

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:

- M | Periods 3-4 (9:35 AM - 11:30 AM), 106 Rinker Hall
- W | Period 3 (9:35 AM - 10:25 AM), 106 Rinker Hall

Office Hours and Communication

- Office hours: B368 Turlington Hall: Monday 12:00 - 1:00 pm; Tuesday 1:30-2:30 pm; Wednesday 11:00 – 12:00 pm (or by appointment).
- Telephone: Office: (352) 870-9445
- E-mail: You are to use your CANVAS email address for course communication (please use sbrandt@ufl.edu) for emergencies only)
- 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 and Graduates: There are no exams. Instead, grades will be based on a total accumulation of 300 points as follows:

- **Discussion and Class Participation – 70 points**
 - Contribute regularly (and thoughtfully) to seminar discussions.
 - Each student will be assigned to lead class discussions on one or two of the weekly topics (with support and guidance from me).
 - During most weeks one or more students will be assigned an extra task to search for an article, a web site, a newspaper article, etc. of their choosing on the weekly topic. You are to summarize and present it to the class in PowerPoint (PPT) format (I will provide tips on how to make a good PPT, and if you do not know how to use PPT there are many web-based tutorials or I can teach you).
 - Class participation for the whole semester will be graded as follows (Rubric TBA):
 - Excellent = A 70 Points
 - Almost Excellent = A- 67
 - Very Good = B+ 63
 - Good = B 60
 - Almost Good = B- 56
 - Above Average = C+ 53
 - Satisfactory = C 49
 - Unsatisfactory = D 42
 - I expect all of you to receive the full 70 points! If you think you might have difficulty speaking in a seminar format, please discuss this with me asap.
- **Weekly Reading Assignments -130 points:** There will be 13 weekly assignments each worth 10 points for a total of 130 points. These will be composed of the following:
 - Typed notes: 3 double-spaced pages max. in prose or annotated outline format summarizing/critiquing the required weekly readings. They are to be uploaded to CANVAS no later than 6:00 pm on the Sunday before the Monday class or Tuesday before the Wednesday class (see course schedule for specific due dates) so I can look at them before class.
 - Each will be graded as follows (Rubric TBA):
 - Excellent = A 10 Points
 - Almost Excellent = A- 9.5
 - Very Good = B+ 9
 - Good = B 8.5
 - Almost Good = B- 8.0
 - Above Average = C+ 7.5
 - Satisfactory = C 7.0
 - Unsatisfactory: Notes are to be re-submitted until satisfactory.
 - Not Turned In 0
- **Term Paper – 100 points**
 - Undergraduates: A 7-10 page double-spaced and typed term paper on a subject of your choice, but first cleared by me (more on this later).
 - Graduate Students (graded separately): A 10-20 page maximum double-spaced and typed term paper on a subject of your choice, but first cleared by me (more on this later).
 - It will be graded as follows (Rubric TBA)

A	90-100
A-	88-89
B+	85-87
B	80-84
B-	78-79
C+	75-77
C	70-74
C-	68-69
D+	65-67
D	60-64
D-	58-59
E	<58

Final Grade Point Distribution: Discussion (70) + Assignments (130) + Paper (100) =300 Total Points

A	90-100%	(269-300 points)
A-	88-89%	(263-268 points)
B+	85-87%	(254-262 points)
B	80-84%	(239-253 points)
B-	78-79%	(233-238 points)
C+	75-77%	(224-232 points)
C	70-74%	(209-223 points)
C-	68-69%	(200-208 points)
D+	65-67%	(194-199 points)
D	60-64%	(176-193 points)
D-	58-59%	(173-175 points)
E	<58%	(<173 points)

- There may be the opportunity of obtaining some bonus points (to be added to your total) by attending lectures or events around campus and providing a one-page summary. I will notify you of this as far in advance as possible.

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**

Excused Absences: An excused absence is involuntary, such as due to religious holiday, accident, court appearance, illness, death in the family, university-approved activity, etc.; see the full policy below. You must email the professor or TA *and* provide a written excuse as soon as you are able. Being excused allows you to request to make up lecture and lab activities and thereby get credit for them.

Cell phones must be silenced and stowed out of your sight.

Acceptance of Course Requirements: By remaining registered in this class, you tacitly agree to accept all course requirements and expectations as stated in this syllabus. These are in addition to other general University requirements and codes of conduct as stated in official documents; see the last two pages.

Technical Help on Canvas: If you experience technical difficulties, contact the UF Computing Help Desk either by filling out an online request form or calling (352) 392-4357 - select option 1. The Help Desk is located on the ground floor of the Hub on the UF campus. If technical difficulties will cause you to miss a due date, you **MUST** report the problem to the Help Desk and then email the instructor. Include the ticket number that you are given from the Help Desk in an e-mail to the instructor to explain the late assignment or quiz. However, except in extreme circumstances, technical difficulties are **not** an excused reason for a late assignment.

Other University Policies and Services

• **Attendance Policy:** See <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx> and p. 12 for types of excused absences and university attendance policy. Only students with excused absences, as confirmed by the Dean of Students Office, may be allowed to make up an assignment.

• **Religious observances:** Students seeking modification of due dates for class participation, assignments, and exams for religious reasons (e.g., holiday observances) should contact the instructor in advance and request this modification; it will then be granted. Please make requests early in the semester.

• **Accommodations for students with disabilities - PLEASE READ**

- Students with disabilities requesting accommodations should first register with the Disability Resource Center (352-392-8565, www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/) by providing appropriate documentation.

- Once registered, students will receive an accommodation letter via email. Accommodations will be granted after they present the letter to the instructor and schedule a virtual or face-to-face meeting to go over the accommodation request.

Academic honesty: UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge which states, “We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honor and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code. On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: “On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment.”

- The Honor Code (<https://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honor-code/>) specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. Instances of dishonesty include conducting unauthorized research on the internet and failing to cite sources of information on any work submitted, as well as unauthorized collaborating with students or others to determine the answers on assignments and exams. Furthermore, you are obligated to report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct to appropriate personnel.
- All suspected instances of violations of the Honor Code (plagiarism, copying, cheating) will be reported to the Dean of Students Office. Students with prior violations will be sanctioned according to the Honor Code Resolution Process (<http://regulations.ufl.edu/wp-content/uploads/2012/09/4042.pdf>). If you are accused of academic dishonesty, you are *not allowed to drop the course* until the matter is resolved. If you have any questions about what constitutes cheating or plagiarism, or have concerns about completing an assignment on time, please consult with the instructor.

Counseling and Emergency Services

- **U Matter, We Care** serves as the umbrella program for UF’s caring culture and provides students in distress with support and coordination of a wide variety of appropriate resources. Contact umatter@ufl.edu seven days a week for assistance if you are in distress. Call 352-392-1575 for a crisis counselor in the nighttime and weekends.
 - the University Counseling Center, 301 Peabody Hall, 392-1575; <http://www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc/Default.aspx>
 - Student Health Care Center, 392-1171
 - Career Resource Center, Reitz Union, 392-1601
 - Center for Sexual Assault/Abuse Recovery and Education (CARE), Student Health Care Center 392-1161
 - University Police Department 392-1111 (non-emergency); call 9-1-1 for emergencies.
- **Online course evaluation process**
Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. Guidance on how to give feedback in a professional and respectful manner is available at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/students/>. Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens and can complete evaluations through the email they receive from GatorEvals, in their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals, or via <https://ufl.bluer.com/ufl/>. Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/>.
- **Electronic Course Reserves**
The electronic course reserve service is offered by the George A. Smathers Libraries. Under the Rehabilitation Act and the Americans with Disabilities Act, students with disabilities have the right to equal access, use and benefit of the course materials that have been placed on reserve in the Libraries. Students who have registered with the Disability Resource Center should initiate their request for assistance and accommodation in accessing these materials. The Center will work with the Libraries Course Reserve Unit to provide accessible course materials. All information submitted by the student to the Libraries in fulfilling the request for accommodation will be kept confidential. For more information on services for students with disabilities, contact the DRC at 352-392-8565 or at accessuf@dso.ufl.edu. For general information on course reserves, please contact the Course Reserves Unit at 352-273-2520, or email at eres@uflib.ufl.edu.
If you are not using a UF computer, it is best to **use the UF VPN client** when accessing electronic materials course reserve materials as well as e-books, on-line journals, databases, etc. offered by the library. The VPN client is easily installed and configured, and provides easy access to electronic materials using offcampus computers. For more information on using the VPN client, go to <http://www.uflib.ufl.edu/login/vp>

Wk	Dates	SPRING 2020 - ANT 4930/6128: ARCHAEOLOGY OF HUMAN ORIGINS SCHEDULE OF LECTURES, ASSIGNMENTS, AND PAPERS (SUBJECT TO CHANGE) (READINGS POSTED ON CANVAS)
1	W 1/5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Introductory Remarks and Class Requirements;
2	MW 1/10,12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reconstructing and Dating the Past: Geological, Paleoenvironmental, Paleontological and Archaeological Methods
3	M 1/17 W 1/19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Martin Luther King Holiday – no class Class Discussion: Reconstructing Past Hominin Behavior Part 1. What does it mean to be a “Modern Human”? An Ape’s Perspective. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discussion on Great Ape Anatomy and Behavior: How different are we from them? Do Great Apes have “Culture”? (I will provide further information during Week 2)
4	M 1/24 W 1/26	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reconstructing Past Hominin Behavior Part 2: Making and Using Flaked Stone Artifacts (Lithics): Demonstration and Practice <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Come to class in an inexpensive shirt (long sleeves preferable), jeans (no shorts), and closed toe shoes (no sandals). I will provide everything else. A Brief History of Paleoanthropology and Paleolithic/Stone Age Archaeology
	M 1/31 W 2/2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Class Discussion: Reconstructing Past Hominin Behavior Part 3. What Does it Mean to Be a Modern “Human”? a Hunter-Gatherer’s Perspective. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Each student will be responsible for providing a PPT summary of one or more chapters of F. Marlowe’s Hadza book. I will make the chapter assignments during Week 2. Pliocene Origins of the Earliest Hominins: Is There an Archaeological Record?
6	MW 2/7-9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> African Plio-Pleistocene Origins of Hominin Behavior: Australopithecines and the Earliest Archaeological Record: Mode 1 Technology and the Lomekwian and Oldowan
7	MW 2/14-16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Origin and Behavior of early <i>Homo</i> and the Earliest Dispersal of Hominins Through and Out of Africa into Eurasia The Original Swiss Army Knife?: Mode 2 Technology, Large Cutting Tools and the Acheulian Technocomplex
8	MW 2/21-23	<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 Technology and the “Movius Line”: Early Pleistocene Archaeology of Eastern Asia.
9	MW 2/28- 3/2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Archaic <i>Homo</i> and the Transition from Mode 2 to Mode 3 Composite Tool 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”
10	MW 3/7-3/9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Spring Break – No Classes
11	M 3/14 W 3/16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Class Discussion of What is meant by “Modern Human Behavior” from a Paleoanthropological Perspective Strange Brew - Bio-Cultural and Genetic Evolution in Mid-Late Pleistocene Eurasia: Neanderthals, Denisovans and ??
12	MW 3/21-23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strange Brew Continued Late Pleist. Dev. of “Modern Human Behavior in Africa: Mode 4 Technology, Complex Composite Tools, First Art and the Origins of Art
13	M 3/28-3/30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Great Diaspora: <i>H. sapiens</i> Dispersals (or Migrations?) across Africa into Asia and Sunda (Island SE Asia/Oceania) The “Hobbit” and other Surprises
14	MW 4/4-4/6	<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.
15	MW 4/11-4/13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Eurasian Upper Paleolithic and the African Later Stone Age Late Pleistocene Art, Imagery, Symbols and Symbolism
16	M 4/18 W 4/20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Late Pleistocene Art (continued); Settling Down: Sedentary Hunter-Gatherers Student PP Presentations of Term Papers
16	T 4/26 Official Exam Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Term Papers must be emailed to me no later than 11:59 pm EST