

San José State University
COSS/Anthropology
ANTH152, Becoming Human, Section 1, Fall 2022

Course and Contact Information

Instructor:	Professor Elizabeth Weiss
Office Location:	CL404R
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Office Hours:	MW 1045 - 1145
Class Days/Time:	MW 1330 - 1245
Classroom:	WSQ004

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.

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 Learning Outcomes (CLO)

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.
3. Knowledge of the history of anthropological thought and its place in modern intellectual history.
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

Langdon JH. 2016. *The Science of Human Evolution: Getting it Right*. Springer. -- Purchase at the University bookstore, on Amazon or other bookstore, or download from (you will need to be logged on with your SJSU ID and password):

[https://csu-sjsu.primo.exlibrisgroup.com/permalink/01CAL\\$SJO/tu4ck5/alma991013599932902919](https://csu-sjsu.primo.exlibrisgroup.com/permalink/01CAL$SJO/tu4ck5/alma991013599932902919)

Whitehead PF, WK Sacco, and SB Hochgraf. 2005. *A Photographic Atlas for Physical Anthropology: Brief Edition*. Morton Press. -- Purchase at the University bookstore, borrow from the library's course reserve, or purchase from an independent seller (such as Amazon).

Popular science book on paleoanthropology; your choice, but approved by the professor. -- Purchase from any book retailer or borrow one from the SJSU library.

Course Requirements and Assignments

“Success in this course is based on the expectation that students will spend, for each unit of credit, a minimum of 45 hours over the length of the course (normally three hours per unit per week) for instruction, preparation/studying, or course related activities, including but not limited to internships, labs, and clinical practica. Other course structures will have equivalent workload expectations as described in the syllabus.”

EXAMS: There will be four quizzes and a final exam. The **comprehensive final** will be given on the scheduled final day.

BOOK REVIEW: Each student will choose a popular science book on paleoanthropology, such as *Braindance* by Dean Falk, *Origins Reconsidered* by Richard Leakey, *the Invaders* by Pat Shipman, or *Sediments of Time: My Lifelong Search for the Past* by Meave Leakey and Samira Leakey, 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 printed out in person.

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.

I do not use Canvas for a multitude of reasons. Yet, I always provide students with prompt feedback, you will receive your graded assignments the next class period. Using simple arithmetic, you can keep track of your progress to ensure that you are not at risk of failing. If you have trouble calculating your grade, I will be happy to help you.

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:

A	B	C	D	F
97-100% = A plus	87-89% = B plus	77-79% = C plus	67-69% = D plus	Below 60% = F
91-96% = A	81-86% = B	71-76% = C	61-66% = D	
90% = A minus	80% = B minus	70% = C minus	60% = D minus	

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 (Required)

Per University Policy S16-9 (<http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S16-9.pdf>), relevant information to all courses, such as academic integrity, accommodations, dropping and adding, consent for recording of class, etc. is available on Office of Graduate and Undergraduate Programs' [Syllabus Information web page](http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo/) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo/>” Make sure to review these university policies and resources with students.

ANTH0152-01/Becoming Human, Fall 2022, Course Schedule

The schedule is subject to change with fair notice and how the notice will be made available.

Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines (If appropriate, add any extra column(s) to meet your needs.)
8/22, M	Introduction to Course
8/24, W	Pittdown Hoax Reading: Langdon (2016): Introduction; Case Studies 4, 26
8/29, M	Dating: Molecular Clocks and other clocks Reading: Langdon (2016): Case Studies 2, 5, 6, 7
8/31, W	Family Reunions: Introducing all of our relatives Reading: Langdon (2016): Case Study 23
9/5, M	Labor Day – No Class
9/7, W	Looking for the first hominid: Sahelanthropus, Orrorin, Ardipithecus Reading: Langdon (2016): Case Study 13 Whitehead et al. (2005): pp.54
9/12, M	Quiz 1 Review
9/14, W	Quiz 1
9/19, M	Australopithecines: East Africa Reading: Langdon (2016): Case Studies 9, 24 Whitehead et al. (2005): pp. 54-59
9/21, W	Australopithecines: South Africa Reading: Langdon (2016): Case Study 8 Whitehead et al. (2005): pp. 60-62
9/26, M	Paranthropines Reading: Langdon (2016): Case Study 10

Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines (If appropriate, add any extra column(s) to meet your needs.)
	Whitehead et al. (2005): pp. 60, 63-65
9/28, W	Early Homo: Homo habilis and Homo rudolfensis Reading: Langdon (2016): Case Studies 11, 12 Whitehead et al. (2005): pp. 65-67
10/3, M	Quiz 2 Review
10/5, W	Quiz 2
10/10, M	Homo georgicus: Leaving Africa Reading: Langdon (2016): Case Study 14
10/12, W	Homo erectus in Asia Reading: Langdon (2016): Case Study 3 Whitehead et al. (2005): pp. 67-77
10/17, M	Homo erectus in Africa Reading: Langdon (2016): Case Study 15 Whitehead et al. (2005): pp. 67-70
10/19, W	Homo antecessor Reading: No Reading, time to catch up.
10/24, M	Homo floresiensis Reading: Langdon (2016): Case Study 17
10/26, W	Homo naledi Reading: Langdon (2016): Case Study 16
10/31, M	Quiz 3 Review
11/2, W	Quiz 3
11/7, M	Archaics: Homo heidelbergensis Reading: Whitehead et al. (2005): pp. 78-84
11/9, W	Archaics: Neanderthals Reading: Langdon (2016): Case Study 18, 20 Whitehead et al. (2005): pp. 84-90
11/14, M	Origins of Anatomically Modern Humans: Bones and Behavior Langdon (2016): Case Studies 21 Whitehead et al. (2005): pp. 90-96
11/16, W	Origins of Anatomically Modern Humans: DNA Reading: Langdon (2016): Case Studies 19, 22
11/21, M	Quiz 4 Review; Approval Deadline for Popular Science Book
11/23, W	NO CLASS: THANKSGIVING BREAK
11/28, M	Quiz 4
11/30, W	Book Review Due; Final Exam Fossil Review
12/5, M	Final Exam Review
12/13, T	Final Exam: Tuesday, December 13, 1215-1430, WSQ004.