

ANTH 5a: Human Origins
Spring 2007, Golding 101
Tue/Fri 1:40 - 3:00 PM

Dr. Charles Golden, cgolden@brandeis.edu, Brown 206 x62217
Office Hours: Tue/Fri, 3:00 – 4:00 pm or by appointment

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Course Description:

What does it mean to be human? Through lectures and discussions we will examine the major biological and cultural transformations that took place over the course of several million years, as modern *Homo sapiens* evolved from ancestral primate species, and developed the cultural and social foundations that gave rise to modern societies. We will examine theories of evolution as they pertain to the development of modern humans, as well as our nearest relatives among the apes, living and extinct. Evolutionary theory itself is not static, and we will examine developments from Darwin to today. What exactly is evolution? How does it work? What does it mean that we share 99% of our genome with Chimpanzees? Were there other species of humans? Are we still evolving?

With the advent of physically modern people a mere 100,000 years ago or so, our focus will shift to the cultural and biological developments that bring us almost to the present. What, exactly, are Neanderthals, and what do they have to do with us? What did it mean for (possibly) more than one species of *Homo sapiens* to roam the earth at the same time? What is the significance of cultural developments in the Upper Paleolithic, as complex artistic renderings on cave walls and portable objects make a sudden appearance in the archaeological record? We'll round out the course with a discussion of the transition from hunting and gathering as the primary way of life for all humans to the development of domestication, and the appearance of the early agricultural societies that would eventually give rise to Mesopotamia, Egypt, the Maya, and – eventually – the United States.

Textbook:

“Understanding Physical Anthropology and Archaeology, 9th ed.” Barry Lewis, Robert Jurmain, and Lynn Kilgore (Wadsworth, 2007).

“The First Human,” Ann Gibbons (Doubleday, 2006)

Readings from the textbooks are identified as UPAA or TFH, with a chapter number. Other assigned readings are identified by the author’s last name and will be posted to WebCT.

Policies, Assignments, and Grading:

Grading is based on three exams, a brief paper, and class participation. Class participation accounts for **5%** of your grade. Although this is a lecture course, students are expected to prepare the readings on the day for which they are assigned, and be ready to discuss and answer questions about the readings in class. Discussion is encouraged – many of the topics we will be covering are not *fact* but *theory* and critical debate is a welcome contribution to class. Attendance is central to your class participation grade – if you are unable to attend on any given day, you must provide notice before class to your professor or TAs, or as soon after the fact as possible.

You will have three non-cumulative exams, each accounting for **25%** of your final grade. The midterms are scheduled for **March 2**, **March 30th**, and the third exam is during the regularly scheduled final exam period (**Monday, May 7, 6:00 pm**). Make-up exams will only be given if your professor or TAs are notified ahead of time of an existing conflict, or proof of an emergency precluding your taking the exam is provided.

A brief paper (3-5 pages) is due on **April 27** that accounts for **20%** of your final grade. The paper must be uploaded to WebCT unless permission has been obtained from Prof. Golden to submit a hard copy. The paper will address a topic of your choice – you will select a recent discovery (last 3 years) covered in popular publications (newspapers, National Geographic Magazine, Archaeology Magazine, etc.) concerning human evolution or early human culture, and discuss the implications of this new discovery. How does it change our understanding of human origins as presented in your textbook, if at all? A good source of recent articles can be found at: <http://www.tamu.edu/anthropology/news.html>.

Please Note:

Extensions on papers and make-up exams will only be given if your professor or TAs are notified ahead of time of an existing conflict, or you provide proof of an emergency precluding your taking the exam or submitting the paper. *No extensions or make-ups will be given because of conflicts with assignments or exams in other classes.* Papers turned in late without permission of the instructor will be discounted one letter grade per day.

If you are a student who needs academic accommodations because of a documented disability you should contact me, and present your letter of accommodation, as soon as possible. If you have questions about documenting a disability or requesting academic accommodations you should contact Assistant Dean Laura Lyndon in Undergraduate Academic Affairs at 6-3470. Letters of accommodations should be presented at the start of the semester to ensure provision of accommodations. Accommodations cannot be granted retroactively.

Tue, Jan 16	Introduction: UPAA 1
Fri, Jan 19	Evolutionary Theory: UPAA 2; S.J. Gould “Full House, Chaps. 1-3”
Tue, Jan 23	Evolutionary Theory: UPAA 2; S.J. Gould “Full House, Chaps. 1-3”
Fri, Jan 26	Heredity and Evolution: UPAA 3
Tue, Jan 30	Heredity and Evolution: UPAA 3
Fri, Feb 2	Modern Human Variation and Adaptation: UPAA 4
Tue, Feb 6	Modern Human Variation and Adaptation (Race): UPAA 4 Boas “Race Problems in America”; Bamshad and Olson “Does Race Exist?”
Fri, Feb 9	Macroevolution: Vertebrate and Mammalian Evolution: UPAA 5
Tue, Feb 13	Macroevolution: Vertebrate and Mammalian Evolution: UPAA 5
Fri, Feb 16	An Overview of the Primates: UPAA 6
Tue, Feb 20	MIDTERM RECESS
Fri, Feb 23	MIDTERM RECESS
Tue, Feb 27	Primate Behavior: UPAA 7
Fri, Mar 2	Midterm #1
Tue, Mar 6	Understanding the Past: UPAA 8; TFH, Introduction – Chap. 3; Bryson “The Mysterious Biped”
Fri, Mar 9	Hominid Origins: UPAA 9; TFH Chaps. 4 - 7
Tue, Mar 13	Hominid Origins: UPAA 9; TFH Chaps. 8 - 10
Fri, Mar 16	Earliest Dispersal of the Genus Homo: UPAA 10; TFH Chaps. 11-13
Tue, Mar 20	Earliest Dispersal of the Genus Homo: UPAA 10; TFH Chaps. 14-15

Fri, Mar 23	Premodern Humans: UPAA 11; TFH Chaps. 16-17
Tue, Mar 27	Premodern Humans: UPAA 11
Fri, Mar 30	Midterm #2
Tue, Apr 3	PASSOVER/SPRING BREAK
Fri, Apr 6	PASSOVER/SPRING BREAK
Tue, Apr 10	PASSOVER/SPRING BREAK
Fri, Apr 13	Origin and Dispersal of Modern Humans: UPAA 12
Tue, Apr 17	Origin and Dispersal of Modern Humans: UPAA 12
Fri, Apr 20	Holocene Hunters and Gatherers: UPAA 13
Tue, Apr 24	Food Production: UPAA 14
Fri, Apr 27	Food Production and the First Civilizations: UPAA 14, 15; Paper Due
Tue, May 1	The First Civilizations and New World Civilizations: UPAA 15, 16

Academic Honesty and Plagiarism

The University's Policy regarding Academic Honesty and Plagiarism can be found in Section 5 of RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES ([Full Text Online PDF FILE](#)) in the 2003-2004 BRANDEIS UNIVERSITY HANDBOOK. The relevant paragraphs are as follows:

[SECTION 3](#): Maintenance of Academic Integrity

3.0 Every member of the University community is expected to maintain the highest standards of academic integrity. A student shall not receive credit for work that is not the result of the student's own effort or for work that is falsified. Infringement of academic honesty by a student subjects that student to serious penalties that may include failure in the course (with or without a notation on the transcript) as well as other sanctions (see [SECTION 2.1](#)). A student who is in doubt regarding standards of academic honesty in a course or assignment should consult the faculty member responsible for that course or assignment before submitting the work. A student's lack of understanding is not a valid defense to a charge of academic dishonesty.

3.1 A student's name on any written exercise (e.g., examination, report, thesis, theme, notebook, laboratory report, computer program, etc.), or in association with an oral presentation constitutes a representation that the work is the result of that student's own thought and study, stated in the student's own words, and produced without the assistance of others, except as quotation marks, references, and footnotes accurately acknowledge the use of other sources (including sources found on the internet). Talking during an examination, or possession or use of unauthorized materials during an examination, constitutes an infringement of academic honesty. Attempting to receive credit for work not originally submitted also constitutes an infringement of academic honesty.

3.2 In some instances, a student may be authorized by a faculty member to work jointly with (an)other student(s) in solving problems or completing projects. However, students may not collaborate on assignments without explicit permission from the instructor. To provide, either knowingly or through negligence, one's own work to assist another student in satisfying a course requirement constitutes an infringement of academic honesty. Aid from personnel associated with University-sanctioned tutoring services is acceptable; tutor-assisted work submitted for a grade should be done with approval of the instructor.

3.3 Unless permission is received in advance from the faculty member in charge of the course involved, a student may not submit, in identical or similar form, work for one course that has been used to fulfill any academic requirement in another course at Brandeis or any other institution. A student who perceives the possibility of overlapping assignments in courses should consult with the appropriate faculty members before presuming that a single effort will fulfill requirements of both courses.