ANTH/ARCP202 Paleoanthropology (Fall 2014)  
(WF, 1:10-2:30, Exley Science Center 309)

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Course Description  
Paleoanthropology is the study of human origins, of how we evolved from our apelike ancestors into our modern form with our modern capabilities. Drawing on both biological anthropology (the study of fossils, living primates, and human variation) and archaeology (the study of material culture, such as tools, art, and food remains), the course will examine what we know about our evolutionary past and how we know it.

Readings and PowerPoints  
Required texts: Conroy and Pontzer, Reconstructing Human Origins: A Modern Synthesis  
Tattersall, Masters of the Planet: The Search for Our Human Origins

Additional readings will be available as .pdf files on Moodle. Selections should be read before class on the day they are listed on the syllabus. PowerPoint presentations used in class will also be put up on Moodle after each class for your reference (as well as relevant supplemental readings).

Examinations and Assignments  
Three exams (20% of grade each), laboratory assignments (10%), and a final exam (30%).

Lab Sessions  
On those days when lab sessions are held (note schedule), students will meet in Exley Science Center 351 at assigned times (to be determined). Lab attendance is required and labs are not graded per se, but points will be deducted if they are not completed and turned in. Information from the labs may appear on exams. PLEASE NOTE: there will be no make-up labs.

Disability Resources  
Wesleyan University is committed to ensuring that all qualified students with disabilities are afforded an equal opportunity to participate in and benefit from its programs and services. To receive accommodations, a student must have a documented disability as defined by Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the ADA Amendments Act of 2008, and provide documentation of the disability. Since accommodations may require early planning and generally are not provided retroactively, please contact Disability Resources as soon as possible. If you believe that you need accommodations for a disability, please contact Dean Patey in Disability Resources, located in North College, Room 021, or call 860-685-5581 for an appointment to discuss your needs and the process for requesting accommodations.
Course Outline

September

3   Introduction

5   The Plio-Pleistocene World; Overview of Hominin Evolution
    Readings:  *Human Origins*, Chapter II

10  Taphonomy and Dating
    Readings:  *Human Origins*, Chapter III
               Lewin, “The KBS Tuff Controversy: Genesis”
               Lewin, “The KBS Tuff Controversy: Denouement”

12  Naming and Classification
    Readings:  *Human Origins*, Chapter IV
               Tattersall, “The Synthesis”
               Tattersall, “Theory Intrudes”

17  Comparative Anatomy
    Readings:  *Human Origins*, Chapter I

19   LAB: Human and Comparative Anatomy


26   EXAM

October

1   Primates (and Mammals)
    Readings:  Boyd and Silk, “Primate Diversity and Ecology”
               *Human Origins*, Figures 5.1 and 5.11

3   LAB: Comparative Primate Anatomy

8   South African Australopithecines
    Readings:  *Human Origins*, Chapter VI

10  East African Australopithecines
    Readings:  *Human Origins*, Chapter VII
               *Masters of the Planet*, Chapters 1 & 2

15  Video: “The New Chimpanzees”
ANTH/ARCP202 Paleoanthropology

17  EXAM

FALL BREAK

22  Australopithecine Lifeways
    Readings:  
    *Human Origins*, Chapter VIII
    *Masters of the Planet*, Chapters 3 & 4

24  Australopithecine Lifeways (cont.)

29  Origins of the Genus *Homo*
    Readings:  
    *Human Origins*, Chapter IX
    *Masters of the Planet*, pp. 81-89

31  LAB: Early Hominins and Functional Anatomy

November

5   Video: “The Mind’s Big Bang”

7   EXAM

12  *Homo erectus*
    Readings:  
    *Human Origins*, Chapter X
    *Masters of the Planet*, pp. 89-104; Chapters 6 & 7

14  “Archaic” and Modern Hominins
    Readings:  
    *Human Origins*, Chapters XI & XII
    *Masters of the Planet*, Chapters 8-10

19  More “Archaic” and Modern Hominins
    Readings:  
    *Human Origins*, Chapter XIII
    *Masters of the Planet*, Chapters 11 & 12


THANKSGIVING BREAK (no classes that week)

December

3   Upper Paleolithic
    Readings:  
    *Masters of the Planet*, Chapters 13 & 14
    Stringer “Behaving in a Modern Way: Mind-reading and Symbols”
    Stringer “Behaving in a Modern Way: Technology and Lifeways”
5 Upper Paleolithic (cont.)

Final exam Wednesday, Dec. 11th, 9:00 am-12:00 noon.

Bibliography

Required texts:


Sources for other required readings on Moodle:


Supplemental readings (sources for some of the information on PowerPoints; only material covered in PowerPoints will be on exams)


