HUMAN ORIGINS

ANT 4586C / Spring 2019

Lecture: Thursdays 9:00-10:15 AM/ BA1 121
Lab: Tuesdays 9:00-10:15 AM or 10:30-11:50 AM/ MSB 149

Instructor: Dr. Emily Zavodny
Office: HPH 103
Office Hours: Tuesdays 3-5 pm & Thursdays 10:30 am -12:30 pm
Email: Emily.Zavodny@ucf.edu or via Webcourses

GTA: Ms. Tyler Vanburen
Office: TBA
Office Hours: TBA
Email: via Webcourses

University Catalogue Description

The fossil evidence for human evolution from Miocene hominoids through the Australopithecines to the earliest members of the genus *Homo*.

Overview

This course will introduce students to evolutionary concepts frequently explored within biological/physical anthropology. Students will be introduced to evolutionary theory, our primate origins, non-human primate and human anatomical diversity, fossil dating, fossil phylogenetic classification and the human family tree, locomotion patterns, and various potential human ancestors including those in the genus *Homo*. We will explore these various topics through readings from your textbook as well as through lectures, films, and additional readings. You will be assessed via lab activities, quizzes, short papers, and exams.

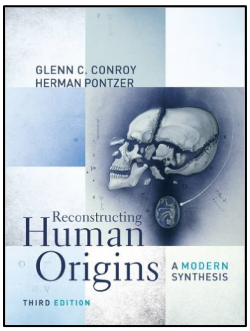
Objectives

By the end of this course, you will be able to:

- Understand paleoanthropology and how it relates to the anthropological discipline
- Understand theoretical concepts related to non-human primate and human evolution
- Identify key anatomical changes that have occurred over millions of years throughout evolution, ultimately leading to the unique suite of traits associated with contemporary humans
- Understand how different lines of evidence inform us of our evolutionary history
- Become familiar with anatomical and morphological diversity of various fossil specimens of potential human ancestors
- Formulate knowledgeable questions about our past and our future as we continue to adapt to our ever-changing environment

Materials

There is one required textbook for this class.



Reconstructing Human Origins: a modern synthesis
Authors: Glenn Conroy & Herman Pontzer
Edition: 3rd
Publisher: W.W. Norton
Year: 2012
ISBN: 978-0393912890

Student Financial Assistance has two programs to assist financial aid recipients with purchasing their textbooks: the **Textbook Purchase Program** and the **Short Term Advance for Books.** Students must select one **or** the other of the two programs, not both, during any given semester. Students who apply late for financial aid or have incomplete files should be prepared to cover their textbook expenses out-of-pocket. Additional information can be found at https://finaid.ucf.edu/receiving/funds-for-books/. Check the Bulletin Boards on **myUCF** for specific dates and information throughout the year.

I also highly recommend bookmarking the Smithsonian Human Origins Institute website for helpful study tools, interactive maps and great images of our human ancestors.

- http://humanorigins.si.edu/
- http://humanorigins.si.edu/evidence/human-family-tree

Class Structure

Class time is divided between lectures and labs. Lectures take place on Thursdays, when we meet as one group in BA1 121. On Tuesdays, you will attend one of two designated lab periods in MSB 149. You should only attend your assigned lab section.

Grading

Your final grade is based on the following: financial aid activity (1), exams (3), reading quizzes (11), labs (10), and short response papers (2). The total value for all assignments is 600 points, meaning your final letter grade is based directly on how many points you earn throughout the semester. If you wish to discuss your grade, please come see Tyler or me during our office hours or schedule an appointment. We cannot discuss grades via email.

FINANCIAL AID ACTIVITY: 10 POINTS (1 X 10 POINTS)

I am required to document your academic activity at the beginning of each course due to financial aid issues. In order for me to do this, you must complete the **Introductory Quiz (Financial Aid Activity) by 5 PM (EST) Friday, Jan 11**. Failure to do so will result in a delay in the disbursement of your financial aid and no one wants that!

EXAMS: 300 POINTS (3 X 100 POINTS EACH)

There will be three (3) non-cumulative exams throughout the semester. They will consist of multiple choice, true/false, fill-in-the-blank, fossil identifier, and short answer questions.

ONLINE READING QUIZZES: 110 POINTS (11 X 10 POINTS EACH)

Readings are assigned as a group for each module, meaning you should complete all readings <u>before</u> you come to lecture on Thursday in order to understand and participate in class discussions. To facilitate this there will be twelve (12) online reading quizzes throughout the semester. Quizzes will be posted on Monday and due by 9:00 AM the following Thursday. Your lowest quiz score will be dropped at the end of the semester. Quizzes will consist of multiple choice, true/false, and/or fill-in-the-blank questions.

LAB ACTIVITIES: 100 POINTS (10 X 10 POINTS EACH)

You will complete eleven (11) labs throughout the semester. Lab material will only be available during your assigned lab times. Given the interactive and collaborative nature of these assignments, <u>you will NOT be able to make up a missed lab activity.</u> Your lowest lab grade will be dropped at the end of the semester.

PDFs of lab materials will be made accessible to you on Webcourses the day before lab. Each lab has a reading component consisting of several pages of text that will help you complete the lab during lab time. **Students are responsible for reading lab material *BEFORE* attending the lab. It is your responsibility to print out your lab reading material and assignment before attending the lab.** You should review lab reading and questions beforehand.

During the lab, you will work in groups of 3-4 students. Only one worksheet needs to be turned in per group, but make sure everyone's name is listed. When finished, each group should turn in the lab and leave.

SHORT RESPONSE PAPERS: 80 POINTS (2 X 40 POINTS EACH)

You will be required to write two (2) short response papers responding to questions raised by our discussions in class. These papers are tentatively due on February 28 and April 18. A more detailed description and grading rubric for these papers will be provided closer to these dates.

Final Grades

Letter grades will be assigned according to the table below. You can calculate your final grade using the following formula:

Percentage Grade = (Total Financial Aid Activity Points Earned + Total Exam Points Earned + Total Quiz Points Earned + Total Lab Activity Points Earned + Total Short Response Paper Points Earned) /600

Letter Grade	A	B	C	D	F
Percentage	90-100	80-89	70-79	60-69	≤ 59

Final grades will be rounded up to the nearest whole number IF the grade is within 0.5 points of this next highest number. For instance, a grade of 89.5 will be rounded to a 90, but a grade of 89.49 will not. No extra credit assignments will be offered.

Late Work & Make-Up Policy

All assignments are due in-class on the date indicated on the course schedule and syllabus. You may submit late work without a university excuse up to four (4) days after the due date, but with a 15% deduction per day from your grade on that assignment. I will not accept anything beyond four days past the deadline. You cannot make up missed lab activities.

Students with a university-approved excuse (hospitalization, jury duty, family emergency) may be asked to provide documentation in order to make up graded assignments. Students with an approved excuse must also contact me before the

assignment in question is due, otherwise no accommodations will be made. All make-up work is at the discretion of the instructor.

Communication

You must check the course webpage and your Knights email regularly as these are the primary means of communication for this course. We will be using our Webcourse page to post important information throughout the semester, including grades, required reading, and announcements. Some assignments, such as quizzes, will be completed and submitted entirely on Webcourses. You are responsible for all of the information posted online to our course page.

Email is the best way to communicate with Tyler (your GTA) or me if you have any questions about readings, specific assignments, or anything else not answered in the syllabus. Please include the course and section numbers in your email subject line, as well as a salutation and your name in the body of the email. We will respond to emails within 48 hours of receiving them, but please note that it may take us the full 48 hours to respond. Waiting for a response is not an excuse for missing an assignment deadline.

Academic Responsibility

First and foremost, read the syllabus and course schedule. This document is your guide so that you can keep up with the scheduled readings, modules, and assignments. Time management, problem solving, responsibility, and personal accountability are among the most important things you can learn in college. To be successful in this class (and in college in general), you will need to check Webcourses regularly (and often!), keep up with assigned readings, and make every effort to complete assignments, quizzes and exams on time and in a professional manner. Lastly, if you've read this far, email me a picture of your favorite primate by January 12th for two extra credit points.

Course Etiquette

Anthropology is focused on understanding the diversity of human life. The readings, discussions, and assignments required in this class will address many controversial topics, including sexual behavior, gender norms, and religious beliefs and practices. Many of the examples covered will seem strange and possibly objectionable to you, just as your own way of life may seem objectionable to many others around the world. This class does not require you to agree with, believe in, or choose to follow any particular way of life and it does not ask you to be uncritical about social or cultural patterns. You are, however, expected to approach alternative perspectives with respect and to listen to and seek to understand unfamiliar points of view. You also have the right to have others respectfully listen to and seek to understand your point of view. Please feel free to come and see us at any point in the semester if you have any concerns.

Laptops are allowed in class for note-taking only. If you are you using your laptop for other purposes, you will be asked to put it away. Cellphones should be silenced and stored out of sight for the entirety of the class.

Academic Integrity

As reflected in the UCF creed, integrity and scholarship are core values that should guide our conduct and decisions as members of the UCF community. Plagiarism and cheating - presenting another's ideas, arguments, words or images as your own, using unauthorized material, or giving or accepting unauthorized help on assignments or tests - contradict the educational value of course exercises and are very serious academic offenses. Violations of these rules will result in a record of the infraction being placed in your file and receiving a zero on the work in question AT A MINIMUM. At my discretion, you may also receive a failing grade for the course. Confirmation of such incidents can also result in suspension or expulsion from the University. Students are expected to familiarize themselves with and follow the University's Rules of Conduct (see http://www.osrr.sdes.ucf.edu/).

Student Accessibility and Accommodations

The University of Central Florida is committed to providing access and inclusion for all persons with disabilities. Students with disabilities who need disability-related access in this course should contact Student Accessibility Services (SAS) and me as soon as possible. More information can be found at http://sas.sdes.ucf.edu/. SAS is located at Ferrell Commons Room 185 and can be contacted via email (sas@ucf.edu) or phone (407-823-2371, TTY/TDD only phone 407-823-2116).

Religious Observances

Students must notify me in advance if they intend to miss class for a religious observance. For a current schedule of major religious holidays, see the Faculty Center's main web page under "Calendars," and for additional information, contact the Office of Diversity Initiatives at 407-823-6479.

Deployed Active Duty Military Students

A deployed active duty military student who feels the need for a special accommodation due to that unique status should contact me to discuss the circumstances.

Campus Safety Procedures

Emergencies on campus are rare, but students should be aware of their surroundings and familiar with some basic safety and security concepts. Every UCF classroom contains an emergency procedure guide posted on a wall near the door. Students

should make a note of the guide's physical location and review the online version at http://emergency.ucf.edu/emergency_guide.html. Students with special needs related to emergency situations should speak with me outside of class.

Course Lecture and Assignment Schedule

Changes to the lecture and assignment schedules are not expected but may occur (i.e., zombie apocalypse). I reserve the right to make reasonable adjustments to the assignment schedule and will announce any changes via Webcourses. Due dates for assignments can be found in the table below.

COURSE SCHEDULE

** All reading quizzes are due by 9:00 AM on the date indicated.

Dates	Topic & Readings	Activities and Due Dates
Module 0	Introduction	Financial Aid Activity (Due by 5PM Jan 11)
Module 1	Humans as Primates *Chapter 1*	Lab 1 (Jan 15)
Module 2	The Plio-Pleistocene *Chapter 2*	Reading Quiz 1 (Jan 17) Lab 2 (Jan 22)
Module 3	Dating Fossils *Chapter 3*	Reading Quiz 2 (Jan 24) Lab 3 (Jan 29)
Module 4	Classifying Fossil Hominins *Chapter 4*	Reading Quiz 3 (Jan 31)
Exam 1: Tuesday, February 5		
Module 5	Miocene Hominoids *Chapter 5*	Reading Quiz 4 (Feb 7) Lab 4 (Feb 12)
Module 6	South Africa Australopiths *Chapter 6*	Reading Quiz 5 (Feb 14) Lab 5 (Feb 19)
Module 7	East Africa Australopiths *Chapter 7*	Reading Quiz 6 (Feb 21) Lab 6 (Feb 26)
Module 8	Australopith Paleobiology & Phylogeny *Chapter 8*	Reading Quiz 7 (Feb 28) Short Response Paper (Feb 28)
Exam 2: Tuesday, March 5		
Module 9	Origins of Genus *Homo* & Culture *Chapter 9*	Reading Quiz 8 (March 7) Lab 7 (March 19)
Module 10	*Homo erectus* *Chapter 10*	Reading Quiz 9 (March 21) Lab 8 (March 26)

Module 11	"Archaic" Hominins & the Middle Pleistocene *Chapter 11*	Reading Quiz 10 (March 28) Lab 9 (April 2)
Module 12	"Modern" Human Origins *Chapter 12*	Reading Quiz 11 (April 4) Lab 10 (April 9)
Module 13	Neandertals & Friends *Chapter 13*	Reading Quiz 12 (April 11) Lab 11 (April 16)
Module 14	Course Review	Short Response Paper (April 18)
Exam 3: Thursday, April 25 7:00-9:50 AM		