

ANT 4586 Human Evolution

Fall 2025

Meets: Tuesdays Period 7 (1:55 PM - 2:45 PM) in TUR 2322
Thursdays Periods 7-8 (1:55 PM - 3:50 PM) in TUR 2322 or TUR B304 (Labs)

Instructor: David Daegling
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Office Hours: M 10:30 – 11:30; W 1:00 – 3:00 PM.

Prerequisite: ANT 3514C or the equivalent. Please contact the instructor for any questions concerning prerequisites.

Required Materials:

- [*The Complete World of Human Evolution \(The Complete Series\)*](#), 2012, 2nd Edition. By Chris Stringer and Peter Andrews. Any format is fine for this class.
- [*Human Evolution: A Very Short Introduction*](#) by Bernard Wood (2006) is optional. There are no assigned readings from this source.
- Supplementary readings are provided on Canvas.

Materials and Supplies Fees: Students enrolled in this course will incur a \$17.16 M&S fee

Course Catalog Description: Surveys the evidence for the evolution of humankind. Emphasis is placed on the late Miocene to Pleistocene human fossil record and its interpretation. Basic principles of geology, systematics, evolutionary theory, functional morphology, and phylogenetic reconstruction are introduced and used to aid in understanding the human fossil and archaeological records. 3 credits.

Course overview: This course reviews the evidence for the evolution of humankind, including a survey of the hominin fossil and archaeological records and their interpretation. Basic principles of geology, systematics, evolutionary theory, functional morphology and genetics are introduced and used to aid in understanding and interpreting the fossil and material cultural evidence of human evolution.

The first part of the course reviews the theoretical and methodological foundations of paleoanthropology. Fossil evidence for the evolution of Primates follows, with emphasis on the evolution of the Hominoidea and the origin and diversification of bipedal hominins. Finally, the appearance, diversification and dispersal of the genus *Homo* is surveyed, concurrent with consideration of the archaeological record of material culture.

Student Learning Outcomes (SLO)

Content

- Understand, describe, explain, and apply factual, conceptual, and procedural knowledge in biological anthropology as it pertains to the evidence for human evolution.

Critical Thinking

- Apply a scientific approach to investigate primate, specifically hominid, variation in its biological, social and cultural dimensions.
- Analyze the significance, quality and veracity of information and apply it effectively to resolve conflicting interpretations of evidence.
- Evaluate different sources and types of knowledge into holistic perspectives about human variation and human evolution.

Communication

- Create a review and analysis of a contested interpretation of the paleontological and/or archaeological records based on information from peer-reviewed literature.

Grading:

Letter grades for the course are assigned based on total percent of points according to the following grade scale system without exception:

A =	92.0 or above
A- =	89-91.9
B+ =	86-88.9
B =	82-85.9
B- =	79-81.9
C+ =	76-78.9
C =	72-75.9
C- =	69-71.9
D+ =	66-68.9
D =	62-65.9
D- =	60-61.9
E =	< 60.

Weighting of Assignments

30%	Exams (3 exams @ 10% each)
15%	Online quizzes (3 quizzes @ 5% each)
25%	Lab exercises (5 labs @ 5% each)
10%	Reading assignments & discussion (4 group discussions @ 2.5% each)
20%	Research Project & Presentation

Current UF policies for assigning grade points may be found at
<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx>

OTHER POLICIES:

This course complies with all UF academic policies. For information on those policies and for resources for students, please navigate to [UF's Academic Policies and Resources](#) page.

Late Assignments

Due dates are provided on Canvas. Late submissions are subject to a 10% grade reduction each day that they are late. Any work submitted after the end of term (December 3rd at 5PM) will not be graded and given a score of zero.

Quizzes

Quizzes are taken online and are open source. You can take the quiz up to three times. Your highest score is used in calculation of your final grade.

Exams

All exams are closed-book. Exams may not be retaken. Missed exams may be made up due to medical or family emergency. Documentation will be required.

Electronic Devices

Turn off or silence smart phones when you come to class. Laptops should only be used for taking notes or other immediate course-related activity.

Attendance

Attendance is mandatory for Lab exercises. While attendance is not taken for lecture periods, the instructor will not review lecture material outside of class. Students are responsible for all material presented, discussed, amended or revised during lecture periods. Lecture material will not always be congruent with interpretations from assigned readings.

Students seeking modification of due dates for class participation, assignments, and exams for religious reasons should contact the instructor well in advance to request this modification, which will then be arranged.

Conflict Resolution

Any issues, disagreements or grade disputes should be discussed first between the instructor and the student. If the problem cannot be resolved, please contact Prof. John Krigbaum (krigbaum@ufl.edu, (352) 294-7540), Chair of Anthropology. Be prepared to provide documentation of the problem, as well as all graded materials for the semester. Issues that cannot be resolved departmentally will be referred to the University Ombuds Office (<http://www.ombuds.ufl.edu> [Links to an external site.](#); 352-392-1308) or the Dean of Students Office (<http://www.dso.ufl.edu> [Links to an external site.](#); 352-392-1261).

Course Administration

You are responsible for materials posted on [E-Learning \(Canvas\)](#), including required readings, announcements, details on assignments, and other supplementary material. Canvas technical support available at <https://elearning.ufl.edu/student-help-faqs/>. The instructor will use the Canvas Announcement tool to make general class announcements but may contact you directly through email about your work. You are responsible for checking your official UF email regularly to be aware of communication from your instructor. There are no allowances for students who fail to read their email announcements or whose inboxes are full at the time an announcement is sent. To manage your Canvas notifications, in your Canvas “Account,” click on “Notifications.” Set the notification for “Submission Comment” to either “Notify Immediately” or “Daily Summary.” Your instructor will typically communicate with you regarding your assignments through Submission Comments more so than e-mail.

The [UF Libraries](#) provide access to numerous resources and services that will help you succeed in this course. Access thousands of [online databases, books, and articles](#) or visit one of the [branch locations](#) for additional [resources, services, and study spaces](#). Can’t find what you are looking for? You can [Ask A Librarian](#) for help by email, chat, text, or phone. Ginessa Mahar is the Anthropology Librarian who can be reached at gjmahar@ufl.edu, office: Library West Room 500.

COURSE SCHEDULE

Date	Topic	Textbook	Supplemental Reading	Assignment Notes
8/21	Course introduction	6-11		
8/26	Principles of evolution	12-14, 20-23, 34-37		
8/28	LAB 1. Bones and teeth	42-45, 88-89, 190-191		Lab worksheet
9/2	Deep time	26-33		
9/4	Taxonomic practice	16-19		
9/9	Systematic philosophies	24-25		
9/11	Taphonomy & paleoecology	46-57	Pisor 2019	Finish Group Discussion
9/16	Early primate evolution	82-87		
9/18	LAB 2. Geological context			Lab worksheet
9/23	EXAM 1			Quiz 1 due
9/25	Miocene apes	90-110		
9/30	Stem hominins	114-118, 184-189	Proffitt 2023	Finish Group Discussion
10/2	LAB 3. Fossil apes	111-115		Lab worksheet
10/7	Australopiths 1	118-123		
10/9	Australopiths 2	124-129		
10/14	early <i>Homo</i>	132-135		Proposal due
10/16	LAB 4. Early hominins			Lab worksheet
10/21	Out of Africa: first wave	136-139		
10/23	EXAM 2			Quiz 2 due
10/28	Middle Pleistocene mess	140-151	Ni et al 2021	Finish Group Discussion
10/30	Neanderthals	152-157, 164-165, 180-181		
11/4	Out of Africa II: a.m. <i>H. s.</i>	158-163, 170-175, 178-179		
11/6	Biogeography & Behavior	200-227	Waring 2023	Group Discussion
11/11	NO CLASS: <i>Veteran's Day</i>			
11/13	LAB 5. Genus <i>Homo</i>			Lab worksheet
11/18	EXAM 3			Quiz 3 due
11/20	Student Presentations			
11/25	NO CLASS: <i>Thanksgiving Break</i>			
11/27	NO CLASS: <i>Thanksgiving Break</i>			
12/2	Student Presentations			Project paper due