

ANTH 201: Introduction to Primatology and Human Evolution

Department of Anthropology and Archaeology, University of Calgary

Summer 2016

Please read the course syllabus carefully. A syllabus is a *learning contract*. It contains everything you need to know about the logistic of a course. When you have questions, the syllabus is the **FIRST** place you should look for answers.

Course Instructor: Dejana Nikitovic, PhD ABD
Email:

Instructor Office Hours: Monday's & Wednesday's, 12:00-13:00,
or by appointment
Room:

Lectures: Monday's & Wednesday's, 09:00-11:45, Room ST131
Map:
[http://ucmapspro.ucalgary.ca/RoomFinder/?Building=ST&Room=131
&thickbox=1&TB_iframe=true&height=600&width=980](http://ucmapspro.ucalgary.ca/RoomFinder/?Building=ST&Room=131&thickbox=1&TB_iframe=true&height=600&width=980)

1. COURSE DESCRIPTION

How do humans fit into the natural world? Who are our closest relatives and how did we evolve? In this class we will address these questions using evolutionary principles and processes.

The course is divided into three parts. We begin with a discussion of the history of evolutionary thought, focusing on the theoretical breakthroughs 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 (including human) features.

In the second section, we will review the various groups making up the Order Primates, including strepsirhines, tarsiers, New World monkeys, Old World monkeys, and apes. We will discuss what makes primates unique among mammals, and how primate taxonomic groupings vary in morphology, function, ecology, and social behavior.

Finally, the third section of the course will focus on the evolution of humans and our ancestors. We will trace our lineage through the first hominids, early species in the genus *Homo*, and, finally, anatomically modern humans. We will examine the fossil, molecular, and archaeological evidence for these major developments in human evolution.

2. COURSE TEXTBOOKS AND REQUIRED READINGS

Boyd R & Silk JB. 2015. *How Humans Evolved*. 7th edition. New York: W.W. Norton & Company.

NOTE: While older editions of the textbook may be used, you will have to check for differences in content!!!!

The library has great online and in-person resources to assist students. They also offer many useful workshops and seminars throughout the year. Our designated librarian is Sandra Lipton (lipton@ucalgary.ca; TFDL 530C).

3. ORGANIZATION OF THE COURSE

3.1 Format and student responsibilities: Class will meet twice a week for 2:45 h long lectures. We will normally take two 5-10 minute breaks during the class. Sometimes, we will take one longer break, depending on the lecture content. In order to succeed in this course, it is essential to attend lectures. While I will post PowerPoint Lecture Handouts on D2L, these are minimal outlines, and are not a substitute for attending the lecture and in-class note taking!

The lectures and videos will complement readings, although I may often provide a contrasting interpretation or perspectives. Remember to think critically about all that you hear, read and see in this course!

Being on time, fully prepared (completing the required readings before attending class), participating, and being respectful of and open to the ideas of others are integral to your learning and performance in the course. Importantly, coming prepared and participating in the class makes it much more interesting and fun!

NOTE: If you are experiencing difficulties that may affect your performance in the course, please speak to me immediately! Together, we can work out a plan to help you complete your course work.

3.2 Desire2Learn (D2L)

We will be using D2L a lot! Please consult the course website regularly for announcements, video assignment information, readings, handouts, lecture outlines and study guides.

Use the online Discussion Forums for ALL content-related questions. While I prefer that you ask any course related question in person (before, during or after class, or during office hours), you can also use D2L Discussion Forums. This is also a great way to: discuss course content, share information relevant to the course and Inca Archaeology more broadly, and share your ideas with classmates. Also, this way, all students will have access to the same information when preparing for assignments and exams.

NOTE: Before posting a question, please make sure that it has not already been addressed in the course outline or on D2L (announcements or discussion forums).

The discussion forum is monitored by the instructor. Please allow 2 business days (48 hours) for a response to any posted question.

4. EVALUATION AND ASSIGNMENTS

Your understanding of the course content and concepts will be assessed as follows:

Assignments (due July 13 th , July 27 th & August 15 th)	15%
Midterm #1 (held in lecture on Monday, July 18 th)	25%
Midterm #2 (held in lecture on Wednesday, August 3 rd)	30%
Final Exam (to be announced)	30%

4.1 Assignments (due July 13th, July 27th & August 15th) **Worth: 5% each**

There will be three assignments. Assignments are designed to help you apply the concepts covered in the lectures and assigned readings, and practice for the exams. Further information will be provided in the lectures and on D2L.

4.2 Midterms and Final Exams **Worth: 85%**

Exams are not cumulative, and will be based on the material from readings, lectures, videos and assignments. All exams will be in short answer format (e.g. multiple choice, true/false, matching) AND medium answer format (a few sentences or point-form questions).

The **Midterm #1** is worth **25%**, and will be held in lecture on **Monday July 18th**. It will focus on content covered in the first part of the course.

The **Midterm #2** is worth **30%**, and will be held in lecture on **Wednesday August 3rd**. It will focus on content covered in the second part of the course.

The **final exam** is worth **30%** and will be held during regular schedule exam period. It will focus on content covered in the third part of the course.

4.3 Grade Scale: FINAL grades grater than .5 will be rounded up.

No particular course component needs to be passed in order to pass the course as a whole.

A+	97-100%	B	80-83.5%	C-	60-66.5%
A	90-96.5%	B-	77-79.5%	D+	55-59.5%
A-	87-89.5%	C+	74-76.5%	D	50-54.5%
B+	84-86.5%	C	67-73.5%	F	<50%

5. MISSED QUIZ OR EXAMS

A student who is absent from a quiz or an exam for legitimate reasons (illness, religious or spiritual observance, etc), must discuss an alternative course of action with the instructor. **Acceptable documentation will be required.** If you miss an exam due to illness or other critical event, please contact me as soon as possible after missing the exam. If you know ahead of time that you have a conflict for the day of an exam, speak to me as soon as possible (at least two weeks) prior to missing an exam so that we can make other arrangements.

Religious/spiritual observance **does not** preclude a student from having to meet deadlines for submission of written assignments when such deadlines fall on a day of observance and the deadline was determined at the start of the course, as per University of Calgary Academic Regulations.

6. LECTURE SCHEDULE

Class schedule is subject to change due to unforeseen circumstances. Please check D2L regularly!

Date	Topic	Readings
Wednesday, July 6th	- Course introduction - Adaptation and Natural Selection Film: Charles Darwin and the Tree of Life (BBC)	Chapter 1
Monday, July 11th	- Genetic - Modern Synthesis	Chapters 2 & 3
Wednesday, July 13th	- Taxonomy, Speciation, and Phylogeny	Chapters 4 Assignment #1 Due
Monday, July 18th	MIDTERM #1 Introduction to the Primates Film: BBC Life - Primates	
Wednesday, July 20th	- What does it mean to be a Primate? - Primate Taxonomy - Primate Ecology	Chapter 5
Monday, July 25th	- Mating and Social Systems - Primates - Mating and Social Systems - Humans	Chapters 6 & 15
Wednesday, July 27th	- Cooperation - Primate Brains and Intelligence	Chapters 7 & 8 Assignment #2 Due
Monday, August 1st	NO LECTURE	
Wednesday, August 3rd	MIDTERM #2 - Introduction to Human Evolution Film: Discovering Ardi	
Monday, August 8th	- The Fossil Record - The Earliest Hominins - The Australopithecines	Chapters 9 & 10
Wednesday, August 10th	- The Genus <i>Homo</i>	Chapters 11 & 12
Monday, August 15th	- Evolution of Modern Humans	Chapter 13 Assignment #3 Due
Wednesday, August 17th	- Human Behaviour and Variation in Evolutionary Context	Chapter 16
August 19th – 21st	FINAL EXAM (to be scheduled by the Registrar)	