

DEPARTMENT OF ANTHROPOLOGY AND ARCHAEOLOGY
ARKY 327.02: Archaeology and Popular Culture - Human Origins
WINTER 2016

Monday, Wednesday, Friday 11:00 - 11:50
SA 129

Dr. Shawn Gregory Morton
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Course Description:

This course explores the shared biological and cultural legacy of modern humans and their ancestors, and questions "what it means to be human." The course presents a non-technical survey of fossil Hominids and primates as understood through both academic and popular media. Throughout the course we address issues such as science, creationism, evolution and taxonomy, as well as various additional biological and cultural constructs.

Required Text:

Zimmer, Carl (2005) *Smithsonian Intimate Guide to Human Origins*. Smithsonian Books and Harper Press, New York.

DeSalle, Rob, and Ian Tattersall (2008) *Human Origins: What bones and genomes tell us about ourselves*. Texas A&M University Press.

*Both texts are available from the UofC Bookstore or online at amazon.ca

**Additional readings will be distributed in class or via D2L

Grading:

Test 1 (5 Feb.)	35%
Media Assignment (19 Feb.)	20%
Test 2 (4 Mar.)	35%
Test 3 (11 Apr.)	10%

Grading System:

A+	96-100	B+	80-84.99	C+	67-69.99	D+	55-59.99
A	90-95.99	B	75-79.99	C	64-66.99	D	50-54.99
A-	85-89.99	B-	70-74.99	C-	60-63.99	F	49.99 or lower

Media Assignment

There have been a lot of new and developing discoveries with regard to questions of human origins in recent years; it can sometimes be difficult to keep abreast with the pace of discovery. For most of us, not directly engaged in research in this realm, the popular media provides our primary source of information. But how do we judge the relevance/validity of this information?

Your task is to find an article appearing in the popular media that deals with the topic of human origins and to critically evaluate its content using both course content and relevant scholarly publications. What does the article say? What doesn't it say? Who is the intended audience of the author and what are the potential consequences associated with tailoring the content to this audience? On the whole, how complete or accurate is the information and argument presented in your article of choice? Choose any article appearing in any popular media outlet **within the past 5 years**.

Assignments should be limited to a maximum of 5 pages (minimum of 3 pages), double-spaced, Times New Roman, 12 pt font, 1 inch margins. These guidelines do not include relevant figures, title pages, or references cited. Please use proper in-text citation and refer to the SAA style guide. Your paper should be thoroughly researched, well organized, and well written. The sooner you start, the better.

Policy for Late Assignments

Students who miss tests or hand in a late assignment without legitimate documentation for medical reasons or a family emergency will receive 0% for that test or assignment.

Attendance

It is strongly advised that students attend all classes. Although lectures, discussions, presentations, and readings will provide overlapping material, students are responsible for all materials covered. **A strong passing grade will be difficult without regular class attendance.**

Cell Phones, etc.

Ringers must be set to 'silent' or 'meeting' to avoid disrupting the class. Cell phone conversations are not permitted in class and students must excuse themselves from the lecture room to receive calls. Internet and other electronic devices (e.g. laptops, tablets) are permitted in class. However, if a student's activity on such devices is interrupting the learning experience of others, they will be asked to cease such activity.

Writing Across the Curriculum

Writing skills are not exclusive to English courses and, in fact, should cross all disciplines. The University supports the belief that throughout their University careers, students should be taught how to write well so that when they graduate their writing abilities will be far above the minimal standards required at entrance. Consistent with this belief, students are expected to do a substantial amount of writing in their University courses and, where appropriate, instructors can and may use writing and the grading thereof as a factor in the evaluation of student work. The services provided by the Writing Centre in the Effective Writing Office can be utilized by all undergraduate and graduate students who feel they require further assistance.

Student Accessibility Services Accommodations

Student Accommodations. Students needing an Accommodation because of a Disability or medical condition should contact Student Accessibility Services in accordance with the Procedure for Accommodations for Students with Disabilities available at http://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/procedure-foraccommodations-for-students-with-disabilities_0.pdf.

It is the responsibility of the student to request academic accommodations. If you are a student with

a documented disability who may require academic accommodation and have not registered with Student Accessibility Services, please contact their office at (403)220-8237.

Students who have not registered with Student Accessibility Services are not eligible for formal academic accommodation. Students are also required to discuss their needs with the instructor no later than fourteen (14) days after the start of the course.

Academic Misconduct

Academic dishonesty is an unacceptable activity at the University of Calgary and students are strongly advised to read the Student Misconduct section of the University Calendar. Quite often, students are unaware of what constitutes academic dishonesty or plagiarism. The most common are:

Presenting another student's work as your own

Presenting an author's work or ideas as you own without proper referencing

Using work completed for another course

This activity will not be tolerated and students conducting themselves in this manner will be dealt with according to the procedures outlined in the University Calendar.

For detailed information on what constitutes academic misconduct, please refer to the following link:

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k-2-1.html>

Emergency Evacuation Assembly Points

In the event of an emergency that requires evacuation, please refer to the following link to become familiar with the assembly points for the class:

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints>

USRI

At the University of Calgary, feedback provided by students through the Universal Student Ratings of Instruction (USRI) survey provides valuable information to help with evaluating instruction, enhancing learning and teaching, and selecting courses. Your responses make a difference, please participate!

Website: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/usri/>

Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act

The University of Calgary is committed to protecting the privacy of individuals who work and study at the University or who otherwise interact with the University in accordance with the standards set out in the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act.

Please refer to the following link for detailed information:

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/secretariat/system/files/foip%20overview.pdf>

The Department of Anthropology and Archaeology's FOIP (Freedom of Information and Privacy) policy requires all reports/examinations to be returned to students during class time or the instructor's office hours. Any term work not picked up will be placed in the Anthropology and Archaeology Office (ES620) for distribution. Any student not wishing to have their work placed in the office must make alternate arrangements with the course instructor early in the term.

Safewalk Information

Campus Security, in partnership with the Students' Union, provides the Safewalk service, 24 hours a day to any location on Campus including the LRT, parking lots, bus zones and University residences. Contact Campus Security at (403) 220-5333 or use a help phone, and Safewalkers or a Campus Security Officer will accompany you to your campus destination.

Contact Information for Student and Faculty Representation

Student Union Vice President – Academic

Phone: (403) 220-3911

Email: suvpaca@ucalgary.ca

Student Union Faculty Representative

Phone: (403) 220-3913

Email: socilscirep@su.ucalgary.ca

Student Ombudsman's Office

<http://www.su.ucalgary.ca/services/student-services/students-rights.html>

Statement of *Fair Warning*

In this course readings and lectures may contain ideas and information that some students find disturbing or otherwise troubling. Any student not wishing to undertake this work should contact the instructor immediately so that enrolment in an alternative course more in keeping with the student's interests can be facilitated.