

University of Montana

ScholarWorks at University of Montana

University of Montana Course Syllabi

Open Educational Resources (OER)

Spring 2-1-2018

ANTY 415.01: Emergence of Modern Humans

Meradeth H. Snow

University of Montana - Missoula, meradeth.snow@umontana.edu

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholarworks.umt.edu/syllabi>

Let us know how access to this document benefits you.

Recommended Citation

Snow, Meradeth H., "ANTY 415.01: Emergence of Modern Humans" (2018). *University of Montana Course Syllabi*. 7544.

<https://scholarworks.umt.edu/syllabi/7544>

This Syllabus is brought to you for free and open access by the Open Educational Resources (OER) at ScholarWorks at University of Montana. It has been accepted for inclusion in University of Montana Course Syllabi by an authorized administrator of ScholarWorks at University of Montana. For more information, please contact scholarworks@mso.umt.edu.

Anthropology 415
Emergence of Modern Humans
Spring 2018

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

Preceptor: Emily Silverman

Email: emily.silverman@umconnect.umt.edu

Course Information

Meets: T & Th 3:30pm – 4:50pm

Textbooks:

1. *Lone Survivors: how we came to be the only humans on earth.* by Chris Stringer. Published by Times Books.
2. *Thinking Big: how the evolution of social life shaped the human mind* by Clive Gamble, John Gowlet & Robin Dunbar. Published by Thames & Hudson.
3. 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. Additionally, the influence of human social interactions on creating the modern human brain will be explored.

Course Structure

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

1. **Participation** (20%). Participation will be an essential part of this course, as many topics we will cover will have debatable points. 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 8th on material covered until that point. It will be comprised of both essay and multiple-choice questions.
3. **Final Exam** (25%). 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 10th 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 (10% of final paper grade). Will be part of midterm!

- b. Paper outline, due April 5th (20%)
- c. Paper itself due last day of class, May 3rd (70%)

Make-up or missed exams

In order to maintain a fair environment for all students, exams will **not** be re-administered without 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

This is a course that has been taught many times, and the most successful students are those that display similar tendencies. There are things that you can do to help ensure **you** obtain the grade you desire. Remember, your professor is here to teach and guide, but your final grade is on your own shoulders.

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	1/23	Introduction to course: What is “modern”?
	2	1/25	History of Human Evolution
2	3	1/30	Analysis methods for fossil remains
	4	2/1	Background on hominin ancestors I
3	5	2/6	Background on hominin ancestors II
	6	2/8	Hands-on with fossils
4	7	2/13	Multiregional Hypothesis
	8	2/15	Out of Africa Hypothesis
5	9	2/20	Neanderthals I
	10	2/22	Neanderthals II
6	11	2/27	Neanderthal/Denisova genetics
	12	3/1	Neanderthals Deciphered (Nova)
7	13	3/6	Review for exam
	14	3/8	Midterm Exam
			Term paper topic must be submitted
8	15	3/13	Revolution or accumulation?
	16	3/15	Origin of Symbolism & Art
9	17	3/20	Evolution of modern life cycle
	18	3/22	Origin of modern human mating system
10	-	3/27	NO CLASS
	-	3/29	NO CLASS
11	19	4/3	Earliest sites (student led)
	20	4/5	Origin of belief systems
			Paper outline due
12	21	4/10	Origin of fire and cooking
	22	4/12	First People (PBS)
13	23	4/17	Origin of language
	24	4/19	Violence & warfare & Flintknapping
14	25	4/24	Modern Human Migrations
	26	4/26	Human variation & future evolution
15	27	5/1	Prehistoric Tool Demonstration
	28	5/3	Review for Final
			Paper due
		5/10	FINAL EXAM in classroom 1:10-3:10pm

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