San José State University
Department of Anthropology
Anth12, Introduction to Human Evolution, Sec. 2 &3
Fall 2016

Instructor:	Dr. Caie Yan
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Office Hours:	Monday 15:00-16:00pm or by appointment
Class Days/Time:	**Section 2:** MW 9:00-10:15pm/ **Section 3:** MW 16:30-17:45pm
Classroom:	Section2: WSQ004/ Section3: CL204
GE/SJSU Studies Category:	B2/Life Science

Course Description

The human organism from an evolutionary perspective. The foundations of life and evolutionary theory. Introduction to primate behavior and the fossil record. Human biocultural evolution over the last sixty million years.

Detailed Course Description: Introduction to Human Evolution is a course designed to allow students to appreciate the evolutionary history of our species and the biological bases that are at the foundation of this process. The course is an introductory one; thus, no specific prior knowledge is assumed. There are no prerequisites to take this course.

During the semester, students will acquire basic biological knowledge relating to molecular biology, cell reproduction, fundamental principles of micro- and macro-evolutionary theory (especially the role of natural selection), and the intellectual background leading to the development of evolutionary theory.

This foundation will then be used to explore the specific evolutionary history of major groups of organisms with a specific focus on human evolutionary history. Comparative perspectives will be incorporated so to provide a basis for understanding how humans are related to other primates (and what this implies structurally, physiologically, and behaviorally). Furthermore, data provided directly by the fossil and molecular records will be comprehensively reviewed in tracing the major features of human evolution. In summary, this course attempts to place our species in a clear evolutionary context and to ask basic questions relating to human origins, such as what kind of creature are we, how did we get to be this way, and where did we come from.

Major topics will include:

The history of evolutionary theory
Biological basis of life: cells, DNA, and genes
Evolution and heredity
Overview of primates
Hominid/human origins
Modern human origins
Human variation and adaptation

Course Goals and Student Learning Objectives

At a general level, this course is primarily about the nature of the evolutionary process, how it works, and how scientists have come to understand the process (specifically to understand ourselves). The evidence relating to human evolution is used to illustrate evolutionary and biological processes (such as natural selection, reproduction, heredity, etc). In addressing the fundamental questions relating to human origins, you will be challenged to think critically, apply sound scientific methodologies, understand and assess quantitative data, and communicate your knowledge.

At SJSU, students are encouraged to recognize that education is participatory experience. Thus, each student is expected to contribute to further refining the course objectives (so better to articulate your individual expectations and needs), to give feedback to the instructor regarding the adequacy of your learning and how well the course assessment measures that learning (and how these assessment tools can be improved). Finally, each student is challenged to be engaged in the exploration of the fascinating material covered this semester, to participate in class discussions, and to relate in assignments and exercises how you can apply these concepts to your everyday life.

The most important contribution this course can make to your education is to provide you with greater ability to think critically. As a result, this skill will contribute permanently to your further education, that it, for the remainder of your lifetime.

GE/SJSU Studies Learning Outcomes (LO)

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

LO1 use methods of science and knowledge derived from current scientific inquiry in life or physical science to question existing explanations;
LO2 demonstrate ways in which science influences and is influenced by complex societies, including political and moral issues;
LO3 recognize methods of science, in which quantitative, analytical reasoning techniques are used.

Course Content Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, students should have increased:

CLO 1 explain the evolutionary process, how it works, and how scientists have come to understand the process (specifically to understand ourselves).
CLO 2 describe the evolutionary history of our species and the biological bases that are at the foundation of this process.
CLO3 comprehend basic biological knowledge relating to molecular biology, cell reproduction, fundamental principles of micro- and macro-evolutionary theory (especially the role of natural selection), and the intellectual background leading to the development of evolutionary theory.
CLO4 explain from a comparative perspective how humans are related to other primates (and what this implies structurally, physiologically, and behaviorally).

Required Texts/Readings

Biological Anthropology. 7th edition. Michael Alan Park.
McGraw Hill Publishing Company, 2012. **ISBN13:** 978-0078034954 **ISBN10:** 0078034957
The textbook can be purchased at the bookstore.

Course Requirements and Assignments

Exams: There are two in-class exams and one final exam given during the final week. All exams are composed of multiple choice questions and Scantron T&E 0200 will be required. Exams are based on both the textbook and lectures. I will post study guides and sample questions on line before each exam.

Quiz: There is one in-class fossil quiz. You are required to match names and fossil replicas.

Make-up Exam: If you know in advance that you would be unable to attend an exam, it is your responsibility to contact me before the exams. Only students with a valid documented excuse will be able to take a make-up exam. Documents need to be official and verifiable, such as hospital receipts, police records, etc.

Writing assignment: The writing assignment is worth 20% of your final grade. You are required to write two 750+ words essay. Detailed instruction and suggested readings for each essay will be posted on line. Writing assignments will be graded based on clarity, conciseness, coherence, and grammar. Please submit you essay to your CANVAS account before class on due date**.** No late assignments will be accepted.

Failure to turn in any of the writing assignments will result in an F in the class, regardless of achievement on other portions of the course (this is a university policy on GE course).

Extra credit project: The extra credit project is worth 5% of your final grade. For the extra credit project, you need to draw a hominid fossil distribution map. I will provide a blank map and a list of hominid species. Detailed instruction will be posted on line.

Cheating and Plagiarism

I have zero-tolerance for cheating and plagiarism; if you cheat or plagiarize you will fail the

course. Incidences of cheating and plagiarism will be turned into the academic integrity office; you have two (2) office hour periods to discuss the issue with me prior to my turning in the report. I will only discuss individual cases concerning academic integrity in my office. Students are responsible for understanding and adhering to the academic integrity policy.

Final Examination

Final exam is not cumulative, and only cover the material after the second exam.

Determination of Grades

Exam 1	25%
Exam 2	20%
Final	30%
Writing assignments (2)	20%
Fossil quiz (in class)	5%
Extra credit project	5%
Total	100%

Grading is as followed:

A	B	C	D	F
97% - 100% = A+	87-89% = B+	77-79% = C+	67-69% = D+	Below 60% = F
93-96% = A	83-86% = B	73-76% = C	63-66% = D	
90-92% = A-	80-83% = B-	70-72% = C-	60-62% = D-	

Classroom Protocol

There will be various in-class participation assignments intended to help students. I highly recommend students attend class as often as possible. I post the lecture slides on line. But I do not post lecture notes.

Please turn off all electronic devices (which include iPods, Mp3 Players, Sidekicks, Cell phones, etc.) before class begins. You can use your laptop to take notes, while surfing the internet is not allowed.

Departmental Goals

Learn about the goals of the anthropology department and how it can benefit your education. Goals http://www.sjsu.edu/anthropology/departmentinfo/goals/index.html

Credit Hours

Success in this course is based on the expectation that students will spend, for each unit of credit, a minimum of forty-five hours over the length of the course (normally 3 hours per unit per week with 1 of the hours used for lecture) for instruction or preparation/studying or course related activities including but not limited to internships, labs, clinical practica. Other course structures will have equivalent workload expectations as described in the syllabus.

University Policies:

Per University Policy S16-9, university-wide policy information relevant to all courses, such as academic integrity, accommodations, etc. will be available on Office of Graduate and Undergraduate Programs' Syllabus Information web page at http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo/

Course Schedule

This tentative schedule---including assignment due dates, in class exam dates, date of the final exam--- is subject to change with fair notice and how the notice will be made available.

Week	Date	Topic	Readings	Assignments & Deadlines
1	8/24	Introduction to Class and biological anthropology	Pp: 1-21	
2	8/29 8/31	History of Evolutionary Theory Natural Selection & Basic Concepts of Evolution	Pp: 23-40	
3	***9/5*** 9/7	*(No class)* DNA and Chromosomes	 Pp:43-58, 364-366	
4	9/12 9/14	Cell division and protein synthesis Mendelian Genetics	Pp: 50-58	
5	9/19 9/21	Modern Synthesis (Evolutionary Forces) Human Variation and Race (I)	Pp: 61-79, 367-370 Pp: 297-308	
6	9/26 9/28	Human Variation and Race (II) Review	Pp: 321-345	
7	**10/3** 10/5	**Exam I** Prosimians and Tarsiers	 Pp: 117-138	
8	10/10 10/12	Anthropoids Apes	Pp: 117-138 Pp: 138-146	Writing assignment I due (10/10)
9	10/17 10/19	Primate behavioral ecology The Human species	Pp: 149-167	
10	10/24 10/26	Evolutionary time table and Speciation process Fossilization, Dating Fossils	Pp: 83-114 Pp: 171-196	

Week	Date	Topic	Readings	Assignments & Deadlines
11	10/31 **11/2**	Primate Evolution and Contenders for the earliest hominins **Exam II**	Pp: 199-210	
12	11/7 11/9	Australopithecines Early Homo species *and Homo erectus*	Pp: 210-231 Pp: 235-259	
13	11/14 11/16	Becoming human (I) Sibling species of *Homo erectus, Homo heidelbergensis*	 Pp: 259-266	
14	11/21 ***11/23***	Archaic Homo sapiens: Neanderthals ***(No Class)***	Pp: 266-276	Writing assignment II due (11/21)
15	11/28 **11/30**	Origins of Anatomically Modern Humans Peopling of America and **Fossil quiz** (11/30, in class)	Pp: 276-294	Extra credit project (11/30)
16	12/5 12/7	Becoming human (III) Biological impact of culture on human population	 Pp: 309-317	
17	12/12	Review		
Final Exam		**Section2: December 15th 7:15-9:30am** **Section3: December 16th 14:45-17:00pm**		