San José State University
Social Sciences/Anthropology Department
ANTH152, Becoming Human, Section 01, Fall, 2017

Instructor: Dr. Elizabeth Weiss
Office Location: Clark 404R
Telephone: (408) 924-5546
Email: Elizabeth.Weiss@sjsu.edu
Office Hours: MW 1330 – 1430
Class Days/Time: MW 1200 – 1315
Classroom: WSQ 004
Prerequisites: ANTH012

Course Description
This course will focus on the fossil evidence for human evolution, with an emphasis on some of the most recent controversies. Molecular data, dating the fossils, and comparative anatomy will also be discussed. Class lectures will be supplemented with lab demonstration of modern skeletal material and reproductions of fossil hominids.

Course Goals and Student Learning Objectives
Paleoanthropology is a rapidly changing field; in just the last decade the fossil record has been pushed back 3 million additional years! Also, fossils have been discovered in Central Africa for the first time; over 8 new species have been discovered, and even three new genera have been proposed. Molecular evidence has been starting to pay off as well, with replicable studies of Neanderthal DNA that has begun to answer many of paleoanthropology’s most important questions. This course hopes to highlight the issues involved in paleoanthropology, focusing on the latest findings, and how these relate to humans. Most importantly, this course should enable you to understand the scientific literature and think critically about popular media’s interpretation of the newest findings.

Course Content Learning Outcomes
Upon successful completion of this course, students should have increased:
1. Understanding of culture as the distinguishing phenomenon of human life, and the relationships of human biology and cultural processes in human behavior and evolution.
2. Knowledge of the significant findings of archaeology, cultural anthropology, and physical anthropology, and familiarity of the important issues in each sub-discipline.
4. Knowledge of the research methods of the sub-disciplines of anthropology, and ability to apply appropriate research methods in at least one sub-discipline.
5. Ability to present and communicate anthropological knowledge and the results of anthropological research to different audiences.

Required Texts/Readings


Popular science book on paleoanthropology of your choosing; approved by the professor.

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.

Assignments and Grading Policy

Course Requirements

EXAMS: There will be four quizzes and a final exam. The comprehensive final will be given on the scheduled final day. The final will only be given on the scheduled time; I will not schedule any early or late finals!

Taking tests for my classes:
1) Make sure to read each question carefully.
2) Make sure to arrive on time.
3) Put everything except your writing tools away.
4) Once I have handed out the first test and until the last test is turned in, there will be no talking permitted.
5) Always keep your eyes on your own papers.
6) Spelling counts. Misspelled answers will be marked as incorrect.
7) During the test, you can ask me questions if you need clarification on the question. To do this, please raise your hand and I will come over to you. If you have a question about the answer or
about the meaning of a word that you should know (e.g., it is in your reading or I have used it in
class), I will not answer the question.

8) Once you are finished, turn in your test and then you are free to leave.
9) Tests will be passed out the next class period and then we will review the answers. If you miss
class, make sure to pick up the test the subsequent class period or during office hours.

BOOK REVIEW: Each student will choose a popular science book on paleoanthropology, such as
Braindance by Dean Falk, Origins Reconsidered by Richard Leakey, or the Invaders by Pat Shipman, and
write a 2 to 3 page book review. Book choice must be approved by me. Details for the book review will
be discussed in class.

The writing assignments will be submitted on turnitin.com.

There will be extra credit opportunities, which are based on preparedness for the review sessions.

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.

GRADING POLICY AND PROCEDURES

Assignments are graded on a scale of 100.
4 Quizzes (Each worth 15%) 60%
Book Review 15%
Final 25%

Grading is as followed:

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<th>A</th>
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<th>C</th>
<th>D</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>97% - 100% = A+</td>
<td>87-89% = B+</td>
<td>77-79% = C+</td>
<td>67-69% = D+</td>
<td>Below 60%</td>
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<td>A-</td>
<td>90% = A-</td>
<td>81-86% = B</td>
<td>71-76% = C</td>
<td>61-66% = D</td>
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<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>80% = B-</td>
<td>70% = C-</td>
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<td>60% = D-</td>
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Grades will be posted on turnitin.com. The writing assignment will be submitted on turnitin.com.
The information that you need to log in, add the class, and submit your materials is:

Class ID: 15332761
Class Name: ANTH152_Fall2017
Password: lucy

NOTE that University policy F69-24 at http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/F69-24.pdf states that
“Students should attend all meetings of their classes, not only because they are responsible for
material discussed therein, but because active participation is frequently essential to insure
maximum benefit for all members of the class. Attendance per se shall not be used as a criterion
for grading.”
Classroom Protocol

I consider all of 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 whatever reason), then one should not attend class.

If you are asked to leave the classroom for any behavioral reason, you cannot make up the assignments missed during that class.

Any behavior that is deemed disruptive to the instructor or other students may result in the disrupting student to be referred to the Judicial Affairs Officer of the University.

University Policies

General Expectations, Rights and Responsibilities of the Student

As members of the academic community, students accept both the rights and responsibilities incumbent upon all members of the institution. Students are encouraged to familiarize themselves with SJSU’s policies and practices pertaining to the procedures to follow if and when questions or concerns about a class arises. See University Policy S90–5 at http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S90-5.pdf. More detailed information on a variety of related topics is available in the SJSU catalog, at http://info.sjsu.edu/web-dbgen/narr/catalog/rec-12234.12506.html. In general, it is recommended that students begin by seeking clarification or discussing concerns with their instructor. If such conversation is not possible, or if it does not serve to address the issue, it is recommended that the student contact the Department Chair as a next step.

Dropping and Adding

Students are responsible for understanding the policies and procedures about add/drop, grade forgiveness, etc. Refer to the current semester’s Catalog Policies section at http://info.sjsu.edu/static/catalog/policies.html. Add/drop deadlines can be found on the current academic year calendars document on the Academic Calendars webpage at http://www.sjsu.edu/provost/services/academic_calendars/. The Late Drop Policy is available at http://www.sjsu.edu/aars/policies/latedrops/policy/. Students should be aware of the current deadlines and penalties for dropping classes.

Information about the latest changes and news is available at the Advising Hub at http://www.sjsu.edu/advising/.

Consent for Recording of Class and Public Sharing of Instructor Material

University Policy S12-7, http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S12-7.pdf, requires students to obtain instructor’s permission to record the course and the following items to be included in the syllabus:

- “Common courtesy and professional behavior dictate that you notify someone when you are recording him/her. You must obtain the instructor’s permission to make audio or video recordings in this class. Such permission allows the recordings to be used for your private, study purposes only. The recordings are the intellectual property of the instructor; you have not been given any rights to reproduce or distribute the material.”
It is suggested that the greensheet include the instructor’s process for granting permission, whether in writing or orally and whether for the whole semester or on a class by class basis.

In classes where active participation of students or guests may be on the recording, permission of those students or guests should be obtained as well.

- “Course material developed by the instructor is the intellectual property of the instructor and cannot be shared publicly without his/her approval. You may not publicly share or upload instructor generated material for this course such as exam questions, lecture notes, or homework solutions without instructor consent.”

**Academic integrity**

Your commitment, as a student, to learning is evidenced by your enrollment at San Jose State University. The [University Academic Integrity Policy S07-2](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S07-2.pdf) requires you to be honest in all your academic course work. Faculty members are required to report all infractions to the office of Student Conduct and Ethical Development. The [Student Conduct and Ethical Development website](http://www.sjsu.edu/studentconduct/) is available at [http://www.sjsu.edu/studentconduct/](http://www.sjsu.edu/studentconduct/).

**Campus Policy in Compliance with the American Disabilities Act**

If you need course adaptations or accommodations because of a disability, or if you need to make special arrangements in case the building must be evacuated, please make an appointment with me as soon as possible, or see me during office hours. [Presidential Directive 97-03](http://www.sjsu.edu/president/docs/directives/PD_1997-03.pdf) requires that students with disabilities requesting accommodations must register with the [Accessible Education Center (AEC)](http://www.sjsu.edu/aec) at [http://www.sjsu.edu/aec](http://www.sjsu.edu/aec) to establish a record of their disability.
# ANTH152/Becoming Human, Fall 2017, Course Schedule

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

## Course Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>8/23</td>
<td>Introduction to the class</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>8/28</td>
<td>Piltdown Hoax</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Reading: Langdon (2016): Introduction; Case Studies 4, 26</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>9/4</td>
<td>Labor Day - No Class</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>9/6</td>
<td>Dating: Molecular Clocks and other clocks</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>Reading: Langdon (2016): Case Studies 2, 5, 6, 7</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>9/11</td>
<td>Family Reunions: Introducing all of our relatives</td>
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<td>Reading: Langdon (2016): Case Study 23</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>9/13</td>
<td>Looking for the first hominid: Sahelanthropus, Orrorin, Ardipithecus</td>
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<td>Reading: Langdon (2016): Case Study 13</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Whitehead et al. (2005): pp.54</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>9/18</td>
<td><strong>Quiz 1 review</strong></td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>9/20</td>
<td>Quiz 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>9/25</td>
<td>Australopithecines: East Africa</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>Reading: Langdon (2016): Case Studies 9, 24</td>
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<td>Whitehead et al. (2005): pp. 54-59</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>9/27</td>
<td>Australopithecines: South Africa</td>
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<td>Reading: Langdon (2016): Case Study 8</td>
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<td>Whitehead et al. (2005): pp. 60-62</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>10/2</td>
<td>Paranthropines</td>
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<td>Reading: Langdon (2016): Case Study 10</td>
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<td>Whitehead et al. (2005): pp. 60, 63-65</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>10/4</td>
<td>Early Homo: Homo habilis and Homo rudolfensis</td>
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<td>Reading: Langdon (2016): Case Study 12</td>
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<td>Whitehead et al. (2005): pp. 65-67</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>10/9</td>
<td>Early Homo: Oldowan tools</td>
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<td>Reading: Langdon (2016): Case Study 11</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>10/11</td>
<td><strong>Quiz 2 Review</strong></td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>10/16</td>
<td>Quiz 2</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>10/18</td>
<td>Homo georgicus: Leaving Africa</td>
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<td>Reading: Langdon (2016): Case Study 14</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>10/23</td>
<td>Homo erectus in Asia</td>
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<td>Reading: Langdon (2016): Case Study 3</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>Whitehead et al. (2005): pp. 67-77</td>
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<td>Week</td>
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| 10   | 10/25   | Homo erectus in Africa  
Reading: Langdon (2016): Case Study 15  
Whitehead et al. (2005): pp. 67-70 |
| 10   | 10/30   | Homo antecessor  
**Approval Deadline for Popular Science Book**  
Reading: No Reading, time to catch up. |
| 11   | 11/1    | Homo floresiensis  
Reading: Langdon (2016): Case Study 17 |
| 11   | 11/6    | Homo naledi  
Reading: Langdon (2016): Case Study 16 |
| 12   | 11/8    | Quiz 3 Review |
| 12   | 11/13   | Quiz 3 |
| 13   | 11/15   | Archaics: Homo heidelbergensis  
Reading: Whitehead et al. (2005): pp. 78-84 |
| 13   | 11/20   | Archaics: Neanderthals  
Reading: Langdon (2016): Case Study 18, 20  
Whitehead et al. (2005): pp. 84-90 |
| 14   | 11/22   | Origins of Anatomically Modern Humans: Bones and Behavior  
Reading: Langdon (2016): Case Studies 21  
Whitehead et al. (2005): pp. 90-96 |
| 14   | 11/27   | Origins of Anatomical Modern Humans: Other Data  
Reading: Langdon (2016): Case Studies 19, 22 |
| 15   | 11/29   | Quiz 4 Review |
| 15   | 12/4    | Quiz 4 |
| 16   | 12/6    | Fossil Cast Review for Final  
Book Review Due |
| 16   | 12/11   | Review for non-cast final portion - Last Day Of Class |
| Final Exam | 12/19 Tuesday | 0945-1200 |