

LECTURES: Tuesdays & Thursdays, 2:00 – 3:20pm, SGM 123

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Roberto Delgado
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Office hours: Tuesdays & Thursdays, 12:00 - 1:30pm, OR *by appointment*.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The Origins of Humanity is an introduction to the core concepts in Biological Anthropology. In this course we will divide the material into three parts. Part I covers the basics of evolution and natural selection, as well as the fundamental genetics necessary for understanding the mechanics of inheritance. Part II introduces the variety of social systems found in our closest living relatives, the non-human primates, and presents an evolutionary framework for the study of ecology and social behavior. Part III covers the hard evidence of primate and human evolution, in particular the fossils and artifacts that record the evolutionary history of our species. In addition, the latter third of the course will discuss modern human variation and how natural selection has shaped ancient and modern human behavior.

TEXTBOOKS

Boyd & Silk (2008) *How Humans Evolved, 5th Edition*. W.W. Norton and Company, New York.
ISBN: 0-393-932710

<http://www.wwnorton.com/college/anthro/evolve5/>

Annual Editions: Physical Anthropology, 2010-2011 [AE] - ISBN: 978-0078127809

ANTH 200Lg also utilizes laboratory sections for enhancing training in biological anthropology. The laboratories are designed to supplement materials presented in lecture and will provide opportunities for practical exercises and discussions related to evolutionary topics including but not limited to readings, video presentations, and review sessions. Attendance in lab is mandatory.

GRADING

EXAM 1	30%	
EXAM 2	30%	
FINAL	30%	Non-cumulative
LAB	10%	

Examinations: All regularly scheduled exams will be a combination of objective and essay questions. Make-up exams will be given only if you have a written, official university excuse, health- or activity-related. Be aware that the Health Clinic no longer dispenses medical excuses automatically. No early exams will be given. Students who are officially excused from scheduled exams will take a make-up administered no more than one week after the class exam date. This makeup will cover the same material, but in a different format - usually long essay - from the in-class exam.

Note about exams: Letter grades are not assigned on midterms but the mean score and standard distribution will be announced and posted on Blackboard. Your final course grade is based on a normal distribution curve of the cumulative exam point total, with emphasis given to class (and lab) participation and exam grade improvement during the semester. Because of the curve, students will occasionally receive a final grade that is either slightly higher or lower than any of their 3 exam grades alone predict.

Part I: HOW EVOLUTION WORKS

Tu	12 January	Introduction & overview; evolutionary history; the scientific method <u>readings</u> : Prologue, AE 6 & 7
Th	14 January	Darwin's theory of adaptation <u>readings</u> : Chapter 1, AE 2 & 3
Tu	19 January	The evolution of complex adaptations; rates of evolutionary change <u>readings</u> : Chapter 1, AE 4
Th	21 January	Cell division and the role of chromosomes in inheritance <u>reading</u> : Chapter 2
Tu	26 January	Molecular genetics <u>reading</u> : Chapter 2
Th	28 January	Population genetics; the modern synthesis <u>reading</u> : Chapter 3
Tu	2 February	Natural selection & behavior; constraints on adaptation <u>reading</u> : Chapter 3, AE 5
Th	4 February	What are species? The origin of species (i.e. Speciation) <u>reading</u> : Chapter 4
Tu	9 February	Reconstructing phylogenies; taxonomy <u>reading</u> : Chapter 4
Th	11 February	EXAM #1

Part II: PRIMATE ECOLOGY & BEHAVIOR

Tu	16 February	Two reasons to study primates; features that define the primates <u>readings</u> : Chapter 5, AE 8 & 9
Th	18 February	A taxonomy of living primates; primate conservation <u>reading</u> : Chapter 5
Tu	23 February	Primate ecology and sociality <u>reading</u> : Chapters 6, AE 17
Th	25 February	Reproductive strategies of females <u>readings</u> : Chapter 7, AE 16
Tu	2 March	Sexual selection and male mating strategies; male reproductive tactics <u>readings</u> : Chapter 7
Th	4 March	Kin selection; reciprocal altruism <u>readings</u> : Chapter 7, AE 14
Tu	9 March	The evolution of primate life histories; primate intelligence <u>readings</u> : Chapter 8, AE 12 & 13
Th	11 March	EXAM #2

Part III: THE HISTORY OF THE HUMAN LINEAGE; EVOLUTION & MODERN HUMANS

Tu	23 March	Continental drift & climate change; early primate evolution <u>readings</u> : Chapter 9
Th	25 March	From hominoid to hominin <u>readings</u> : Chapter 10, AE 22 & 23
Tu	30 March	Oldowan toolmakers and the origin of human life history <u>reading</u> : Chapter 11, AE 24 & 32
Th	1 April	<i>NO CLASS – College Commons: Medicine, Race & Social Policy</i>
Tu	6 April	From hominin to <i>Homo</i> <u>readings</u> : Chapter 12, AE 25
Th	8 April	The origin and spread of modern humans <u>readings</u> : Chapter 13, AE 26-29
Tu	13 April	Modern human behavior <u>reading</u> : Chapter 13
Th	15 April	<i>NO CLASS – American Association of Physical Anthropologists</i>
Tu	20 April	Human genetic diversity; the race concept <u>readings</u> : Chapter 14, AE 34, 36 & 42
Th	22 April	Evolution and human behavior; language and culture <u>readings</u> : Chapter 15, AE 10, 31 & 40
Tu	27 April	Human mate choice; psychology and social consequences <u>reading</u> : Chapter 16, AE 18 & 35
Th	29 April	Synthesis and conclusions <u>reading</u> : Epilogue, AE 38, 39 & 41

FINAL EXAM:**TBA**

JEP: I encourage you to participate in the Joint Education Program. JEP provides an opportunity for you to go into a public school in the community and teach about human evolution, primate behavior, and the creation-science debate while earning class credit. You can replace your grade on either exam 1 or exam 2 (but not on the final exam) with the grade you receive in the JEP program. If, for example, you receive a C on the second midterm but participate in JEP, you can drop the C and replace it with the JEP grade. You must, however, take all 3 midterm exams regardless of being in JEP. You will hear more about JEP early in the semester.

Students with disabilities: Any student requesting academic accommodations based on a disability is required to register with Disability Services and Programs (DSP) each semester. A letter of verification for approved accommodations can be obtained from DSP. Please deliver the letter to me or to a TA as early in the term as possible. DSP is located in STU 301 and is open 8:30-5:00 M-F (Ph. 213.740.0776).