The Origins of Humanity

Anthropology (ANTH) 200Lg
USC, Summer 2014
Lectures: MTWTh 2:00 – 4:30, AHF B10F
Labs: TWTh 4:45 – 6:00, AHF B10F

Instructor: Christopher A. Schmitt, Ph.D.
Contact: Email: caschmit@usc.edu
Office Hours: Monday 1:00 – 2:00 at Hancock (AHF) B10B
Wednesday 1:00 – 2:00 at Hancock (AHF) B10B

Teaching Assistants: Andy Fogel (afogel@usc.edu)
Sections: TWTh 4:45 – 6:00 at AHF B10F
Office Hours: TBA

Course Content: This is an introductory course providing a comprehensive overview of the field of biological anthropology. We begin by surveying the history of evolutionary thought, then survey the Primate order, and continue with an examination of the fossil evidence for human evolution. Finally, theoretical questions confronting the field in the 21st century are discussed, to familiarize you with the major issues and prepare you for the more advanced courses in this field and a more complex engagement with biological anthropology and contemporary society. We will give particular emphasis to evolutionary explanations for the origins of modern humans, to ecological influences on behavior, and to evolutionary implications for the origins of human behavior.

How I Run My Course: I've had a lot of experience teaching at USC/UCLA/NYU, and have come to understand some best practices for this kind of course. First: NO LAPTOPS IN CLASS (you may bring yours, but it must remain closed during lecture; this class is The Origins of Humanity, not the Amazon.com shopping hour). You are to take your notes by hand on notebook paper (studies show that students who take paper notes retain more and more accurate information than students who take notes on laptops). Second: I WILL NOT post lecture slides online. YOU MUST ATTEND LECTURE TO SEE THE SLIDES. The one exception will be fossil images that are not available in the book; these I will post to Blackboard with information about them to aid your studying. Third: WE WILL TAKE BREAKS. Nobody, myself included, can survive a 2.5 hour non-stop lecture with their attention span intact. Classes will be broken down into two topically distinct lectures divided by a 15-minute break. Finally, I encourage questions and clarifications while lecturing in a small class like this one. If something is unclear at first pass, raise your hand and ask about it!

Office hours: I hold office hours on Mondays and Wednesdays from 1-2 (or by appointment) in the Jane Goodall Research Center, Hancock (AHF) B10B. Enter Hancock by the front door, cross the lobby and walk down the corridor to the right. Take the first stairwell to the basement and turn left. E-mail is always the best way to reach me for questions or an appointment: **caschmit@usc.edu**

I will also post new information, random thoughts, and relevant links at my personal twitter account: **@fuzzyatelin**, using the hashtag #ANTH200USC. Course grades, announcements and handouts will be posted on Blackboard.

Textbooks: *Exploring Biological Anthropology* (**Third edition** in the bookstore) by Stanford, Allen and Antón. This text should be used as your source of information to supplement the material presented in class. We will also read *Planet Without Apes* (2012) by Craig Stanford, and *Paleofantasy* (2013) by Marlene Zuk. In addition to these books, I have assigned a collection of readings in human evolution, *Annual Editions in Physical Anthropology* (the 2013-14 edition), to be read and discussed with your TA's.

Labs: Your regular attendance in TA-taught labs is required, and will help to decide final grades. It is very difficult to get an "A" grade in this course without going to lab every week and *participating*. The TA will discuss the readings, review course material, do hands-on learning projects, hold exam reviews, and show videos to supplement the course material. Participation and discussion in the labs will make this class much more personally relevant, stimulating and enjoyable. Go to discussion! Note: The scheduling of specific labs will be at the discretion of the TA, and labs may not meet every TWTh. Lab assignments on this syllabus are provisional and will be solidified the first week of class.

Grading: Grading will be done on a total points accumulated basis as follows:

Midterm 1 = 30 %
Midterm 2 = 30 %
Midterm 3 = 30 %
TA lab assignments and attendance = 10 %

Attendance will be taken in lecture on random dates, and your lecture attendance can affect decisions for borderline grades. Progressive improvement on exams during the semester will also be taken into account.

Examinations: All regularly scheduled exams will be a combination of objective (multiple choice, short answer) 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 campus Health Center does not dispense 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 - than 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 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.

Academic Accommodations:
Any student requesting academic accommodations based on a disability are required to register with Disability Services and Programs (DSP) each semester. A letter of verification for approved accommodations can be obtained from DSP. Please be sure the letter is delivered to me (the instructor) as early in the semester as possible. DSP is located in Student Union (STU) 301 and is open 8:30-5:00pm Monday – Friday. The phone number for DSP is (213) 740-0776.

Academic Integrity:
Students who violate University standards of academic integrity are subject to disciplinary sanctions, including failure in the course and suspension from the University. Since dishonesty in any form harms the individual, other students and the University, academic integrity policies will be strictly enforced. I expect you will familiarize yourself with the Academic Integrity guidelines found in the current SCampus.

Academic Integrity Violations:
Academic dishonesty/misconduct (plagiarism, cheating, unauthorized collaboration, etc.) will not be tolerated. All academic integrity violations will result in a grade sanction and will be reported to the Office for Student Judicial Affairs. It is your responsibility to "reasonably" protect your own work from the plagiarism of others.

If plagiarism is detected on a group project, all members of the group will be held responsible.

You are expected to be familiar with the Academic Integrity guidelines found in the current SCampus (student guidebook). An electronic version is available at http://usc.edu/scampus.

Lecture schedule	**Readings (S=Stanford text; AE=Annual Editions 13/14)**
Week 1	
W May 21: Introduction, History of evolution	S 1,2
Th May 22: Genetics, Forces of evolution	S 3, 4, 5; AE 1.2, 1.5, 1.6
Lab: Science and creationism	
Week 2	
M May 26: Sexual selection; Taxonomy & systematics	
T May 27: Introduction to Primates; Strepsirhines	S 7; AE 2.1, 2.2, 2.3
Lab: Video: *The New Chimpanzees*	Start
W May 28: Monkeys, New World and Old World	*Planet without Apes*
Lab: Discuss AE readings	
Th May 29: Apes; Primate social systems	S 8
Lab: Midterm 1 review	
Week 3	
M June 2: **MIDTERM 1**	
T June 3: Primate Conservation/Chimps-Gorillas	
Lab: *Planet Without Apes* discussion	
W June 4: The Skeleton; Primate Evolution (65 Ma – 5 Ma)	S 9; AE 4.1, 4.2
Lab: Primate Skeletal Lab	
Th June 5: Hominins prior to the genus *Homo*	S 10
Lab: Trip to the Natural History Museum	
Week 4	
M June 9: *Homo erectus* and "archaic" *H. sapiens*	S 11, 12; AE 4.3,4.4, 4.5
T June 10: Neanderthals and modern humans	S 13; AE 5.1
Lab: Fossil Lab	
W June 11: Models of human origins and peopling the world	
Lab: Video: *Human Origins*	
Th June 12: **MIDTERM 2**	Start *Paleofantasy*
Week 5	
M June 16: Are humans still evolving?	S 14, 15
T June 17: Biomedical anthro; Darwinian medicine	AE 7.2, 7.4, 7.6, 7.7
Lab: Discuss AE readings	*Paleofantasy*
W June 18: Evolutionary psych, sex, and sexuality	AE 6.1, 6.2
Lab: Discuss AE readings and *Paleofantasy*	
Th June 19: Race	
Lab: Midterm 3 review	
Week 6	
M June 23: Biology and the evolution of culture	
T June 24: **MIDTERM 3** (Last day of class)	