

ANT4930  
SP 2015 UF in Ethiopia  
Steven A. Brandt

**AFRICAN ARCHAEOLOGY AND ETHIOPIAN HISTORY**  
**THE BIO-CULTURAL EVOLUTION OF HUMAN BEHAVIOR**

**Course Description**

The main objectives of this class are to provide those students in the SP 15 UF in Ethiopia program with a solid understanding of the importance of Africa – and in particular Eastern Africa and Ethiopia - for providing critical information on the evolution of modern human cultural behavior, and to better understand and appreciate the importance of our planned research in Ethiopia. It will also provide in greater detail information on specific Ethiopian areas/sites that are of particular importance and/or we may visit. Spanning some 2.6 (and soon to be 3.1) million years, Africa provides the longest archaeological record in the world, and as such the longest record of human bio-cultural development. It furnishes evidence for the earliest representatives of the human family (and for that matter the earliest evidence of every major stage of human evolution), the first artifacts, the most complete account of the development of a hunting/gathering way of life; probably the world's first composite tools, some of the world's earliest rock art, possibly the earliest evidence of the establishment of a pastoral way of life, the domestication of a number of unique plants; the development of some of the world's most complex civilizations; the staging area for the African Diaspora; and a living laboratory for the archaeological study of contemporary societies (i.e. ethnoarchaeology). In order to accomplish this objective, 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 African and especially Ethiopian **contemporary** human cultural behavior without knowing how this diversity developed over time and space.

The first 3 weeks of the course will be taught in lecture and discussion format in a classroom setting at UF. The fourth week will be spent at the Ethiopian National Museum and surroundings of Addis Ababa looking at and analyzing archaeological collections, while the final 4 weeks will be in the form of informal discussions while conducting research in Wolaita.

**Lectures, Office Hours and Contacts:**

- Lectures/Discussions: 9:30 am -12pm M-Th 2341 Turlington Hall
- Office hours: T and Th 3-4pm, B353 or B368 Turlington Hall (or by appointment).
- Office: 352-294-7599; Lab: 294-7579 email: sbrandt@ufl.edu; web site:  
<http://www.clas.ufl.edu/users/sbrandt/> (under construction).

**Required Texts and Readings**

- Barham, L. and P. Mitchell 2009. *The First Africans*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Finneran, N. 2007. *The Archaeology of Ethiopia*. London: Routledge
- Marcus, H. 1994. *A History of Ethiopia*. Berkeley: University of California Press
- Selected articles and book chapters in pdf format uploaded to E-Learning (max. 1-2/week for undergrads – more for grads).
- Selected videos, web sites and podcasts

**Recommended Texts**

- Deacon, H.J. and J. Deacon 1999. *Human Beginnings in South Africa: Uncovering the Secrets of the Stone Age*. Walnut Creek: Altamira Press.
- Marlowe, F. 2010 *The Hadza*. Berkeley: University of California Press.
- Phillipson, D. 2005. *African Archaeology*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition.
- Schmidt, P. and R. McIntosh 1996. *The Plundering of Africa's Past*. Bloomington: Indiana University Press.

**Recommended Journals (UF Library has hard and electronic copies)**

- *Journal of African Archaeology*
- *African Archaeological Review*
- *Azania*

### **Web Sources (TBA)**

### **Grading**

Final Grades will be based on the accumulation of 100 points, allocated as follows:

- |  |                         |
|--|-------------------------|
| 1. Three Weekly Discussion/Reading Notes turned in on Monday 1/12, 1/19 and 1/26;<br>OR Three Weekly Quizzes on Monday 1/12, 1/19 and 1/26 @10 points each | 30 points               |
| 2. Class Participation   | 10 points               |
| 3. Ethiopian Museum and Field Participation  | 20 points               |
| 4. Final Museum/Field Report   | <u>40 points</u>        |
|  | <b>TOTAL 100 points</b> |

A	94-100 points
A-	90-93
B+	87-89
B	84-86
B-	80-83
C+	77-79
C	74-76
C-	70-73
D+	65-69
D	60-63
E	<60%

**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   | 0 points subtracted from total points  |
| ▪ 2 missed   | 10 points subtracted from total points |
| ▪ 3rd missed | 30 points subtracted from total points |
| ▪ 4th missed | <b>Automatic E for the course</b>      |

### **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.

### **Mobile Phones, Laptops and Tablets**

Mobile phones must be turned off or set to “Airplane/Vibrate only” mode during lectures and discussions. Laptops and tablets can only be used to take class notes, and with my permission to look something up.

**POTENTIAL SCHEDULE OF LECTURES, DISCUSSIONS, READINGS, AND QUIZES/NOTES**  
**(To Be Revised At The Beginning Of Each Week)**

Week 1:

T 1/6 Introductory Remarks; Requirements of the Course.

W 1/7 History of African Archaeology; Introduction to the African Continent; Chronology and Terminology

Th 1/8 Chronology and Terminology Continued: Fossil and Behavioral Evidence of our Earliest Ancestors

- First Africans: Ch 1-3
- Arch Ethiopia: Ch 2: 33-39

Week 2:

M 1/12 **Turn in Notes**; Fossil and Behavioral Evidence of Our Earliest Ancestors (cont.);

The Earliest Archaeological Record: Early Stone Age/Lower Paleolithic and the Oldowan Technocomplex

T 1/13 The Earliest Archaeological Record: Early Stone Age/Lower Paleolithic and the Oldowan Technocomplex (cont.)

W 1/14 The Acheulian Technocomplex

Th 1/15 The Emergence of Modern Humans; The Middle Stone Age/Middle Paleolithic

- First Africans: Ch 4-6
- Arch Ethiopia: Ch 2: 40-46 up to “Mode 4”)

Week 3:

M 1/19 No Class: Field Trip to *Selma, Alabama*

**T 1/20 Turn in Notes:** The Emergence of Modern Humans; The Middle Stone Age/Middle Paleolithic (cont.); OIS (Oxygen Isotope Stages 5-3)

W 1/21 OIS 5-3, the Horn of Africa and Mochena Borago

Th 1/22 OIS 2 (The Last Glacial Maximum) and the Transition to OIS 1 (Pleistocene Holocene Transition) OIS1 (the Holocene) and the Development of Food Production, Complex Societies and the end of hunter/gatherers

- First Africans: Ch 7-8
- Arch Ethiopia: Ch 2:46-66; Ch 3

**M/26 Turn in Notes Electronically**