

San José State University
College of Social Sciences
Anthropology 12, Intro to Human Evolution, Section 1,
Fall 2013

Instructor:	Dr. Charlotte Sunseri
Office Location:	Clark Hall 404G
Telephone:	(408) 924-5713
Email:	charlotte.sunseri@sjsu.edu
Office Hours:	Monday 1-3PM, or by appt.
Class Days/Time:	Monday, Wednesday 3:00PM - 4:15PM
Classroom:	Clark 204

Course Description

Catalog: 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 or prerequisites are required.

During the semester, students will acquire basic biological knowledge as a foundation that 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

GE/SJSU Studies Learning Outcomes (LO), if applicable

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:

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. Awareness of human diversity and the ways in which humans categorize diversity.
3. 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 history of anthropological thought and its place in modern intellectual history.
5. Comprehension of migration, colonialism, and economic integration as significant phenomena shaping global society.
6. Ability to access various forms of anthropological data and literature.
7. Awareness of the importance and value of anthropological knowledge in contemporary society, and the ability to apply it to social issues.
8. Knowledge of the research methods of the sub-disciplines of anthropology, and ability to apply appropriate research methods in at least one sub-discipline.
9. Ability to present and communicate anthropological knowledge and the results of anthropological research to different audiences.
10. Knowledge of political and ethical implications of social research.

Required Texts/Readings

Textbooks

INTRODUCTION TO HUMAN EVOLUTION, AUTHOR: Elizabeth Weiss PURCHASE
ONLINE ACCESS CODE: <http://webcom9.grtxle.com/evolution>

Other Readings

Supplementary course readings or handouts in PDF format available on Canvas.

Classroom Protocol

- Participation is a vital element in a social science environment and attendance is foundational to academic success. Students are expected to attend class, and material covered during lectures cannot be adequately made up. Activities and hands-on projects during class time may not be made up if missed, yet contribute to the overall grade of students.
- Students should anticipate and schedule six hours weekly for readings and related assignments for this course. Students are encouraged to ask questions in class and to take full advantage of scheduled office hours or to make appointments. Additional guidance for student engagement with course material is provided in the form of study guides per unit posted to Canvas website.
- As a courtesy and in respect for fellow students and instructor **please turn off your cell phones and other electronics**. Computers may be used only for note taking— please refrain from emailing, chatting, or looking at websites while in class.

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](http://info.sjsu.edu/static/catalog/policies.html) section at <http://info.sjsu.edu/static/catalog/policies.html>. Add/drop deadlines can be found on the [current academic calendar](http://www.sjsu.edu/academic_programs/calendars/academic_calendar/) web page located at http://www.sjsu.edu/academic_programs/calendars/academic_calendar/. The [Late Drop Policy](http://www.sjsu.edu/aars/policies/latedrops/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](http://www.sjsu.edu/advising/) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/advising/>.

Assignments and Grading Policy

Students will be evaluated on the basis of:

Exam 1	25%
Exam 2	25%
Final	30%
Writing assignments (2)	20%
Total	100%

(1) 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 882-E will be required. Exams are based on both the textbook and lectures. I will post study guides and sample questions online before each exam.

(3) Writing assignment: The writing assignments are worth 20% of your final grade. You are required to write two essays (750+ words). 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. 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).

ALL required work must be original, completed, and submitted on time to pass this class.

Letter grades will be assigned based on this grading distribution:

A+ >99%, A 94-99%, A- 90-93 %

B+ 88-89%, B 84-87%, B- 80-83%

C+ 78-79%, C 74-77%, C- 70-73%

D+ 68-69%, D 63-67%, F <63%

Policies:

- Students will be held to the highest standards of academic integrity and intellectual ethics. Plagiarism is intellectually dishonest and a form of theft. It will not be tolerated and will be dealt with in accordance with university Academic Integrity Policy.
- Assignments will not be accepted late, by email, or after the last scheduled class. The final exam may be rescheduled *in advance* only if a student provides appropriate documentation according to University Policy.
- Clear criteria for grading will be provided for each assignment format. Feedback to students will be immediate and as detailed as manageable
- The instructor reserves the right to adjust the syllabus, exam dates, or course content as deemed necessary to facilitate the highest achievement and performance of the class, or to explore timely topics.
- Incomplete (I) cannot be given to avoid an F grade (University Policy).

University Policies

Academic integrity

Your commitment as a student to learning is evidenced by your enrollment at San Jose State University. The [University's Academic Integrity policy](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/S07-2.htm), located at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/S07-2.htm>, 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.sa.sjsu.edu/judicial_affairs/index.html) is available at http://www.sa.sjsu.edu/judicial_affairs/index.html.

Instances of academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Cheating on exams or plagiarism (presenting the work of another as your own, or the use of another person's ideas without giving proper credit) will result in a failing grade and sanctions by the University. For this class, all assignments are to be completed by the individual student unless otherwise specified. If you would like to include your assignment or any material you have submitted, or plan to submit for another class, please note that SJSU's Academic Policy S07-2 requires approval of instructors.

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 requires that students with disabilities requesting accommodations must register with the [Disability Resource Center](http://www.drc.sjsu.edu/) (DRC) at <http://www.drc.sjsu.edu/> to establish a record of their disability.

Classroom Recording (S12-7)

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.

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.

Credit Hours (S12-3)

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.

ANTH 12 / Intro to Human Evolution, Fall 2013, Course Schedule

Schedule (including assignment due dates, exam dates, date of final exam) is subject to change with fair notice – notice may be made available by email from instructor and/or classroom announcements.

Table 1 Course Schedule

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
1	Aug 21	Introduction to Course
2	Aug 26, 28	History of Evolutionary Theory, Chapter 1 Natural Selection, Chapter 1
3	Sept 4	Mendelian Genetics, inheritance, Modern Synthesis, Chapter 2
4	Sept 9, 11	Cells, DNA, protein, and molecular anthropology, Chapter 3 Primate Classification and General Primate Characteristics, Chapter 4
5	Sept 16, 18	Prosimians and Tarsiers and Anthropoids, Chapter 4 Using Primates for Models of Human Evolution, Chapter 4
6	Sept 23, 25	Review Exam 1
7	Sept 30, Oct 2	Fossils, Types of Fossils in the Hominid Record, Dating Fossils, and Evolutionary Time, Chapter 5 Primate Evolution, Chapter 5
8	Oct 7, 9	Hominids and apes, Earliest hominid; Chapter 6 Australopithecines, Chapter 6 Essay 1 due
9	Oct 14, 16	Early Homo species and Oldowan Tools, Chapter 6 <i>Homo erectus</i> and <i>Homo ergaster</i> , Chapter 7
10	Oct 21, 23	Earliest Fossils Out of Africa, Chapter 7 <i>Homo heidelbergensis</i> , Archaic <i>Homo sapiens</i> , Chapter 8
11	Oct 28, 30	Neanderthals, Chapter 8 Anatomically Modern Humans, Chapter 8
12	Nov 4, 6	Review Exam 2
13	Nov 13	Paleo-Indians and migrations, Chapter 9 Essay 2 due
14	Nov 18, 20	Origins of Agriculture, Chapter 10
15	Nov 25, 27	Modern Human Variation and Race, Chapter 11 Adaptation and Acclimatization, Chapter 11

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
16	Dec 2, 4	Human Life Cycle, Chapter 11
17	Dec 9	Review and course wrap-up

Final exam: Friday, Dec 13 at 12:15-2:30PM