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ANTY 312.50: Human Evolution (Online)

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HUMAN EVOLUTION

ANTHROPOLOGY 312
MWF 8:10-10:00 in SS 344

Dr. Randy Skelton
226 Social Sciences Building
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GOALS AND OUTCOMES

This is a class in paleoanthropology, in which we will explore selected details of the human fossil and archaeological records. During the first part of the course, we will examine methods and theories of evolutionary analysis. In the second part of the course we will cover the fossil record from the origin of life through the emergence of culture-bearing human ancestors. In the last third of the course we will explore the coevolution of human biology and culture. Students who master this class can expect the following outcomes:

- Have a grasp of the basics of evolution theory
- Know the general outline and some details of the human fossil and archaeological records
- Understand how we make sense of the fragmentary fossil record
- Be able to evaluate claims about human evolution

TEXTS AND OTHER MATERIALS

Klein, Richard G., 2009. *The Human Career*, 3rd Edition. University of Chicago Press. ISBN: 9780226439655

Class lecture notes and other materials are available on a Moodle supplement. I can only be responsible for the content I place on Moodle – not for its administration or for technical issues. For help with accessing Moodle contact the UOnline Help Desk at: 406.243.4999 or umonline-help@umontana.edu.

The lecture notes are not intended to serve as a substitute for attending class, and students who attempt to use them in this way usually do not earn a very high grade. Human Evolution is a rapidly changing field and there will be some material presented in lecture that is not in the notes or text.

GRADING

Three non-cumulative midterms will be offered, one after each third of the course. A cumulative final exam will be offered on the scheduled final exam day. Your grade will be based on your best 3 scores out of these 4 exams, which will be weighed equally. I will assign grades based on your cumulative score using this scale: A = 100-90, B = 89-80, C = 79-60, D = 59-50, F = < 50. I may modify these grades with a + or - in special cases. The grading mode is “open” meaning that you can take the class for a traditional grade or CR/NCR. If you take a class CR/NCR you cannot count it toward specific major requirements that require a minimum grade.

MISCELLANEOUS

- Students with disabilities will be accommodated upon recommendation by Disability Student Services (DSS). The Anthropology Department does not have facilities for special testing accommodations, so these will have to be provided by DSS.
- This class and the students enrolled in it are subject to the Student Conduct Code, <<http://ordway.umt.edu/SA/documents/fromWeb/StudentConductCode1.pdf>>.

PROVISIONAL* LECTURE AND READING SCHEDULE

Readings are from Klein unless noted, and should be read before coming to class each day.

"Handouts" will not actually be handed out in class but are available on Moodle for you to download.

DATE	DAY	LECTURE	READING
8/31	M	1. What Is Paleoanthropology	xix-xxii
9/2	W	2. Skeletal & Dental Anatomy	65-69, Handout: Anatomy
9/4	F	3. What Old Bones Can Tell Us	
9/7	M	!!! LABOR DAY HOLIDAY !!!	
9/9	W	4. Methods of Archaeological Inference	
9/11	F	5. Paleoenvironment & Taphonomy	54-64
9/14	M	6. Evolution	1-9, 19-54
9/16	W	7. Taxonomy, Neontology, Paleontology	9-18, 69-81, 94-96, Handout: Taxonomy
9/18	F	8. Evolutionary Analysis	
9/21	M	9. Cladistics I - the Basic Method	Handout: Cladistics
9/23	W	10. Cladistics II - Multiple Traits	
9/25	F	11. Evolution to Mammals	Handouts: Chordate Evolution
9/28	M	12. Placental Mammal to Plesiadapiformes	Handout: Geologic Column
9/30	W	*** FIRST MIDTERM EXAM ***	
10/2	F	13. Early True Primates	89-106
10/5	M	14. Early Anthropoids	106-112, 87-89
10/7	W	15. The Apes I - Fossil Apes	112-130
10/9	F	16. The Apes II - The Living Apes	81-87
10/12	M	17. Bipedalism and Canines	271-278
10/14	W	18. Molars, Brains & First Hominins	183-191, 199-201
10/16	F	19. The Australopithecines	131-183, Handout: Australopithecines
10/19	M	20. Early Graciles	191-199, 201-218
10/21	W	21. Late Graciles	218-234
10/23	F	22. Robust australopithecines	
10/26	M	23. Homo habilis	234-241
10/28	W	24. Australopithecine Phylogenetics	241-249, Handout: Aust/Homo Phylo
10/30	F	25. The Australopithecine Way of Life	
11/2	M	*** SECOND MIDTERM EXAM ***	
11/4	W	26. Homo habilis' Brain and Language	
11/6	F	27. Scavenging Stage of Lower Paleolithic	249-271, Handout: Homo Phylogenies
11/9	M	28. Homo erectus	279-306, 313-330, 350-358
11/11	W	!!! VETERANS DAY HOLIDAY !!!	
11/13	F	29. Big Game Use Stage of Lower Paleolithic	372-434
11/16	M	30. Homo heidelbergensis	311-312, 330-350, 358-372
11/18	W	31. Neanderthals	308-311, 435-481
11/20	F	32. Middle Paleolithic & Mousterian Tradition	481-602
11/23	M	33. The Origin of Modern Humans	306-308, 602-643
11/25-27		!!! THANKSGIVING !!!	
11/30	M	34. Interactions of Moderns and Others	
12/2	W	35. Were Neanderthals a Subspecies?	
12/4	F	36. The Upper Paleolithic	643-698
12/7	M	37. Peopling the World	698-724
12/9	W	38. Present and Future of Human Evolution	725-751
12/7	F	*** THIRD MIDTERM EXAM ***	
?/??	?	*** FINAL EXAM TBA ***	

* As is always the case certain events can not be predicted. Therefore this syllabus must be considered provisional and tentative. The syllabus posted on Moodle will always be the current syllabus.