

The Archaeology of Human Origins

SYLLABUS

The main objective of this hybrid lecture/seminar 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 during the Late Pleistocene. I argue that students cannot understand the diversity of modern human cultural behavior without knowing how this diversity developed over time and space. In order to accomplish this, we will be considering such key questions as: What Makes Us “Human” (modern *Homo sapiens*)? What is meant by “modern human cultural behavior”? Why, how, when and where did modern human culture evolve from our hominin ancestors?

Class Meetings:

Tuesdays, Periods 4: 10:40-11:30 am, 1101 Turlington Hall
Thursdays, Period 4-5: 10:40 am-12:45 am, 2305 Turlington Hall

Office Hours and Communication

- Office hours: B368 Turlington Hall, Tuesday and Thursday, 1-2 pm (or by appointment).
- Telephone: Office: (352) 294-7599
- E-mail: sbrandt@ufl.edu
- Announcements, Readings, Lectures, Study Guides, etc. will be uploaded regularly to E-Learning (CANVAS)

Required Readings

Undergraduates and Graduates

- Gamble, C. 2013. *Settling the Earth: The Archaeology of Deep Human History*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. (Available from UF Library as a free downloadable e-book).
- Marlowe, F. 2010. *The Hadza*. Berkeley: University of California Press. (Available from UF Library as a free downloadable e-book).
- Selected journal and newspaper articles, book chapters, videos & web sites, to be uploaded to CANVAS or Dropbox.

Graduates Only

- Klein, R. 2009. *The Human Career*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

Recommended Readings, Web Sites and Apps (more to be added)

- Barham, L. and P. Mitchell 2008. *The First Africans*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press
- Klein, R. 2009. *The Human Career*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.
- www.AfricanFossils.org is a virtual human paleoanthropology lab with 3D models of early hominins and archaeological sites from the Lake Turkana Basin of NW Kenya.

Grading

Undergraduates: There are no exams. Instead, grades will be based on a total accumulation of 300 points as follows:

- Each week you are to turn in typed notes (3 double-spaced pages max. of prose (not outlines) summarizing/critiquing the required weekly readings,. These are to be uploaded to CANVAS no later than 1:00 am on the due date specified in the Schedule so I can try to read them before class. They will be assigned points at the end of the semester as follows: Excellent = 50 pts; Very Good =45; Good = 40; Satisfactory = 35. Unsatisfactory notes are to be re-submitted until they are deemed at least satisfactory. I may add or subtract a few points if you are in-between a category. 20 points will be subtracted from the total if notes are consistently late, not turned in or unable to read.
- Contribute regularly (and thoughtfully) to seminar discussions. Class participation will be graded on a Satisfactory (50 points) /Unsatisfactory (25 points) basis. I expect all of you to receive the full 50 points, but I reserve the right to assign fewer points if I find your class contribution to be less than satisfactory but more than unsatisfactory. If you think you might have difficulty in speaking in a seminar format, please discuss this with me asap.

- Five topical assignments @ 20 points each (100 pts total) graded on the basis of written notes and class participation in discussions: Excellent = 20 pts; Very Good =18; Good =16; Fair =14; Poor = 12). These are due immediately after class discussion of the specific topic.
- A 10-15 page double-spaced and typed research paper @ 100 points on a subject of your choice, but first cleared by me (more on this later). Excellent = 100 pts; Very Good =90; Good =80; Fair =70; Poor = 60
- There may be a chance to receive some “bonus points” added to your total by attending a class-related lecture.

Final Grade Point Distribution: Notes (50 pts) + Discussions (50) + Assignments (100) + Paper (100)

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: Same number of points, but graded separately from the undergrads, plus:

- Preparation of additional notes for Grad-Only weekly readings and any special assignments. These will be submitted after occasional extra 1 hour meetings at a time suitable for all grads. Weekly notes. Notes, discussions and assignments cannot be less than “satisfactory”. Unsatisfactory notes will be re-submitted until they are deemed satisfactory.
- 15-30 Page Research Paper on a subject of your interest but to be mutually decided upon by the grad student and professor

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

Official absences for medical/disability reasons, religious reasons or official university business are allowed. A letter signed by a physician or a university official must be obtained **before** a official absences. Likewise, any religious reason for missing an exam or section must also be discussed with the professor **before** an absence is excused. If you have a disability that requires extra support or could affect your class performance, please discuss this with the professor 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 and university.

Vk	Dates	FALL 2017 - ANT 4930/6128: ARCHAEOLOGY OF HUMAN ORIGINS SCHEDULE OF LECTURES, ASSIGNMENTS, AND PAPERS (SUBJECT TO CHANGE) (READINGS POSTED ON CANVAS)
	T 8/22 TH 8/24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introductory Remarks and Class Requirements; • Assignment 1: Great Ape Anatomy and Behavior: How different are we from them? Do Great Apes have “Culture”? • Assignment 2: The Hadza and Modern Human Behavior (MHB). Read the entire Hadza book over the next 3 weeks. Prepare typed notes (~ 2-4 double-spaced pages per chapter) summarizing each chapter as to: 1) the main point(s) the author is trying to get across (i.e. not detailed minutia); 2) what relevance does it have to understanding what makes us “human”; and 3) what aspects of the lifeway/behavior portrayed in the chapter is potentially visible in the archaeological record, and how? • Reconstructing the Past: Geological, Paleoenvironmental, Paleontological and Archaeological Units
	T 8/29 TH 8/31	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reconstructing the Past (cont): Geological, Paleoenvironmental, Paleontological and Archaeological Units • Demonstration and Practice: Making and Using Flaked Stone Artifacts (Lithics)
	T 9/5 TH 9/7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss Assignment 1 - Great Ape Anatomy and Behavior: How different are they from Humans? Do Great Apes have “Culture”? (Upload First Assignment to Canvas no later than 1am.) • Chronometric Dating; The African Origins of early Hominin Behavior: History of Field; Fossil & Archaeological Evidence
	T 9/12 TH 9/14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss Assignment 2 What Does it Mean to Be “Human”: The Hadza. (Upload no later than 1 am) • The African Origins of early Hominin Behavior (continued):
	T 9/19 TH 9/21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Early <i>Homo</i> and the The Earliest Hominin Dispersal Through and Out of Africa into Eurasia • The Original Swiss Army Knife?: Mode 2 Technology, Large Cutting Tools and the Acheulian Technocomplex
	T 9/26 TH 9/28	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quest for Fire and the Lower Pleistocene Dispersal of Mode 2 Technology Through and Out of Africa • Mode 2 Dispersals and the “Movius Line”.
	T 10/3 TH 10/5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mode 3 Technology, Composite Tools and Advanced <i>Homo</i> species in the African Middle Pleistocene • The African Origin of <i>Homo sapiens</i> and “Modern Human Behavior
	T 10/10 TH 10/12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion of Assignment 3: (Upload Assignment 3 to Canvas no later than 1am): What is “Modern Human Behavior” from a Paleoanthropological Perspective? • Strange Brew - Bio-Cultural Evolution in Mid-Late Pleistocene Eurasia: Neanderthals, Denisovans and ??
	T 10/17 TH 10/19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Genetic Evidence for Late Pleistocene Human Evolution; Does it Jive with the Fossil and Arch. Record? • Mode 4 Technology, Complex Composite Tools and Modern Human Behavior
	T 10/24 TH 10/26	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Great Diaspora: <i>Homo sapiens</i> Dispersals (or Migrations?) across Africa and into Asia and the Sunda • The “Hobbit” and other Surprises
	T 10/31 TH 11/2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The spread of <i>Homo sapiens</i> into Sahul (Greater Australia) • “Middle Paleolithic” Neanderthals meet “Upper Paleolithic” Modern Humans in Eurasia: the World is Never the Same.
	T 11/7 TH 11/9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At the 11th International Lithics Conference, Buenos Aires, Argentina. Guest Lecture on the Late Pleistocene spread of <i>Homo sapiens</i> into Siberia and North America (and/or Across the Atlantic?) • Assignment 4: Movie Critique – Watch the Movie
	T 11/14 TH 11/16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion of Assignment 4: (Upload Assignment 4 to Canvas no later than 1am): Spread of <i>Homo sapiens</i> into Sahul (Greater Australia); • Assignment 5: Movie Critique – Watch the Movie
	T 11/21 TH 11/23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion of Assignment 5: (Upload Assignment 4 to Canvas no later than 1am): • THANKSGIVING: NO CLASS
	T 11/28 TH 11/30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Late Pleistocene Art, Imagery, Symbols and Symbolism • Settling Down: Sedentary Hunter-Gatherers
	T 12/5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student PP Presentations of Papers
	Official Exam Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research Papers must be emailed to me no later than 5pm EST