

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
Total Points	300

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.