# San José State University COSS/ANTH ANTH012, Introduction to Human Evolution, Section 4, Fall 2017

## Course and Contact Information

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| Instructor: | Dr. Elizabeth Weiss |
| Office Location: | CL404R |
| Telephone: | (408) 924-5546 |
| Email: | [Elizabeth.Weiss@sjsu.edu](mailto:Elizabeth.Weiss@sjsu.edu) |
| Office Hours: | MW 1330 - 1430 (or by appointment) |
| Class Days/Time: | MW 0900-1015 |
| Classroom: | WSQ004 |
| 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. There are no prerequisites to take this course.

## Learning Outcomes and Course Goals

### GE Learning Outcomes (GELO)

To fulfill the GE writing requirement students will write two 3-page (750 words) essays. Each writing assignment is a take-home assignment and will be submitted using turnitin.com and hand in a printed version in class.

Both the writing assignments and exam questions will be utilized to assess GE learning outcomes.

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

GELO1 use methods of science and knowledge derived from current scientific inquiry in life or physical science to question existing explanations;

GELO2 demonstrate ways in which science influences and is influenced by complex societies, including political and moral issues; and

GELO3 recognize methods of science, in which quantitative, analytical reasoning techniques are used.

## Course Goals and Student Learning Objectives

The most important contribution this course can make to your education is to provide you with greater ability to think critically. This skill will contribute permanently to your further education and for the rest of your life.

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

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

### The Human Organism: Explorations in Biological Anthropology (First Edition); edited by Elizabeth Weiss PRINT PRICE: $85.95 DIGITAL PRICE: $77.95

Published by: Cognella Publishers

Purchase at <https://students.universityreaders.com/store/> or at the University bookstore

## Course Requirements and Assignments

Preparation and participation requirements. Read the text prior to coming to class and come with questions.

Map assignments. There will be 3 homework map assignments. Maps must be turned in on time and at the beginning of class.

Exam requirements. There will be three exams and a comprehensive final exam. Exam questions are designed to assess course and GE learning objectives.

Writing requirements. There will be three 500-word papers. Writing assignments must be turned in both as a printed version at the beginning of class and to Turnitin.com before class begins on the scheduled due date.

Topics and requirements will be discussed in detail in class and are designed to address the GE learning objectives. Writing assignments will be graded in accordance to GE guidelines, which states that “writing shall be assessed for grammar, clarity, conciseness and coherence.”

You will be required to enroll in turnitin.com. The required information to do so is:

Class ID: 15346169 (section 4)

Class Name: ANTH012\_Section4

Password: hominid

## Grading Policy

To pass this course, you must receive a grade of D- or higher.

Students should keep track of their grades, which entails picking up writing assignments and exams in a timely manner. I will bring graded assignments to class or students can come to my office to pick them up. If you have any grade issues, you must come to my office to discuss them.

Grades will be based on the following (each is graded on a scale of 100):

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Writing Assignments | 3 X 05% | = | 15% |
| Map Assignments | 3 X 05% | = | 15% |
| Exams | 3 X 15% | = | 45% |
| Final Exam | 1 X 25% | = | 25% |
| 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 |
| 91-96% = A | 81-86% = B | 71-76% = C | 61-66% = D |  |
| 90% = A- | 80% = B- | 70% = C- | 60% = D- |  |

Make-up Work: If you know in advance that you are unable to attend an exam, contact me to set up a time to take the exam prior to its scheduled date. Requests for extensions will be dealt on a case-by-case basis, but in most circumstances only students who were ill or have another valid documented excuse will be able to take an exam (including the final) or submit an assignment late. The final will be given on the scheduled time.

## Classroom Protocol

I consider my students adults. Attendance is optional. When one attends lecture, one should behave appropriately and pay attention. If one feels that they cannot pay attention for the entire period (for whatever reason), then one should not attend class.

## University Policies

**Course Requirements and Assignments**

SJSU classes are designed such that in order to be successful, it is expected that students will spend a minimum of forty-five hours for each unit of credit (normally three hours per unit per week), including preparing for class, participating in course activities, completing assignments, and so on. More details about student workload can be found in University Policy S12-3 at http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S12-3.pdf.

**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/>.

# ANTH012-04/ Introduction to Human Evolution, Fall 2017, Course Schedule

*The schedule is subject to change with fair notice, any changes will be announced in class.*

## Course Schedule

| Week | Date | | Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 1 | 8/23 | | **Topics**: Introduction to Course; History of Evolutionary Theory  **Reading:** Chapter 1: pp. 1-12 |
| 2 | 8/28 | | **Topic**: History of Evolutionary Theory, cont. Natural Selection and Evidence of Evolution  **Reading:** Chapter 1: pp. 1-13; Reading 1: pp. 14-28 and Reading 2: pp. 40-48 |
| 2 | 8/30 | | **Topic**: Natural Selection and Evidence of Evolution  **Reading:** Chapter 1: pp. 1-13; Reading 1: pp. 14-28 and Reading 2: pp. 40-48 |
| 3 | 9/4 | | **Labor Day - No Class** |
| 3 | 9/6 | | **Topic**: Evolutionary family trees  **Assignment Discussed:** Writing Assignment 1  **Reading:** No reading, time to catch-up on readings. |
| 4 | 9/11 | | **Topic:** Mendelian Genetics  **Reading:** Chapter 2: pp. 29-37 |
| 4 | 9/13 | | **Topic:** Modern Synthesis  **Reading:** Chapter 2: pp. 29-37 |
| 5 | 9/18 | | **Topic:** Cells, DNA, and Protein Synthesis  **Reading:** Chapter 3: pp. 49-55 |
| 5 | 9/20 | | **Topic:** Molecular Anthropology  **Reading:** Chapter 3: pp. 55-58; Reading 3: pp. 60-69  **Assignment Due:** Writing Assignment 1 |
| 6 | 9/25 | | Quiz 1 Review |
| 6 | 9/27 | | **Quiz 1** |
| 7 | 10/2 | | **Topic:** General Primate Characteristics  **Assignment Discussed:** Primate Map and Writing Assignment 2  **Reading:** Chapter 4: pp. 73-76 |
| 7 | 10/4 | | **Topic:** Prosimians and Tarsiers  **Reading:** Chapter 4: pp. 76-79; Reading 4: 92-107 |
| 8 | 10/9 | | **Topic:** New World Monkeys  **Reading:** Chapter 4: pp. 79-82 |
| 8 | 10/11 | | **Topic:** Old World Monkeys  **Reading:** Chapter 4: pp. 82-85 |
| 9 | 10/16 | | **Topic:** Apes  **Reading:** Chapter 4: pp. 85-90; Reading 5: pp. 108-116 and Reading 6: pp. 118-123  **Assignment Due**: Writing Assignment 2 |
| 9 | 10/18 | | Quiz 2 Review |
| 10 | 10/23 | | **Quiz 2**  **Assignment Due**: Primate Map |
| 10 | 10/25 | | **Topic:** Fossils and Contenders for the earliest hominid  **Assignment Discussed:** Hominid Maps; Writing Assignment 3  **Reading:** Chapter 5: pp. 127-135 |
| 11 | 10/30 | | **Topic:** Australopithecines: Graciles and Robusts  **Reading:** Chapter 5: pp. 135-140; Reading 7: pp. 146-150 |
| 11 | 11/1 | | **Topic:** Early *Homo* and Oldowan tools  **Reading:** Chapter 5: pp. 140-144 |
| 12 | 11/6 | | **Topic:** *Homo erectus* and sibling species  **Reading:** Chapter 6: pp.151-158 |
| 12 | 11/8 | | **Topic:** *Homo heidelbergensis*  **Reading:** Chapter 7: pp. 161-164 |
| 13 | 11/13 | | **Topic:** Neanderthals  **Reading:** Chapter 7: pp. 164-168  **Assignment Due**: Writing Assignment 3 |
| 13 | 11/15 | | Quiz 3 Review |
| 14 | 11/20 | | **Quiz 3**  **Assignment Due:** Early Hominid Map and *Homo sp.* Map |
| 14 | 11/22 | | **No Class** |
| 15 | 11/27 | | **Topic:** Origins of Modern Humans  **Reading:** Chapter 7: pp. 168-170; Reading 8: pp. 172-184 and Reading 9: 186-194 |
| 15 | 11/29 | | **Topic:** Human Variation  **Reading:** Chapter 8: pp. 197-199; Reading 10: pp. 210-226 and Reading 11: pp. 228-233 |
| 16 | 12/4 | | **Topic:** Human Adaptation and Acclimatization  **Reading:** Chapter 8: pp. 200-204; Reading 12: 234-242 |
| 16 | 12/6 | | **Topic:** Human Life Cycle  **Reading:** Chapter 8: pp. 204-208 |
| 17 | 12/11 | | **Review Day** |
| Final Exam | | Monday, 12/18: 0715-0930 | |