

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

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, 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: Lectures will be held synchronously ONLINE VIA ZOOM on Tues and Thurs 2:00 – 3:20 PM. Lecture slides will be provided as a supplement to online lecture attendance and as a learning aid, but may not provide all pertinent material. Students should attend all online lectures and make up any material missed.

Labs: Teaching assistants (TAs) will lead weekly IN-PERSON 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.

Illness: In case of illness, students SHOULD NOT attend lab. Contact your lab TA as soon as possible to inform them of any absence or missed assignment due to illness.

COVID-19 Policy: Students are expected to comply with all aspects of USC's COVID-19 policy. Failure to do so may result in removal from the class and referral to Student Judicial Affairs and Community Standards.

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 take place online via Blackboard, and will comprise a combination of objective and essay questions. Make-up exams will be given only in cases of illness or excused absence. No early makeup exams will be given. Students who are excused from scheduled exams will take a make-up administered no more than one week after the class exam date. This makeup will be an alternate version of the exam that covers the same material.

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 5 2 PM Pacific Time**. Details will be provided early in the semester.

Communication: For any questions or concerns about the course, or to schedule a virtual office hour meeting, please email me at msmccart@usc.edu. Email is the preferred way to contact me. I will typically respond within 24-48 hours.

Sharing Course Material:

Sharing course content—including any course recordings, presentation materials, and other content—outside the course environment is *strictly prohibited*, 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).

Note: This policy also refers to study websites like Chegg and Coursehero; uploading course materials to these sites is strictly prohibited.

Course Schedule (Subject to revision)			
Week	Date	Topic*	Bio Anth Text Chs. To Read
1	Tues 1/11	Course introduction / Scientific Method	1
	Thurs 1/13	Principles of evolution	1
	<i>Lab: No labs</i>		
2	Tues 1/18	The basics of genetics	2/3
	Thurs 1/20	Forces of evolution	4
	<i>Lab: Genetics and forces of evolution (No Monday Lab: MLK Day)</i>		
3	Tues 1/25	What is a species?	4
	Thurs 1/27	What is a primate? / Primate classification	6
	<i>Lab: Primate osteology</i>		
4	Tues 2/1	Primate behavior and sociality	7
	Thurs 2/3	Great ape behavior	7
	<i>Lab: Clever Monkeys Video</i>		
5	Tues 2/8	Primate Conservation	7
	Thurs 2/10	EXAM 1	
	<i>Lab: Exam 1 Review (Monday lab: Exam 1 Review + Week 2 lab makeup)</i>		
6	Tues 2/15	Fossils in Geological Context	8
	Thurs 2/17	Primate Origins	9
	<i>Lab: Human osteology / Skeletal biology</i>		
7	Tues 2/22	Early hominins / The ape-human transition	10
	Thurs 2/24	Bipedalism	10
	<i>Lab: Locomotion (No Monday lab: Presidents' Day)</i>		
8	Tues 3/1	Early Homo / Homo erectus	11
	Thurs 3/3	Archaic Homo sapiens	12
	<i>Lab: Early hominin fossils / More recent hominins</i>		
9	Tues 3/8	Neanderthals	12
	Thurs 3/10	The emergence of modern humans	13
	<i>Lab: Neanderthals and Early modern humans</i>		
	Tues 3/15	No class – Spring Recess	
	Thurs 3/17	No class – Spring Recess	
	<i>Lab: No labs – Spring Recess</i>		
10	Tues 3/22	The emergence of modern humans	13
	Thurs 3/24	EXAM 2	
	<i>Lab: Exam 2 Review (Monday lab: Exam 2 Review + Week 7 lab makeup)</i>		
11	Tues 3/29	Brain evolution	14
	Thurs 3/31	Language evolution	14
	<i>Lab: The human brain</i>		
12	Tues 4/5	Biomedical Anthropology	15
	Thurs 4/7	Darwinian Medicine	15
	<i>Lab: Darwinian medicine and epidemiology</i>		
13	Tues 4/12	Human variation	5
	Thurs 4/14	Modern human behavior and diversity	16
	<i>Lab: Forensic anthropology</i>		
14	Tues 4/19	Behavior in evolutionary perspective	16
	Thurs 4/21	Modern human behavior / Are we still evolving?	16
	<i>Lab: Evolutionary psychology</i>		
15	Tues 4/26	Cultural evolution	16
	Thurs 4/28	EXAM 3	
	<i>Lab: Exam 3 Review</i>		
Study Period: Read Planet Without Apes – Summative essay due Thursday, May 5 by 2 PM Pacific Time			

Statement 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 [Research and Scholarship Misconduct](#).

Students and Disability Accommodations:

USC welcomes students with disabilities into all of the University’s educational programs. The Office of Student Accessibility Services (OSAS) is responsible for the determination of appropriate accommodations for students who encounter disability-related barriers. Once a student has completed the OSAS process (registration, initial appointment, and submitted documentation) and accommodations are determined to be reasonable and appropriate, a Letter of Accommodation (LOA) will be available to generate for each course. The LOA must be given to each course instructor by the student and followed up with a discussion. This should be done as early in the semester as possible as accommodations are not retroactive. More information can be found at osas.usc.edu. You may contact OSAS at (213) 740-0776 or via email at osasfrontdesk@usc.edu.

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 for Equity, Equal Opportunity, and Title IX (EEO-TIX) - (213) 740-5086
eeotix.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 for Equity, Equal Opportunity, and Title for appropriate investigation, supportive measures, and response.

The Office of Student Accessibility Services (OSAS) - (213) 740-0776

osas.usc.edu

OSAS ensures equal access for students with disabilities through providing academic accommodations and auxiliary aids in accordance with federal laws and university policy.

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, Equity and Inclusion - (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.

Occupational Therapy Faculty Practice - (323) 442-3340 or otfp@med.usc.edu

chan.usc.edu/otfp

Confidential Lifestyle Redesign services for USC students to support health promoting habits and routines that enhance quality of life and academic performance.