

**ANTHROPOLOGY 365: HUMAN ORIGINS**  
**Southern Illinois University Edwardsville -- Department of Anthropology**  
Dr. Jennifer Rehg

Anth 365:001 MWF 2:00-2:50 PM  
Class: PH 0405  
Office: PH 0402  
Office hours: Monday & Wednesday 3-4:30 or by appointment  
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**COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

What are we, where did we come from, and why do we look and act in certain ways? This course seeks to answer—in part—these questions about the human species from a scientific perspective. In this course, we examine the evolution of humans as a biological species. We will review some key components of evolutionary theory, paleontological methods, and nonhuman primates as comparative models, and then explore in detail the fossil and archeological evidence relating to the various stages of human evolution. A substantial component of the course involves learning about the different hominids that have existed over the past five million years or so—what they looked like, where and how they lived, and how we know about them. We will discuss the most current research on new fossil material and revised evolutionary relationships among hominids.

**GOALS:**

You should complete this course having acquired the following knowledge and skills:

1. Understanding of fundamental paleontological methods and their applications to research on human evolution.
2. Knowledge of major trends in human evolution, including the development of key adaptations and relationships to environmental factors.
3. Knowledge of important sites and specimens influencing interpretations of evolutionary events and trends.
4. Improved abilities to interpret and convey information from different types of sources, in particular in regard to issues in biological anthropology and human evolution.

**COURSE PREREQUISITE:**

Anthropology 111—Introduction to Anthropology

You should not be enrolled in this course without having fulfilled the prerequisite.

**REQUIRED TEXTS:**

Boyd R and Silk JB. 2006. How Humans Evolved, 4<sup>th</sup> edition. New York, WW Norton & Company, Inc.

Ciochon RL and Fleagle JG. 2006. The Human Evolution Source Book, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition. Advances in Human Evolution Series. Upper Sadle River, Prentice Hall.

Larsen CS, Matter RM, and Gebo DL. Human Origins 3<sup>rd</sup> ed. 1998. Prospect Heights, Waveland Press, Inc.

**COURSE SCHEDULE:**

The schedule for readings, assignments, exams, and class topics is attached to this syllabus. Assignment due dates, and quiz and exam dates should not change. However, class topics, dates for videos, or video subjects may change based on course progress throughout the semester.

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS:**

Your grade in this course is based on three exams, twelve quizzes, three writing assignments, and in-class participation. Your grade depends on these course requirements—please budget your time and energy accordingly.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

Exam 1	100 pts (20%)
Exam 2	100 pts (20%)
Exam 3	100 pts (20%)
Quizzes (13; drop 1)	60 points (12%)
Summary 1	20 pts (4%)
Summary 2	20 pts (4%)
Resource Locations	20 pts (4%)
PowerPoint	60 pts (12%)
Participation	20 pts (4%)

GRADE SCALE:

A = 90-100%  
B = 80-89%  
C = 70-79%  
D = 60-69%  
F = 59-%

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY:

Cheating is not tolerated. It is not a victimless act—most of all it hurts the students that are earning their achievements honestly. Cheating includes all forms of plagiarism, submitting work that is not entirely your own and original, incorrect citations of others’ works, fabrication of sources of information or observations, and use of materials not explicitly permitted during quizzes and exams. Cheating will result in a failing grade for the assignment, or for the course. Additional consequences may also be imposed, which can include suspension or expulsion from the university. **Students are individually responsible for understanding what constitutes cheating and forms of plagiarism.** Please talk to me if you have any questions.

Plagiarism includes either presenting someone else’s words without quotation marks (even if you cite the source) or presenting someone else’s ideas without citing that source. If you plagiarize, your understanding of the topic or skills cannot be evaluated. Paraphrasing is not simply a rewording of the original source content. University policy states that “Normally a student who plagiarizes shall receive a grade of F in the course in which the act occurs. The offense shall also be reported to the Provost.” (<http://www.siu.edu/POLICIES/1i6.html>). The University policy discusses additional academic sanctions including suspension and expulsion from the University. For a full explanation see the Student Academic Code (document 3C2). Also visit the Writing Center’s web site for links to helpful hints on avoiding plagiarism. The Writing Center’s URL is: <http://www.siu.edu/IS/WRITING/>

BLACKBOARD:

Blackboard is an internet-based, educational tool. It can be accessed directly from the SIUE homepage (<http://bb.siu.edu/>). Only enrolled students can access Blackboard for this course. Each student can login to Blackboard using their e-id and e-password (as to access email). Blackboard will be used for several purposes, including 1) posting copies of course-related documents like the syllabus and assignments; 2) providing links to relevant web sites; and 3) maintaining updated information on your individual grades. I do not post class notes on Blackboard. Blackboard is offered as a convenience, and is not intended to take the place of class attendance.

EXAMS & QUIZZES:

There will be three exams, each worth **100 points** (20% of your final grade) and may cover any material presented in class or covered in assigned readings or videos to that point. There will be thirteen quizzes, each worth **5 points**. The lowest quiz grade will automatically be dropped, for a total of 60 points. The quizzes will focus on material from assigned readings. Quizzes will be given at the beginning of each class on the days they are scheduled. Anyone coming to class late, or missing class, on days of quizzes or exams will not be able to take a make-up without a documented excuse. **A documented excuse is required in addition to approval by the instructor for a make-up quiz or exam. Make-ups will not be the same as the original, and will be essay.** Make-up exams and quizzes will be given only when unavoidable circumstances necessitate a student absence at the scheduled test time. All effort must be made on your part to contact me as soon as the situation develops (that means before the scheduled exam if possible), and you are responsible for scheduling the make-up with me.

### ASSIGNMENTS:

Five assignments are required for this course, together worth **120 points** (24% of your final grade). These include two article summaries, two resource location exercises, and a PowerPoint presentation. The specifics of these assignments will be provided to you separately. Assignments are due by the specified due date and time.

**Assignment grades will be deducted 25% of the total possible points for every calendar day the assignment is late.** Do not plan on submitting your assignment by email unless you have discussed the situation with me beforehand. However, in emergencies, please send a copy of your assignment to me by email before the due-date. In this case, you will also be required to submit a hard copy of the assignment before I will grade it, but it will be considered on-time. **All assignments must be 100% your original work and must not be used for another assignment in another class, by you or any other person. Violations of this policy will be considered violations of the student academic code and are subject to penalties for cheating.**

### READING ASSIGNMENTS & VIDEOS:

You are responsible for all material in the readings. Reading assignments are indicated on the course schedule, listed on the day they should be completed. In-class activities may be conducted based on the readings. Readings from the required text are listed as "Text" followed by a chapter or article number. Additional readings not in the required text are on reserve in Lovejoy Library and available on Blackboard (E-reserves link). Depending on your internet access and software compatibility, you may have problems viewing files posted on Blackboard. Please be advised that using an SIUE networked, on-campus computer may be necessary to access these files; alternately, you can borrow these readings from the 'Course Reserves' at the library. Complete citations for readings not in the required texts are provided at the end of the syllabus. Videos will also be shown during some classes, and, like reading assignments, you are responsible for this material – please take notes on the videos as necessary. **Reading assignments and videos may cover novel material, and will be included on quizzes or exams.**

### ATTENDANCE & PARTICIPATION:

Learning is an active experience, and you can't participate if you are not present. Some of the course material will not be included in the readings. You are responsible for all material. If you miss a class, it is up to you to borrow someone's notes--I do not give out notes. I suggest you exchange contact information with other students in the class in case you need to borrow notes at some point. Considerate and respectful behavior is expected toward everyone. This includes being punctual, paying attention, not talking to others outside of class discussions, and maintaining respect for others. There will be several in-class activities throughout the semester. In-class activities may include written components that are collected. Participation will also be evaluated based on observations that you ask questions, contribute to discussions, and participate during activities. Participation accounts for 4% of your final grade. If you never speak during class, you will not receive full credit for this portion of your grade.

### CELL PHONES & PAGERS:

Please turn off all pagers and cell phones in class.

### OFFICE HOURS:

I have office hours to help you. Please talk to me if you have questions or concerns about any course material. If you cannot make my office hours, I am happy to schedule appointments at other times. I check email frequently, but do not assume I have received or read your email until I have responded. For emergencies, first telephone my office, and leave a voice-mail message if I am unavailable.

### SUPPORT SERVICES:

All students with disabilities will be accommodated through the Disability Support Services office. Students with disabilities should contact personnel in DSS (650-3726) to make any necessary arrangements for assignments, quizzes, exams, etc. Students are required to present an ID card from DSS when requesting specific arrangements. If you are taking an exam at DSS, please give me your completed DSS test release form during the class period prior to the exam.

## READING LIST

Aiello LC and Collard M. 2001. Our newest oldest ancestor? *Nature* 410: 526-527.

Gibbons A. 2001. The riddle of coexistence. *Science* 291(5509): 1725-1729.

Shipman P 1983. Early hominid lifestyle: Hunting and gathering or foraging, and scavenging? In: *Animals and Archaeology*, vol. 1. Clutton-Brock J and Grigson C. British Archaeological Association, pp 31-49.

Shipman P. 1990. Old masters. *Discover* 11(7): 60-65.

Vrba ES 1985. Ecological and adaptive changes associated with early hominid evolution. In: *Ancestors: The Hard Evidence*. Delson E (ed). Alan R. Liss, New York, pp 63-71.

National Geographic News. Nov. 18, 2004. Ancient ape discovered—last ape-human ancestor?  
[http://news.nationalgeographic.com/news/2004/11/1118\\_041118\\_great\\_ape\\_ancestor.html](http://news.nationalgeographic.com/news/2004/11/1118_041118_great_ape_ancestor.html)

Morwood M, Sutikna T, Roberts R. 2005. The people time forgot. *National Geographic*. April 2005: 6-12.

Harder B. Dec. 8, 2005. National Geographic News. Giant Asian ape and humans coexisted, might have interacted. [http://news.nationalgeographic.com/news/2005/12/1208\\_051208\\_giant\\_ape.html](http://news.nationalgeographic.com/news/2005/12/1208_051208_giant_ape.html)