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ANTY 415.01: Emergence of Modern Humans

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Anthropology 415
Emergence of Modern Humans
Spring 2016

Instructor Information

Professor: Dr. Meradeth Snow

Office: 219 SS

Email: meradeth.snow@umontana.edu

Office Hours: Monday's 2-5pm in 219 Social Sciences & by appointment

Course Information

Meets: MWF 11:10-12pm in 254 SS

Textbooks:

1. *Lone Survivors: how we came to be the only humans on earth.* By Chris Stringer.
Published by Times Books.
2. Various readings to be assigned and located on the course Moodle site

Course description

The course will explore what it means to be “a modern human” through an examination of human evolutionary history. The central question that will be addressed is: *when and where do the qualities associated with being a modern human appear in the fossil, DNA, and archaeological record?* An investigation of the nature of the relationship between “modern” humans and the Neanderthals will be an important focus of the course. Other topics covered include the evolution of “modern” people, such as emergence of the Upper Paleolithic in Europe, West Asia, East Asia, and Australia, and the development of modern human diversity.

Course Structure

There will be four main components that will comprise your grade in this course.

1. **Participation** (15%). Participation will be an essential part of this course, as many topics we will cover will have debatable points we will touch on. Completing your reading and bringing a list of questions will go far to ensure you receive full credit for this portion of the class.
2. **Midterm Exam** (25%). There will be an exam on March 11th on material covered until that point. It will be comprised of both essay and multiple-choice questions.
3. **Final Exam** (30%). The final exam will cover material covered in the second half of the course and will be comprised entirely of multiple-choice and true/false questions. The exam is scheduled for May 13th in our normal classroom.
4. **Term Paper** (30%). You will be required to write a 10 page paper on a topic of your choice related to the course. You must submit your paper topic for approval by the midterm. Additional instructions for this assignment will be posted on Moodle. There will be several sub-components to the paper:
 - a. Initial approval by professor (5% of final paper grade). Will be part of midterm!
 - b. Paper outline, due April 18th (15%)
 - c. Presentation of findings to class during last week of class (20%)
 - d. Paper itself due last day of class, May 6th (60%)

Make-up or missed exams

Exams will **not** be re-administered unless approval is obtained at least 24 hours prior to the exam, with a legitimate excuse (such as health reasons, with a doctor's confirmation). If you miss an exam you must contact your professor within 24 hours, with a documented excuse, in order to obtain permission to take a make-up exam. If you know you will miss an exam ahead of time you must make an appointment at least **two weeks** in advance to take it early.

Late assignments

Assignments submitted after the due date will not be accepted unless you have a documented, legitimate excuse and have contacted your instructor within **24 hours** of the due date. This includes participation activities. Please contact your instructor well in advance if you know there will be a problem submitting your assignment. Email submissions will **not** be accepted.

Online Materials

This course will have a significant portion of the required materials posted to Moodle. It is advised that you regularly check this resource to ensure you are up-to-date on what you might need. Also, please note that your professor is not responsible for any access trouble that may arise on your part.

How to Succeed In This Course

There are several things that you can do to help ensure **you** obtain the grade you desire:

1. Attend lecture. Every one. All semester.
2. Read the textbook and readings before class.
3. Seek help when you are confused.
4. Make use of email and office hours resources.
5. Maintain a positive attitude.

Code of Academic Misconduct

With regard to academic dishonesty, this class has a zero-tolerance policy and will promptly deal with any acts of academic dishonesty (cheating, plagiarism, or unauthorized help on assignments, etc.) according to university policy. For further information on what falls into these categories see: http://www.umt.edu/vpsa/policies/student_conduct.php. If you have questions or concerns, please feel free to contact your instructor.

Students with Disabilities

Students with disabilities may request reasonable modifications by contacting your professor. The University of Montana assures equal access to instruction through collaboration between students with disabilities, instructors, and Disability Services for Students (DSS). "Reasonable" means the University permits no fundamental alterations of academic standards or retroactive modifications. (For other options see: <http://www.umt.edu/disability>)

Week	Date	Topic	Reading & assignments
1	1	1/25	Introduction to course
	2	1/27	What is “modern”?
	3	1/29	History of the study of modern humans
2	4	2/1	Overview of evolutionary theory
	5	2/3	Analysis methods for fossil remains I
	6	2/5	Analysis methods for fossil remains II
3	7	2/8	Background on hominin ancestors I
	8	2/10	Background on hominin ancestors II
	9	2/12	Dawn of Humanity (Nova)
4	-	2/15	NO CLASS
	10	2/17	Hands-on with fossils
	11	2/19	Multiregional Hypothesis
5	12	2/22	Out of Africa Hypothesis
	13	2/24	Neanderthals I
	14	2/26	Neanderthals II
6	15	2/29	Neanderthals Deciphered (Nova)
	16	3/2	Overview of genetics, aDNA, & NGS
	17	3/4	Neanderthal/Denisova genetics
7	18	3/7	How to write a term paper
	19	3/9	Review for exam
	20	3/11	Midterm Exam
			Term paper topic must be submitted
8	21	3/14	Revolution or accumulation?
	22	3/16	Earliest sites in Africa (student led)
	23	3/18	Earliest sites in Europe (student led)
9	24	3/21	Chatelperronian Culture
	25	3/23	Earliest sites in Asia/Australia (student led)
	26	3/25	<i>Homo floresiensis</i>
10	27	3/28	Origin of Symbolism & Art
	28	3/30	Evolution of modern life cycle
	29	4/1	Origin of modern human mating system
11	-	4/4	NO CLASS
	-	4/6	NO CLASS
	-	4/8	NO CLASS
12	30	4/11	Origin of belief systems
	31	4/13	Origin of fire and cooking
	32	4/15	Origin of language
13	33	4/18	Violence and warfare
	34	4/20	Modern Human Migrations
	35	4/22	Human variation & future evolution
14	36	4/25	Flintknapping Demonstration
	37	4/27	Prehistoric Tool Demonstration
	38	4/29	Student Presentations
15	39	5/2	Student Presentations
	40	5/4	Cave of Forgotten Dreams
	41	5/6	Review for final
		5/13	10:10-12:10 Final Exam in our classroom

*Changes may be made to this calendar and will be announced widely.