

HBIO 200Lg: The Human Animal
Tuesdays and Thursdays 2:00 – 3:20 pm

Note: This course will be held online in Spring 2021.

This **draft syllabus** provides an overview of course content, but is **subject to revision and schedule changes**.

Instructor: Maureen McCarthy, PhD (she/her/hers)

Office Hours: By appointment, via Zoom

Email: msmccart@usc.edu

Website: <https://blackboard.usc.edu>

Course Description: This is a course introducing the student to an evolutionary and biological view of the human species. It is intended to make the student consider and apply the scientific method, and to understand evolution as the central unifying concept in the biological sciences, with humans as our case study subject. We consider natural selection, and how it contributes to the formation of species, biodiversity, and patterns of biological evolution. The student will gain an appreciation for the scope of biological diversity by learning the evolutionary history of the human species. We begin by surveying the history of evolutionary thought and examining the structure of evolutionary theory. We then survey the Primate order, followed by an examination of the fossil evidence for human evolution. We conclude with a consideration of how evolution may influence the modern human species. Theoretical questions confronting the field in the 21st century are discussed, to familiarize you with the major issues. 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.

Learning Objectives:

- to demonstrate an understanding of fundamental concepts in evolutionary theory and the scientific method
- to identify mechanisms by which species evolve and diverge, with a particular focus on the human species
- to describe the evolutionary history of primates and the fossil evidence for human ancestors
- to integrate these concepts and critically consider how evolution influences the diversity and behavior of modern human societies

Blackboard:

Course announcements, final course syllabus, synchronous Zoom sessions, Zoom recordings, handouts, and other information will be posted at the Blackboard site for this course.

Required Texts:

1. *Biological Anthropology* (Fourth Edition, ISBN 9780134005690 - do not buy the earlier editions) by Stanford, Allen and Antón. Available as an ebook or digital rental, hard copies are difficult to find as publishers transition to digital-only. This text should be used as your source of information to supplement the material presented in class.
2. *Planet Without Apes*, by Craig Stanford (Harvard U. Press, 2012), available online used inexpensively or in the bookstore, paperback or hardcover.

Lectures: These will consist of a combination of synchronous Zoom sessions and pre-recorded Zoom videos. All accompanying videos (including recordings of synchronous sessions) and Powerpoint slides will be provided on Blackboard. There will be Zoom modules corresponding to the course schedule (see the following pages). Students are responsible for viewing all related course content videos during any given week.

Labs: Teaching assistants (TAs) will lead weekly synchronous Zoom lab sessions. Regular participation and engagement in labs is expected by each student and can help determine final course grades. It is very difficult to get an 'A' grade in this course without participating in labs each week. The TAs will discuss the readings, review course material, do hands-on learning projects, hold exam reviews, and show videos to supplement the course material. Your lab grade will be assigned on a 10-point scale, 0-10.

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

Exam 1 = 25%

Exam 2 = 25%

Exam 3 = 25%

Lab participation = 20%

Summative essay assignment = 5%

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 campus Health Center does not dispense medical excuses. No early makeup 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 - mostly long essays - 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.

Summative Essay: There will be a final essay assignment due on **Thursday, May 6 2 PM Pacific Time**. Details will be provided early in the semester.

Zoom Etiquette, Session Recordings, and Online Course Material

Students are expected to adhere to guidelines regarding Zoom etiquette. These guidelines will be provided early in the semester.

Recorded Zoom sessions and all other course content should not be shared with anyone outside of the course (including study websites such as Chegg and CourseHero), as per USC policy:

SCampus Section 11.12(B)

Distribution or use of notes or recordings based on university classes or lectures without the express permission of the instructor for purposes other than individual or group study is a violation of the USC Student Conduct Code. This includes, but is not limited to, providing materials for distribution by services publishing class notes. This restriction on unauthorized use also applies to all information, which had been distributed to students or in any way had been displayed for use in relationship to the class, whether obtained in class, via email, on the Internet or via any other media. (See Section C.1 Class Notes Policy).

Course Schedule (Subject to revision)			
Week	Date	Topic*	Bio Anth Text Chs. To Read
1	Tues 1/19	Course introduction (LIVE)	
	Thurs 1/21	The scientific method and principles of evolution	1
	Lab: Introductions and video: Mankind Rising		
2	Tues 1/26	The basics of genetics	2
	Thurs 1/28	The basics of genetics	3
	Lab: Genetics and forces of evolution		
3	Tues 2/2	Forces of evolution / Zoom Office Hour (LIVE)	4
	Thurs 2/4	What is a species?	4
	Lab: Human Osteology / Skeletal Biology		
4	Tues 2/9	Human variation	5
	Thurs 2/11	Primate classification / What is a primate?	6
	Lab: Primate Osteology		
5	Tues 2/16	Primate behavior / Zoom Office Hour (LIVE)	7
	Thurs 2/18	EXAM 1 (LIVE)	
	Lab: Exam 1 Review		
6	Tues 2/23	Great ape behavior	7
	Thurs 2/25	Great apes / Primate Conservation	7
	Lab: Locomotion		
7	Tues 3/2	Fossils in Geological Context / Zoom Office Hour (LIVE)	8
	Thurs 3/4	Primate Origins	9
	Lab: Becoming Human video (No Wednesday labs: Student Wellness Day)		
8	Tues 3/9	Early hominins / The ape-human transition	10
	Thurs 3/11	Bipedalism	10
	Lab: Early hominin fossils		
9	Tues 3/16	Bipedalism / Zoom Office Hour (LIVE)	10
	Thurs 3/18	EXAM 2 (LIVE)	
	Lab: Exam 2 Review		
10	Tues 3/23	Student Wellness Day – No class material	
	Thurs 3/25	Homo erectus / Early Homo / Archaic Homo sapiens	11/12
	Lab: No Labs		
11	Tues 3/30	Neanderthals / Zoom Office Hour (LIVE)	12
	Thurs 4/1	The emergence of modern humans	13
	Lab: More recent hominins		
12	Tues 4/6	Brain evolution	13/14
	Thurs 4/8	Language evolution	14
	Lab: The human brain		
13	Tues 4/13	Biomedical Anthropology / Zoom Office Hour (LIVE)	15
	Thurs 4/15	Darwinian Medicine	15
	Lab: Darwinian medicine and epidemiology		
14	Tues 4/20	Modern human behavior and diversity	16
	Thurs 4/22	Student Wellness Day – No class material	
	Lab: No labs		
15	Tues 4/27	Culture and Biology / Zoom Office Hour (LIVE)	16
	Thurs 4/29	EXAM 3 (LIVE)	
	Lab: Exam 3 Review		
Study Period: Read Planet Without Apes – Summative essay due Thursday, May 6 by 2 PM Pacific Time			

***LIVE = Synchronous Zoom sessions held at the scheduled course time; All other lectures will be available in Blackboard course modules as pre-recorded Zoom lectures no later than class time on the posted date.**

Guidelines for Online Class Sessions

USC's Statements on Academic Conduct and Support Systems

Academic Conduct:

Plagiarism – presenting someone else's ideas as your own, either verbatim or recast in your own words – is a serious academic offense with serious consequences. Please familiarize yourself with the discussion of plagiarism in SCampus in Part B, Section 11, "Behavior Violating University Standards" policy.usc.edu/scampus-part-b. Other forms of academic dishonesty are equally unacceptable. See additional information in SCampus and university policies on scientific misconduct, policy.usc.edu/scientific-misconduct.

Support Systems:

Counseling and Mental Health - (213) 740-9355 – 24/7 on call
studenthealth.usc.edu/counseling

Free and confidential mental health treatment for students, including short-term psychotherapy, group counseling, stress fitness workshops, and crisis intervention.

National Suicide Prevention Lifeline - 1 (800) 273-8255 – 24/7 on call
suicidepreventionlifeline.org

Free and confidential emotional support to people in suicidal crisis or emotional distress 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Relationship and Sexual Violence Prevention Services (RSVP) - (213) 740-9355(WELL), press "0" after hours – 24/7 on call
studenthealth.usc.edu/sexual-assault

Free and confidential therapy services, workshops, and training for situations related to gender-based harm.

Office of Equity and Diversity (OED) - (213) 740-5086 | Title IX – (213) 821-8298
equity.usc.edu, titleix.usc.edu

Information about how to get help or help someone affected by harassment or discrimination, rights of protected classes, reporting options, and additional resources for students, faculty, staff, visitors, and applicants.

Reporting Incidents of Bias or Harassment - (213) 740-5086 or (213) 821-8298
usc-advocate.symplicity.com/care_report

Avenue to report incidents of bias, hate crimes, and microaggressions to the Office of Equity and Diversity | Title IX for appropriate investigation, supportive measures, and response.

The Office of Disability Services and Programs - (213) 740-0776
dsp.usc.edu

Support and accommodations for students with disabilities. Services include assistance in providing readers/notetakers/interpreters, special accommodations for test taking needs, assistance with architectural barriers, assistive technology, and support for individual needs.

USC Campus Support and Intervention - (213) 821-4710

campussupport.usc.edu

Assists students and families in resolving complex personal, financial, and academic issues adversely affecting their success as a student.

Diversity at USC - (213) 740-2101

diversity.usc.edu

Information on events, programs and training, the Provost's Diversity and Inclusion Council, Diversity Liaisons for each academic school, chronology, participation, and various resources for students.

USC Emergency - UPC: (213) 740-4321, HSC: (323) 442-1000 – 24/7 on call

dps.usc.edu, emergency.usc.edu

Emergency assistance and avenue to report a crime. Latest updates regarding safety, including ways in which instruction will be continued if an officially declared emergency makes travel to campus infeasible.

USC Department of Public Safety - UPC: (213) 740-6000, HSC: (323) 442-120 – 24/7 on call

dps.usc.edu

Non-emergency assistance or information.

Office of the Ombuds - (213) 821-9556 (UPC) / (323-442-0382 (HSC)

ombuds.usc.edu

A safe and confidential place to share your USC-related issues with a University Ombuds who will work with you to explore options or paths to manage your concern.