

Evolution of Human Behavior (EHB)

ANT4930 (section **6422**) **Spring 2011**

Meeting Periods: **Wednesdays, 5:10-8:10 pm** (periods 10-E1)

Classroom: **B304 Turlington**, the basement Biological Anthropology Teaching Lab

Instructor: Dr. Sue Boinski

Office: **B364 Turlington Hall**

Email: boinski@ufl.edu; Phone: 392.2253 x 237

Office Hours: **Tuesday 1-3 pm; Wednesday 1-2pm** and by appointment

Sakai course website: ANT 4930: 6422, Fall 2011;

<https://elearning2.courses.ufl.edu/portal/site/c8785038-a2a0-45ec-a75a-0573ee5ca804>

Course Overview and Objectives

What do you want to know about the behavior of our hominid ancestors? This seminar uses the natural history of non-human primates to assess the behavioral ecology of *Australopithecus* and early *Homo* in East Africa prior to the exodus of hominids from Africa. Our goal is to scrutinize historic and current literature by identifying and critically assessing the explicit –and frequent implicit– hypotheses and assumptions. Importantly, students will also acquire the tools to construct their own hypotheses and testable predictions concerning the behavioral biology of this discrete set of East African fossil hominids.

Paralleling the seminar empiricism is a complementary emphasis on critical thinking, logic and succinct writing. Think of the course as akin to a driving school for the academic highway. Fossil hominids, monkeys and apes provide a discrete and enticing research arena for participants to gain proficiency and confidence in expressing conceptual and empirical research. Immediate and tangible returns, however, do exist. The skills and knowledge each student harvests will directly improve term papers, graduate school applications, proposals, grants and theses.

History of Science, Feminism and Popular culture are among the timely issues inherent in the aegis of this seminar. Participants are encouraged to engage in these related discourses as opportunity in interests allow.

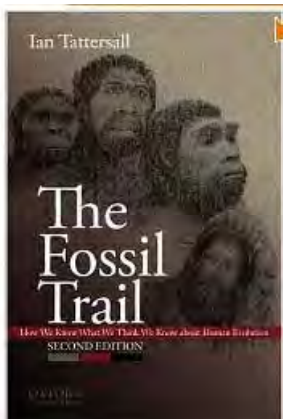
This is an undergraduate seminar. Students need not have memorized a Sears catalog-equivalent of taxonomy, anatomy, dates. Instead, the seminar emphasizes thoughtful questions and recognition of patterns and processes. On the other hand, undergrads lacking prior coursework in physical anthropology should have a background in biology, psychology or linguistics.

Exams and quizzes will be mostly short essay, with some matching, maps and image labeling. The final is open book.

The semester project is premised on each student identifying a question salient to the course (instructor approval required). The student then compiles an annotated bibliography, empirical and other data sets, and develops hypotheses predictions. The final project submitted is a 2,000-word essay succinctly explaining assessing the questions, hypotheses and predictions. Students premise the essay upon literature and data compiled in their annotated bibliography (or some variant of a database and spread sheet) as the critical data.

Students are encouraged to explore the primary reviewed literature, as well as the secondary reviewed literature, e.g., Smithsonian and National Geographic magazine. Circumspect use of non-reviewed media is also welcomed. Grading includes the amount and quality of quality and possible annotation students contribute to the course website and, potentially, readings in the course of the semester.

Seminar participants are expected to participate in organizing seminar activities, notably primary and secondary reviewers. If the conversation slips into the doldrums, take some responsibility for reviving the discourse.



Textbooks and Required Readings

- No required text
- **OPTIONAL TEXT: The Fossil Trail: How We Know What We Think We Know About Human Evolution, 2nd edition, 2008/2009, by Ian Tattersall.** Amazon offers the best price ~\$17.00, and the deals are better on used copies.

- PDFs of assigned readings are provided on a Sakai class website.
- Students have opportunities to identify and select readings from options screened by instructor

Exams and Grading

Quizzes: 5%: One scheduled and several unscheduled quizzes will be given. Only the highest quiz score will be included in semester grade.

Exams: 35%: Exam1 (10%); non-cumulative **Exam2 (25%)** on December 7th, last day of class. The final will be 'open book'; a term the instructor will operationalized in the seminar meeting.

Paper: 30%: ~ 2000-word paper (references not included in word count) on topic approved by instructor. A spread sheet/ empirical data/ literature review table (no minimum or maximum length) will accompany the term paper as an appendix (appendices). Paper due by December 10th, although earlier is encouraged.

Participation: 25%: Includes individual participation in class and submission of written questions and comments on class web site. Note that multi-part commentary is often better conveyed in text than verbally. A thoughtful question is often more useful than a facile answer. Media & Reprint contributions also enhance participation assessment, i.e., submission of salient media in useful formats (PDFs and reasonably secure links, etc.) to course media library and eventual use by other seminar participants. Each student should encounter numerous resources worthy of contribution to the course web site) during the process of researching their seminar project

Presentation: 5%: Each student will share a terse 3-4 minute-long summary of the question driving her or his semester project. Each presentation will be followed by no more than 5 minutes of a student-driven Q&A session of the speaker. Presentations will be graded on both the presentations and the post-hoc discussions of other students' presentations. But by the end of the semester, this process of seminar discussion should be familiar and comfortable to all students.

Attendance: Reflected in punctual submission of weekly assignments and sitting exams and quizzes.

Policies on make-up work:

(a) Missing seminar during exam and quiz dates is costly without an official UF-accepted recusal. All work, including exams and quizzes, should be completed within one week. Important events in a student's personal schedule may conflict with exam and quiz dates, e.g., MCAT exams and weddings. For whatever reason, students having advance notice of missing an exam or quiz are fervently encouraged to arrange to take the exam or quiz **BEFORE** the scheduled date.

(b) Students missing an exam without an official excuse or prior arrangements will be provided an opportunity to make up the exam, but with a deduction in feasible maximum credit. Those missing a quiz under similar circumstances, i.e., no official excuse, will not have an opportunity to make up the quiz.

(c) Not every contingency can be predicted. Life happens. May we all enjoy a wonderfully educational, healthy, productive and tranquil Fall Semester 2011.

Final Grades: Final grades are assigned based on the cumulative weighted percentage of earned points.

Grading scale in Cumulative Earned Percentiles

A = 92-100	C = 72-77.00
A- = 90-91.99	C- = 70-71.99
B+ = 88-89.99	D+ = 68-69.99
B = 82-87.99	D = 62-67.99
B- = 80-81.99	D- = 60-61.99
C+ = 78-79.99	E = <60

C- grade will not count for major, minor, or general education credit.

See link for undergrad regulations <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx>

Course Policies and Procedures

Class Performance:

1. **DO NOT:** Text on cell phone, use/answer your phone (please put on silent ring), sleep or have personal conversations unrelated to class room purposes. Although these are natural human behaviors, we would prefer for these activities to remain in the proper habitat ---outside of the classroom. Disengage completely from the web in its various incarnations unless directly salient to the course. Please make valiant efforts to maintain engagement with the class, not a social media account.

2. We are in the class room for an extended period. A limited number of discrete, brief departures from the lectureAt natural breaks in the class content, students will be encouraged to take a brief recess. Discrete consumptions of beverages is allowed. Please refrain from eating during class. Many individuals are unaware of the distractions they can make in the classroom.

Class Communication: Use the SAKAI mail system for communications in preference to email. This allows the instructor to compile course material in one location. All links and attachments are best sent via the web site.

Academic Honesty: All students are expected to honor their commitment to the [University's Honor Code](#) and the student conduct code. Violations will lead to the Department's and the University's procedures for dealing with academic dishonesty.

Accommodation for Students with Disabilities: Students requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the Dean of Students Office. The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the Instructor when requesting accommodation. Please make any requests by the second week of class.

UF Counseling Services

Resources are available on-campus for students having personal problems or lacking clear career and academic goals that interfere with their academic performance. These resources include:

1. [University Counseling and Wellness Center](#), 3190 Radio Road, 392-1575, personal and career counseling
2. [Sexual Assault Recovery Services](#) (SARS), Student Health Care Center, 392-1161, sexual counseling
3. [Career Resource Center](#), Reitz Union, 392-1601, career development assistance and counseling
4. [Reading & Writing Center](#), Broward Hall, 392-0791, writing assistance, study skills, test preparation

Critical Dates:

Quiz 1: September 21st

Note that pop quizzes may be held but that only the highest quiz score contributes to each student's semester grade.

Exam 1: October 12

Exam 2: December 7

Presentations: November 30th

Papers Due: December 10th; earlier is better.

Outline of Topics/ Course Schedule: Many salient readings and media await assignment. The instructor anticipates, however, that seminar participants will soon deluge her in age suggestions for class readings and other potential course material

Week 1 August 24

Introduction

Small group discussion/super quick presentations

Video: Nat Geo: Forest Bantu

Readings (emailed):

1. P_1 Primate Societies selections. 1971. Hans Kummer
2. P_2 Walker's World Primates.1991
3. Evol_1 Hominids. J Cartwright
4. Ecol_1 Hominid Savanna Nature research 2011
5. Ecol_2 Ecol_1 Hominid Savanna Nature commentary 2011

Week 2 August 31

What do we want to know about fossil hominids (condensed version)

Lecture & Discussion

Readings

1. Methods_1 Martin & Bateman,
2. Fossil_1 Tattersall Chapter 18. 2008 (compare to *Evol_1 Hominids. J Cartwright*)
3. P_5 Lions (Faux Primates) 2011 (Why not hominids?)

Week 3 September 7

Comparative methods & and interdisciplinary Research

Discussion & lecture

Video: Cousins: Prosimians & Monkeys

Discussion for next week; Students have primary and secondary reviewer roles self-assigned

1. Human Face and Voice Ornaments
2. Nature Strontium
3. Human Pair Bonds

Week 4 September 14

Early, Early Primate Models

Discussion for next week includes this longish paper

1. Cliff Jolly, Seed-eating baboons

Video: Becoming Human, Part 1 of 3 in a Nova series.

Week 5 September 21

Early Primate Models

Quiz1 – Bring hard copies of readings

Week 6 September 28

Primate Models

Students discuss research projects

Week 7 October

Primate Models

Students 'declare' research project

Week 8 October 12

Warfare

Exam1

Week 9 October 19

More Primate models

Week 10 October 26

Female Hominids

Week 11 November 2

Sexual selection

Week 12 November 9

Sexual Selection

Week November 16

Brain

November 23 (Thanksgiving vacation starts the next day)

Genetics

November 30

Language

Student presentations

December 7 (non-cumulative final exam) **Last Day Fall Classes**

Exam2 'Open book'

Filename: EHB ANT4930 Beta Syllabus 11Semptember11
Directory: \\ad.ufl.edu\clas\home\b\boinski\Documents
Template: C:\Users\boinski\AppData\Roaming\Microsoft\Templates\Normal.dotm
Title:
Subject:
Author: Peter Collings
Keywords:
Comments:
Creation Date: 9/12/2011 4:24:00 PM
Change Number: 10
Last Saved On: 9/12/2011 6:49:00 PM
Last Saved By: sboinski
Total Editing Time: 141 Minutes
Last Printed On: 9/12/2011 6:49:00 PM
As of Last Complete Printing
Number of Pages: 5
Number of Words: 1,872 (approx.)
Number of Characters: 10,673 (approx.)