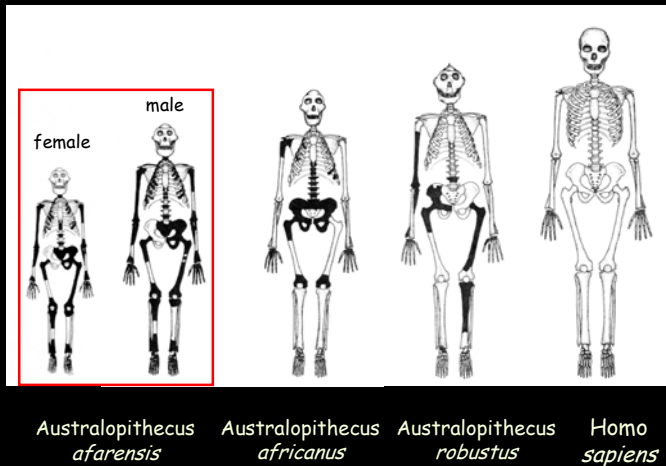


HUMAN ORIGINS (ANTH 05a)

Comparison of early and contemporary hominid skeletons



Summer 2009

M, T, and Th
1:45 - 4:15 pm
Brown 224

Professor Javier Urcid
Office: Brown 203

Office hours
W 2-3 pm (and by appointment)

Extension: 62223
email: urcid@brandeis.edu

Course objectives

This course covers the development of human physical and cultural characteristics through a span of some 5 million years, from a hominoid stage and a foraging economy to the origins of agricultural practices and the rise of urban life. A consideration of humans' place in nature as well as a review of evolutionary principles leads to discuss the archaeological findings of hominids in a diachronic framework. Further consideration is placed on the selective processes that led to the domestication of biomasses useful to humans, and of the social causes and consequences of settled life. The journey through the bio-cultural transformations of humanity highlights the acquisition of bipedal locomotion, language, changes in subsistence economies, and an increase in societal complexity.

Course outline

Sessions	Topics	Readings
Jun M 1	Introduction to the course and to Latte Physical anthropology and archaeology	None
Jun T 2	Framing paradigms: intelligent design vs evolution	Cartmill 2000 Marks 2002

	Inorganic dynamics of the blue planet: Plate tectonics and Pangaea	Hallam 1976; Kurtén 1976
Jun Th 4	Natural selection: Darwin and Wallace Molecular biology and evolution	Tattersall 2009 Chapters 1, 2, 4, 9
Jun M 8	The place of humans in nature	Johanson and Edey 1981; Tattersal 2009 Chapter 7
Jun T 9	Ethology of non-human primates	Wundram 1979;
Jun Th 11	The evolution of Primates The Australopithecines	Tattersall 2009 Chapters 8, 10-11 and 15; Sabater et al 1997; Shipman 1986
Jun M 15	Consequences and implications of bipedalism	Hewes 1961; Devine 1985; Shreeve 2000
Jun T 16	First exam	None
Jun Th 18	Derived Homo	Tattersall 2009 Chapters 5-6, 13-14; Shipman 2003; Powledge 2006; Lister 1993
Jun M 22	Archaic Homo sapiens and Neandertals	Tattersall 2009 Chapters 15-17
Jun T 23	Origins of symbolic adaptations	Burling 1993; Geertz 1964; White 1992
Jun Th 25	Paleoanthropology and hominid stereotypes	Moser 1998; Tattersall 2009 Chapters 3, 12, 18-19
Jun M 29	Modeling the origins of agriculture and animal husbandry	Flannery 1973; Grayson and Meltzer 2003; Hodder 2007; Scarre 2001.
July T 30	Prestige economies and the rise of Chiefdoms	Earl 1987 Fagan 2001; Van Tilburg 2001

The emergence of urban societies
and Early Civilizations

Andrews 1995,
chapters 3 and 5

July Th 2 Final exam (9-12 am)

Students with extra challenges

If you are a student with a documented disability at Brandeis University and if you wish to request a reasonable accommodation for this class, please see me immediately. Keep in mind that reasonable accommodations are not provided retroactively.

Course requirements

Reading assignments

Reading assignments from the textbook and additional sources (on Latte or through URL in the bibliography below) should be completed by the dates indicated above. Reading of these materials is essential for your participation in class (15% of the total grade).

Attendance to class is obligatory. Absence from classes will only be accepted in cases of medical or extreme emergencies, and should be timely notified via email and supported by signed and dated medical or other evidentiary documentation.

Writing assignments

There are two written reviews of the videos *Surviving Africa* and *Mystery of the First Americans*. Each is due a week after the screening and should have a maximum of three double-spaced typed pages. The reviews need to address three points: 1) A synthetic summary of the core ideas, a critical evaluation of the main points, and a general assessment of the effectiveness of the video. The first review counts 10% of the final grade and the second 15%.

Exams

There will be two exams (each 30%). Each examination will include 1 or 2 essays. The essays are intended to foster critical thinking by comparing and contrasting assumptions, statements, or theoretical positions from different authors. The tests are not accumulative; that is, the final exam will cover only topics discussed after the midterm.

Summary of grading

Class participation	15%
Midterm exam	30%
Final exam	30%
First video review	10%
Second video review	15%

Use of laptops

Students are welcome to use a laptop computer in class provided it is used for note taking or for web searches specifically related to the topic being discussed. If a student is found using the laptop for other purposes, his/her right to use it will be immediately suspended.

Important Notice

Academic integrity is central to the mission of educational excellence at Brandeis University. Each student is expected to turn in work completed independently, except when assignments specifically authorize collaborative effort. It is not acceptable to use the words and ideas of another person without proper acknowledgement of that source. This means that you should cite and use quotation marks to indicate the source of any phrase, sentence, paragraphs or ideas found in published volumes, on the internet, or created by another student. Violation of University policies on academic integrity, described on Section 3 of Rights and Responsibilities, may result in failure in the course or on the assignment, and could end in suspension from the University. If you are in doubt about the instructions for any assignment in the course, you must ask for clarification.

Required text

Tattersall, Ian

2009 The Fossil Trail: How we know what we think we know about human evolution. Oxford University Press. Second edition

Other readings (on LATTE or through URLs in the syllabus)

Andrews, Anthony P.

1995 First Cities. Exploring the Ancient World, Smithsonian Books. St. Remy Press, Montreal. (**Chapters 3 and 5**)

Burling, Robbins

1993 Primate Calls, Human Language, and Nonverbal Communication. *Current Anthropology*, Vol. 34, No. 1., pp. 25-53.
<http://links.jstor.org/sici?sici=0011-3204%28199302%2934%3A1%3C25%3APCHLAN%3E2.0.CO%3B2-5>

Cartmill, Matt

2000 Oppressed by Evolution. In *Contemporary Readings in Physical Anthropology*, edited by Alan J. Almquist, pp. 4-11. Prentice Hall, New Jersey.

Devine, John

1985 The Versatility of Human Locomotion. *American Anthropologist*, New Series, Vol. 87, No. 3. (Sep., 1985), pp. 550-570.

<http://links.jstor.org/sici?sici=0002-7294%28198509%292%3A87%3A3%3C550%3ATVOHL%3E2.0.CO%3B2-J>

Earle, Timothy

1987 Chiefdoms in Archaeological and Ethnohistorical Perspective
Annual Review of Anthropology, Vol. 16, pp. 279-308.

<http://links.jstor.org/sici?sici=0084-6570%281987%292%3A16%3C279%3ACIAAEP%3E2.0.CO%3B2-Y>

Fagan, Brian

2001 How did the Polynesians Find Their Homeland? In *The Seventy Great Mysteries of the Ancient World*, edited by Brian M. Fagan, pp. 208-210. Thames and Hudson, London. (LATTE)

Flannery, Kent

1973 The Origins of Agriculture. *Annual Review of Anthropology*, vol. 2: 271-310. (LATTE)

Geertz, Clifford

1964 The Transition to Humanity. In *Horizons of Anthropology*, edited by Sol Tax, pp. 37-48. Aldine, Chicago. (LATTE)

Grayson, Donald K., and David J. Meltzer

2003 A requiem for North American overkill. *Journal of Archaeological Science*, Volume 30, Issue 5, Pages 585-593
http://www.sciencedirect.com/science?_ob=GatewayURL&_method=citationSearch&_uokey=B6WH8-47TX02J-2&_origin=EMFR&_version=1&md5=c67d78aa9505fcd22a0ce0ca17cf658d

Hallam, A.

1976 Alfred Wegener and the Hypothesis of Continental Drift. In *Continents Adrift and Continents Aground*, pp. 9-17. Freeman and Company, San Francisco. (LATTE)

Hewes, Gordon W.

1961 Food Transport and the Origin of Hominid Bipedalism. *American Anthropologist*, New Series, Vol. 63, No. 4, pp. 687-710.

<http://links.jstor.org/sici?sici=0002-7294%28196108%292%3A63%3A4%3C687%3AFTATOO%3E2.0.CO%3B2-R>

Hodder, Ian

2007 Çatalhöyük in the Context of the Middle Eastern Neolithic. *Annual Review of Anthropology* 36: 105-120.

<http://arjournals.annualreviews.org/resources.library.brandeis.edu/doi/pdf/10.1146/annurev.anthro.36.081406.094308>

Johanson, Donald, and Maitland A. Edey

1981 How Old is Lucy. In *Lucy, The Beginnings of Humankind*. Simon and Schuster, New York, pp. 187-207. (LATTE)

Kurtén, Björn

1976 Continental Drift and Evolution. In *Continents Adrift and Continents Aground*, pp. 176-186. Freeman and Company, San Francisco. (LATTE)

Lister, A.M.

1993 Mammoths in miniature. *Nature*, vol. 362: 288-289. (LATTE)

Marks, Jonathan

2002 Science, Religion and Worldview. In *What It Means to Be 98% Chimpanzee: Apes, People, and Their Genes*, pp. 266-288. University of California Press, Berkeley.

Moser, Stephanie

1998 Popular Presentations and Conclusion. In *Ancestral Images: The Iconography of Human Origins*, pp. 146-173. Cornell University Press, Ithaca, New York. (LATTE)

Powledge, Tabitha M

2006 What is the Hobbit? *PloS Biology*, vol. 4 (12): 2186-2189. (LATTE)

Sabater Pi, Jordi, Joaquim J. Veà, and Jordi Serrallonga

1997 Did the First Hominids Build Nests? *Current Anthropology*, Vol. 38, No. 5, pp. 914-916. <http://links.jstor.org/sici?sici=0011-3204%28199712%2938%3A5%3C914%3ADTFHBN%3E2.0.CO%3B2-V>

Scarre, Chris

2001 The Iceman: Shepherd or Shaman? In *The Seventy Great Mysteries of the Ancient World*, edited by Brian M. Fagan, pp. 132-135. Thames and Hudson, London. (LATTE)

Shipman, Pat

1986 Scavenging or Hunting in Early Hominids: Theoretical Framework and Tests. *American Anthropologist*, New Series, Vol. 88, No. 1. (Mar., 1986), pp. 27-43. <http://links.jstor.org/sici?sici=0002-7294%28198603%292%3A88%3A1%3C27%3ASOHIEH%3E2.0.CO%3B2-X>

2003 We Are All Africans. *American Scientist*, vol. 91, no. 6.
<http://www.americanscientist.org/template/AssetDetail/assetid/28338>

Shreeve, James

2000 Sunset on the Savanna. In *Contemporary Readings in Physical Anthropology*, edited by Alan J. Almquist, pp. 28-36. Prentice Hall, New Jersey.

Van Tilburg, Jo Anne

2001 Statues and Survival on Eastern Island. In *The Seventy Great Mysteries of the Ancient World*, edited by Brian M. Fagan, pp. 211-215. Thames and Hudson, London. (**LATTE**)

White, Randall

1992 Beyond Art: Toward an understanding of the origins of Material representation in Europe. *Annual Review of Anthropology* 21: 537-564.
<http://arjournals.annualreviews.org/resources.library.brandeis.edu/doi/pdf/10.1146/annurev.an.21.100192.002541>

Wundram, Ina Jane

1979 Nonreproductive Sexual Behavior: Ethological and Cultural Considerations. *American Anthropologist*, New Series, Vol. 81, No. 1, pp. 99-103. [http://links.jstor.org/sici?sici=0002-7294\(1979\)81:1:1-ANSEAC%3E2.0.CO%3B2-O](http://links.jstor.org/sici?sici=0002-7294(1979)81:1:1-ANSEAC%3E2.0.CO%3B2-O)