

# The Archaeology of Human Origins

## SYLLABUS v.2

The main objective of this class is to provide students with a solid understanding of how, when, where and why human culture evolved from the ape-like behavior of our earliest ancestors to the establishment and global spread of modern human behavior. In order to accomplish this, we will be considering such key questions as: What Makes Us “Human” (modern *Homo sapiens*)? What is (Modern) Human “Culture”? Is “Culture” learned or inherited? How, Why and When did human culture evolve from our early hominin ancestors? I argue that students cannot understand the diversity of **contemporary** human cultural behavior without knowing how this diversity developed over time and space

### Class Meetings:

Tuesdays, Periods 5-6, 11:45 am-1:40 pm, 2305 Turlington Hall  
Thursdays, Periods 6: 12:50-1:40 pm, 2341 Turlington Hall

### Office Hours and Communication

- Office hours: B368 Turlington Hall, Tuesday and Wednesday, 3-4 pm (or by appointment).
- Telephone: Office: 392-2253, x234;
- E-mail: sbrandt@ufl.edu
- Lecture PP and PDF’s will be posted to E-Learning (Sakai)
- Web page: web.me.com/archorn

### Required Readings

- Barham, L. and P. Mitchell 2008. *The First Africans*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press
- Klein, R. 2009. *The Human Career*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press (**Grads Only**)
- Marlowe, F. 2010. *The Hadza*. Berkeley: University of California Press
- Selected articles to be posted as pdf’s
- I will probably require one additional small book for the latter part of the course– I will let you know the title soon.

### Recommended Readings and Books on Reserve (to be added)

### Recommended Web and App Sources (to be added)

### Undergraduate Examinations and Grading

**Undergraduates:** Grades will be based on:

- two non-cumulative exams each worth 100 points;
- three topical assignments graded on the basis of written notes and class participation in discussions – 1 @ 20 pts and 2,3 @ 10 pts for a total of 40 points;
- a ~10-15 page double spaced class paper on a subject of your choice (more on this next week).

Your grade will be based on the total accumulation of points, as follows:

First Exam	100
Second Exam	100
Three Assignments@ 10 points each	40

Final Paper	60
<b>Total Points</b>	<b>300</b>

A	90-100% (269-300 points)
B+	86-89%(257-268 points)
B	80-85%(239-256 points)
C+	76-79%(227-238 points)
C	70-75%(209-226 points)
D+	66-69%(197-208 points)
D	60-65%(179-196 points)
E	<60% (<149 points)

**Graduates:** As discussed, your grade will be based on:

- Preparation of 3-5 pages of notes based on weekly readings, class lectures, assignments and discussions, and any special issues assigned to graduates. These will be submitted after the extra 1 hour meeting following each Thursday's regularly scheduled class- 100 points for all weekly notes combined (weekly points to be determined by number of , graded on a S/U basis. Unsatisfactory notes will be re-submitted until they are deemed satisfactory.
- Participation in class discussions; leading specific assignment discussions – 100 points
- 15-30 Page Research Paper on a subject to be mutually decided by the grad student and professor – 100 points.
- Final grade is based upon the same percentages of total points as with undergraduates.

**Attendance:** Attendance is mandatory. Failure to attend lectures without an official excuse (see below) will result in the loss of points, as follows:

- 1 missed           no points subtracted from total points
- 2 missed           20 points subtracted from total points
- 3rd missed        40 points subtracted from total points
- 4th missed        **Automatic E for the course**

**Official UF, Medical Or Religious Absences And Make-Up Exams**

Except for medical/disability reasons, religious reasons or official university business, there will be **no** makeup exams or excused absences. A letter signed by a physician or a university official must be obtained **before** a makeup exam will be scheduled or an absence excused. Likewise, any religious reason for missing an exam or section must also be discussed with the professor and/or TA **before** a makeup exam will be scheduled or an absence excused. If you have a disability that could affect your class performance, please discuss this with the professor or TA during the first week of class.

**Cheating**

Needless to say, cheating in any way will not be tolerated and will result in a 0 exam score and/or possible dismissal from the course.