.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING:

Six In-class Lab Assignments – 15%

Midterm Exam – 20%

Final Exam – 30%

Research Paper – 35%

- 5% Proposal

- 10% Peer Review

- 20% Final Paper

Lab Assignments – 15%

Six (6) **mandatory in-class** laboratory assignments throughout the semester (see Class Schedule). Each assignment will be worth 2.5% of your final grade. The purpose of the labs is to give students the opportunity to examine fossils and fossil casts first hand and learn how paleontologists study fossil remains. All work needed to successfully complete the lab assignment will be done in class.

Mid-term Examination – 20% - October 22nd in class

This exam will cover lectures, laboratories, and readings assigned since the beginning of term through October 17th (inclusive). The format will include a mixture of different types of short answer questions, medium answer questions, and an essay.

Scientific Research Paper – 35%

This is a four-part assignment in which you will write a scientific research paper on a topic of your choice. A detailed handout will be provided the second week of class. One-page proposals are due **October 3rd in class (5% of grade)**. A complete draft of your paper is due **November 7th in class**. The draft will not be graded. I will assign your draft to another student in the class (anonymously) and give you another student's paper to review. Peer reviews are due **November 21st in class (10% of grade)**. The final version of your paper is due **December 3rd in class (20% of grade)**.

Final Examination – 30% - Registrar scheduled (December 9 - 19th 2013)

The final examination will cover ALL lectures, laboratories, and assigned readings for the term. The format will be the same as the midterm examination and will include a mixture of different types of short answer questions, medium answer questions, and an essay.

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:

- The most important thing is to be respectful and supportive of other students. Please turn your cell phone and any other electronic devices. You may use a laptop to take notes, but please sit in the back or along the sides so as to not disturb other students. Please only use your laptops to take notes, and remember that instructors can often tell when you are watching videos, looking at Facebook etc.
- 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.
- Lecture slides will be posted AFTER class, not before. You should come to class prepared to take notes. Please note that reading the lectures slides alone will NOT be sufficient to get a good grade in this class. All material from lectures is testable, and lecture slides will not have everything you need to know.

Labs:

- Students are encouraged to work in groups for the lab exercises and to seek help and advice from Dr. Cote and the TA as often as possible.
- All work necessary to complete the lab exercises will be done IN CLASS. There will be no 'homework' from labs and you will submit your lab exercises at the end of class on the day of that lab.
- Labs are **MANDATORY** and may only be missed in the case of serious illness or personal emergency. You must contact the TA as soon as possible (preferably before class) if you need to miss lab.
- The only opportunity to make-up missed laboratory exercises will be at the end of term after the last day of classes.

Exam and Grading Policies:

- 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. signed Physician's Statement) must be provided. Make up exams may be in any format (including oral examination); performance on make-up exams is often poorer.
- Exams grades will be posted on Blackboard as quickly as possible. Midterms will be returned to students, but final exams will not. If you wish to see your final exam, please make an appointment.
- All 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), except for term paper drafts and term paper peer reviews, which are penalized at 20% per day to ensure fairness to all students.
- If you have questions about the grading of your exam or assignment, please see Dr. Cote or the TA as soon as possible. After consultation with the teaching staff, you

may dispute a grade that you have received by submitting a written statement within two weeks of receiving the grade.

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!
- Questions during lectures are welcome, so please just raise your hand. If something doesn't make sense to you, it probably didn't make sense to other students either!
- I always prefer to talk IN PERSON with students whenever possible. 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 2 business days (48 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 in the course outline, assignment handouts, or on Blackboard!

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 ICT Food Court and the Social Sciences Food Court shall be used as a secondary assembly point.

SAFEWALK:

Campus security will escort individuals day or night (www.ucalgary.ca/security/safewalk). Call 220-5333 for assistance. Use any campus phone, emergency phone or the yellow phones located at most parking lot pay booths.

CLASS SCHEDULE

Please note that the schedule of lectures and readings is subject to change

Date	Topics	Associated Readings
September 10	Course Introduction; Human Origins	
September 12	History of Discovery	
September 17	Asking questions of the fossil record – how do we know what we know about human evolution?	Chapter 3
September 19	Lab #1: Human Anatomy	Chapter 1: 10-25
September 24	Last Common Ancestor – History and Expectations	Kivell & Schmidt 2009
September 26	Bipedalism	Dunsworth et al. 2012
October 1	Early hominins – <i>Sahelanthropus</i> , <i>Orrorin</i> , <i>Ardipithecus</i>	Chapter 7; Gibbons 2009
October 3	Lab #2: Earliest Hominins Term Paper Proposals Due	
October 8	Australopithecines – East Africa	McPherron et al 2011
October 10	Australopithecines – South Africa	Chapter 6
October 15	Australopithecines – adaptations	Chapter 8
October 17	Lab #3: <i>Australopithecus</i>	
October 22	Midterm Examination	
October 24	<i>Paranthropus</i> I – species and sites	Chapter 6, 7, 8
October 29	<i>Paranthropus</i> II – adaptations	Chapter 6, 7, 8
October 31	Lab #4: <i>Paranthropus</i>	
November 5	Early <i>Homo</i>	Chapter 9
November 7	<i>Homo</i> Behaviour I Term Paper Drafts Due	Chapter 10; Berna et al 2012
November 12	NO CLASS – READING BREAK	
November 14	Lab #5: Early <i>Homo</i>	
November 19	<i>Homo</i> Behaviour II	Chapter 9, 10
November 21	Muddle in the Middle: Middle Pleistocene hominins Term Paper Peer Reviews Due	Chapter 11; Stringer 2012
November 26	Neanderthals	Chapter 13
November 28	Lab #6: Later <i>Homo</i>	
December 3	Origins of Modern Humans Final Research Paper Due	Chapter 12; Reich et al 2010
December 5	The Hobbit: <i>Homo floresiensis</i>	Aiello 2010
TBA	Lab Review: Self-directed review of lab materials; Make-Up Labs	
December 9-19	Final Exam (to be scheduled by the Registrar)	