

COURSE SYLLABUS
ANTHROPOLOGY 531: FOSSIL HUMANS PRACTICUM

Semester: Spring 2019

Section: 1 (2:10 - 4:00, MWF, FA 538)

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DESCRIPTION:

This course offers a descriptive survey of the evolutionary development of humans, from earliest hominid forms to the present based on the fossil record and molecular data. The material includes discussion of Tertiary hominoids and emergence of humans with emphasis on Australopithecines and later Pleistocene hominids. Theories of the origin, diversity, and continuing evolution of humans are considered.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

There are three formal writing assignments for this course. Each assignment contributes 25% toward your final grade. The remaining 25% of your grade will come from your performance on the laboratory assignments. **All of the exercises must be completed in order to receive a passing grade or "CR" for this course.** No incompletes will be given for this course, except with the approval of the instructor.

ATTENDANCE:

Attendance is mandatory for this course. You must come to class if you plan to pass the course.

If you stop attending this course, you **will not** be "automatically dropped" from the course. **Withdrawing from courses is your responsibility.** If you do not officially withdraw from the course, you will receive an "F".

TEXTBOOK:

POIRIER, FRANK E., JEFFREY K. MCKEE, AND W. SCOTT MCGRAW. 2005. *Understanding Human Evolution, Fifth Edition*. New Jersey: Prentice Hall.

CRITICAL THINKING EXERCISES:

The written assignments for this course will be take-home critical thinking exercises. Your responses will be typed. **Email submission of final copies of assignments is not acceptable under any circumstances.**

You will be held responsible for all information presented in lectures, assigned readings, and any other media (i.e., films, video tapes, slides, etc.). The assigned readings are meant to compliment the material presented in class, **not** substitute for it (i.e., **attend lectures if you plan to pass the course**). **Passing grades on the essays require that you successfully integrate the information from class and from the readings.**

In general, late assignments will not be accepted. In extenuating circumstances, assignments may be turned in late with the prior consent of the instructor. Jammed printers, obstinate computers, incompetent computer users, recalcitrant cars, irritating viruses, busy schedules, and general lack of prior planning **are not** valid excuses for late papers.

SCHEDULE:

TOPIC	READING
Early Primate Evolution	Poirier and McKee Chp. 1-6
<i>Australopithecus</i>	Poirier and McKee Chp. 7-9
CRITICAL THINKING EXERCISE 1	
<i>Homo erectus</i>	Poirier and McKee Chp. 10
Early Archaic <i>Homo sapiens</i>	Poirier and McKee Chp. 11
CRITICAL THINKING EXERCISE 2	
Late Archaic <i>Homo sapiens</i>	Poirier and McKee Chp. 12
Modern Humans	Poirier and McKee Chp. 13-14
CRITICAL THINKING EXERCISE 3	

ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT

- (1) Students are responsible for knowing the San Francisco State University regulations concerning cheating and plagiarism (<https://conduct.sfsu.edu/plagiarism>).
- (2) Misconduct includes, but is not limited to: cheating on exams; fabrication of reports, assignments, sources, etc.; plagiarism or the reproduction of others' work without **proper** acknowledgment; interfering with another student's work; or helping another student cheat.
- (3) Plagiarism is specifically defined as copying another person's words without appropriate acknowledgment. This includes: (a) quoting another person's actual words; (b) paraphrasing another person's words; (c) use of another person's idea, opinion, or theory; or (d) borrowing of facts, statistics, or other illustrative material, unless the information is common knowledge.
- (4) **The essays you write for this course are to be substantially your work. That is, long block quotes, paraphrasing or copying from the text or any other source, and copying another student's work are unacceptable.**
- (5) **If plagiarism is proven in this class, the student will be given an "F" for the assignment.**

SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

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Student Learning Outcomes

By the end of the course, students will be able to:

- Analyze the history of biological anthropology and the types of data that have been used in formulating various hypotheses of human origins; trace the impact of new technologies on the refinement and reformulation of these hypotheses.
- Evaluate the evidence from the fossil record, genetic data, and comparative primatology to articulate well-reasoned responses to questions pertaining to human evolution and adaptation.
- Compare and contrast alternative theories concerning the adaptive advantages and development of specific human traits such as bipedalism, encephalization, and language skills.

Disability Statement Policy

Students with disabilities who need reasonable accommodations are encouraged to contact the instructor. The Disability Programs and Resource Center (DPRC) is available to facilitate the reasonable accommodations process. The DPRC is located in the Student Service Building and can be reached by telephone (voice/TTY 415-338-2472), video phone/415-335-7210) or by email (dprc@sfsu.edu).

University Withdrawal Policy

The Withdrawal deadline occurs two weeks after the semester starts. After this deadline, students must petition for a Withdrawal, or receive a non-passing grade for a class if they do not complete the requirements of the course. Withdrawals are permitted only for serious and/ or compelling reasons. In the last three weeks of the semester, students must be able to document the reason for their withdrawal.

SF State fosters a campus free of sexual violence including sexual harassment, domestic violence, dating violence, stalking, and/or any form of sex or gender discrimination. If you disclose a personal experience as an SF State student, the course instructor is required to notify the University Title IX Coordinator. To disclose any such violence confidentially, contact: The SAFE Place - (415) 338-2208; http://www.sfsu.edu/~safe_plc/ Counseling and Psychological Services Center - (415) 338-2208; <http://psysevs.sfsu.edu/> For more information on your rights and available resources: <http://titleix.sfsu.edu>