

San José State University
Department of Anthropology
Anth 12, Introduction to Human Evolution,
Sections 4&5, Fall 2010

Instructor: Caie Yan
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Office Hours: Tuesday 16:00-17:00pm or by appointment
Class Days/Time: Tuesday 18:00-20:45pm
Classroom: Washington Square Hall, Room 004
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), 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

Textbook

INTRODUCTION TO HUMAN EVOLUTION

AUTHOR: Elizabeth Weiss, PH.D.

PURCHASE ONLINE ACCESS CODE: <http://webcom7.grtxle.com/evolution>

ISBN: 978-1-61549-094-3

Library Liaison

Bernice Redfern; Librarian; (408) 808-2038; Bernice.Redfern@sjsu.edu

Classroom Protocol

Participation and Academic Behavior: There will be various in-class participation assignments intended to help students, writing assignments, homework assignments, and, the final. I highly recommend students attend class as often as possible.

Students are responsible for being aware of assignment due dates and the final exam schedule.

Students who miss classes should keep up with course readings and obtain notes from a classmate.

Students should read the assigned readings before they come to class. Also, students should feel free to ask questions when something in the lecture or book is not clear.

If you have any concerns about your class performance or comprehension, come by my office during office hours or schedule an appointment. I am always willing to help students and I care about whether students are grasping the material and enjoying the class.

CLASS BEHAVIOR

Newspaper reading is not allowed in class.

CELL PHONES, ETC.: No electronics (which include Ipods, Mp3 Players, Sidekicks, Cell phones, etc.) will be allowed out in class. Before class begins, you must turn off all electronics and put them out of sight.

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.

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

Preparation and Participation requirements

You will be required to read the chapters prior to coming to class; make sure to take the survey and the pre-test to help you understand the topics.

You will also be required to complete the E-text Reinforcement Activities for each chapter – 11 in total; your highest 10 values will be used in calculating your grade. In other words, the lowest score will be dropped.

In order for you to read the next chapter you will have to take the post-test by the date listed on the course schedule.

Exam requirements

A midterm exam and a final exam will be required. The final exam is not comprehensive and only covers the materials after the midterm exam. Scantron T&E 0200 will be required for both exams.

Writing requirements include three (3) take home writing assignments, in total of 6 pages. The topic for each assignment will be discussed in detail in class; they are designed to address the GE learning objectives (with each writing assignment covering one of the learning objectives and incorporating the content objectives in these assignments as well). Writing assignments will be graded in accordance to GE guidelines, which states that “writing shall be assessed for grammar, clarity, conciseness and coherence.” Writing assignments cannot be re-written after they have been graded.

I am happy to read rough drafts and help students with their papers if they come to my office hours and I will hold extra office hours prior to the papers’ due dates.

I will not answer emails regarding writing assignments; if you have questions, then you can ask them in class or in my office hours.

Failure to turn in any of the writing assignments (as a hard copy and into turnitin.com) 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).

**Two (2) versions of all writing assignments must be turned in:
One electronic version via Turnitin.com**

The electronic version is due before the class begins.

Any questions regarding turnitin.com:

See me prior to the paper’s due date or use the turnitin.com on-line training

One hard copy/printed version will be turned in at the beginning of class; once class has begun, the paper is considered late.

Any paper that is not turned in on time to both Turnitin.com and in class will not be accepted and will be considered as failure to turn in the assignment.

Once I have graded an assignment, it will be in class to pick up. Students should pick up their assignments within two class periods and keep their assignments until the end of the semester; this is intended to prevent problems of lost grades and other similar issues.

Grading Policy and Procedures: To pass this course, you must receive a final grade of D- or higher.

The final semester grade will be based on the following (each is graded on a scale of 100):

Writing Assignment 1	1 X 5%	=	5%
Writing Assignment 2	1 X 10%	=	10%
Writing Assignment 3	1 X 10%	=	10%
E-text Post-Tests	10 X 1%	=	10%
E-text Reinforcement Activities	10 X 1%	=	10%
Midterm exam	1 X 25%	=	25%
Final exam	1 X 30%	=	30%
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 should be unable to attend an exam, it is your responsibility to contact me immediately by either e-mailing or coming by during my office hours.

Only students with a valid documented excuse will be able to take a make-up exam or hand in a late assignment. Late assignments will not be accepted otherwise.

Documents need to be official and verifiable, such as hospital receipts, police records, etc.

Some valid excuses may include illnesses that include hospital stays, car accidents, and a parental death.

Some non-valid excuses may include weddings, computer problems, financial difficulties, and funerals of unrelated individuals (Occurrences that involve family members or friends will be considered only with documentation and collaborative evidence of relationships and the necessity of your attendance).

EACH EXCUSE WILL BE EVALUATED ON A CASE-BY-CASE BASIS AND ALL DECISIONS ARE FINAL.

No emailed papers, papers slid under my office door, or put in my office mailbox will be accepted.

Failure to turn in any of the writing assignments (in both versions – hard copy and turnitin.com) 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).

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.

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.

Student Technology Resources

Computer labs for student use are available in the Academic Success Center located on the 1st floor of Clark Hall and on the 2nd floor of the Student Union. Additional computer labs may be available in your department/college. Computers are also available in the Martin Luther King Library.

A wide variety of audio-visual equipment is available for student checkout from Media Services located in IRC 112. These items include digital and VHS camcorders, VHS and Beta video players, 16 mm, slide, overhead, DVD, CD, and audiotape players, sound systems, wireless microphones, projection screens and monitors.

Learning Assistance Resource Center

The Learning Assistance Resource Center (LARC) is located in Room 600 in the Student Services Center. It is designed to assist students in the development of their full academic potential and to motivate them to become self-directed learners. The center provides support services, such as skills assessment, individual or group tutorials, subject advising, learning assistance, summer academic preparation and basic skills development. The [LARC website](http://www.sjsu.edu/larc/) is located at <http://www.sjsu.edu/larc/>.

SJSU Writing Center

The SJSU Writing Center is located in Room 126 in Clark Hall. It is staffed by professional instructors and upper-division or graduate-level writing specialists from each of the seven SJSU

colleges. Our writing specialists have met a rigorous GPA requirement, and they are well trained to assist all students at all levels within all disciplines to become better writers. The [Writing Center website](http://www.sjsu.edu/writingcenter/about/staff/) is located at <http://www.sjsu.edu/writingcenter/about/staff/>.

Peer Mentor Center

The Peer Mentor Center is located on the 1st floor of Clark Hall in the Academic Success Center. The Peer Mentor Center is staffed with Peer Mentors who excel in helping students manage university life, tackling problems that range from academic challenges to interpersonal struggles. On the road to graduation, Peer Mentors are navigators, offering “roadside assistance” to peers who feel a bit lost or simply need help mapping out the locations of campus resources. Peer Mentor services are free and available on a drop –in basis, no reservation required. The [Peer Mentor Center website](http://www.sjsu.edu/muse/peermentor/) is located at <http://www.sjsu.edu/muse/peermentor/>

ANTH012/Introduction to Human Evolution, Spring 2011 Course Schedule

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

Note: **Pt** stands for **Post-test** in the e-text; **RA** stands for **Reinforcement Activity** in the e-text.

Week	Date	Topic	Readings	Assignments & Deadlines
1	2/1	Explanation of the syllabus History of Evolutionary Theory	Chapter 1	
2	2/8	Natural Selection & Evidence of Evolution Mendelian Genetics and Nonmendelian Genetics	Chapter 1 Chapter 2	RA and PT of Chapter 1 due 2/11
3	2/15	Modern Synthesis (Evolutionary Forces) Cell and Cell division	Chapter 2 Chapter 3	RA and PT of Chapter 2 due 2/18
4	2/22	DNA and Molecular Anthropology General Primate Traits and Classification	Chapter 3 Chapter 4	RA and PT of Chapter 3 due 2/25
5	3/1	Prosimians and Tarsiers, Anthropoids and Models for Human Evolution	Chapter 4	Writing assignment 1 due 3/1 RA and PT of Chapter 4 due 3/4
6	3/8	Fossils, Dating Fossils, and Evolutionary Time Primate Evolution	Chapter 5	RA and PT of Chapter 5 due 3/11
7	3/15	What makes a fossil a hominid? Contenders for the earliest hominid	Chapter 6	
8	3/22	Midterm Exam		
9	3/29	<i>No Class (Spring Recess)</i>		
10	4/5	Australopithecines Early Homo species and the First tools	Chapter 6	Writing assignment 2 due 4/5 RA and PT of Chapter 6 due 4/8

Week	Date	Topic	Readings	Assignments & Deadlines
11	4/12	Homo erectus and Acheulian tradition Sibling species of H. erectus	Chapter 7 Chapter 8	RA and PT of Chapter 7 due 4/15
12	4/19	Archaic Homo sapiens and Neanderthals Origins of Anatomically Modern Humans	Chapter 8	RA and PT of Chapter 8 due 4/22
13	4/26	Arriving in the New World: Paleo-Indians Ape to Man review	Chapter 9	RA and PT of Chapter 9 due 4/29
14	5/3	Origins of Agriculture Impacts of Agriculture, Exploration and Industrialization	Chapter 10	RA and PT of Chapter 10 due 5/6
15	5/10	Race and Human Variation Human adaptation	Chapter 11	RA and PT of Chapter 11 due 5/13
16	5/17	Human Acclimatization Stresses faced by current populations Review		Writing assignment 3 due 5/17
Final Exam	May 24	17:15-19:30pm		