

DEREE COLLEGE SYLLABUS FOR:

AN 2002 HUMAN EVOLUTION AND PHYSICAL ANTHROPOLOGY

3/0/3

(Updated Summer 2002)

PREREQUISITES: NONE

**CATALOG
DESCRIPTION:**

Biological evolution: principles and mechanisms. The evolution of primates. Contemporary studies of primate behavior. Biological endowment and the creation of culture. Gaps and problems in the theories of the evolution of humans.

RATIONALE:

This course is essential for further understanding of the human as a cultural creature through the examination of humanity from a socio-biological viewpoint.

OBJECTIVES:

As a result of taking this course, the student should be able to:

1. Recognize and describe the human's place in nature.
2. Identify those biological characteristics of humans that facilitated social and intellectual development.
3. Name and explain how humans are similar to and different from higher primates.
4. Describe the stages of evolution that led to the rise of humans.
5. Explain the mechanisms of biological evolution.
6. Explain how new species are created.
7. Give evidence for contemporary evolution.
8. Explain evolutionary successes and failures.
9. Identify and explain the special characteristics that enable humans to create culture.
10. Evaluate whether humans are, or are not, an evolutionary failure.

**LEARNING
ACTIVITIES:**

Lectures, a book report, and the showing of films.

EVALUATION:

The final grade will be based on performance in two examinations and an extensive (minimum seven typewritten pages) book report.
Mid-term 35%, final 35%, and book report 30%. Grades are awarded on a standard scale A-90-100%, B-80-89%, C-70-79%, and D-60-69%.

REQUIRED MATERIAL:

Stein P. and B. Rowe. Physical Anthropology: The Core. Random House, New York, latest edition.

**RECOMMENDED
MATERIAL:**

Giere, R.N. Understanding Scientific Reasoning. Holt, Rinehart and Winston.

Volpe, E.P. Understanding Evolution. Brown

Frisanch, A.R. Human Adaptation: A Functional Interpretation. University of Michigan Press.

Lewin, Roger. Bones of Contention: Controversies in the Search for Human Origins. Simon & Schuster.

WWW RESOURCES:

<http://www.aaanet.org/>
<http://www.tamu.edu/anthropology/news.htm>
http://www.dur.ac.uk/~dan0www/hotspots.html#biological_Ancor
<http://www.aaanet.org/resinet.html>

**COMMUNICATION
REQUIREMENTS:**

Book reports must be word-processed using Word

CONTENT OUTLINE:

1. An Introduction to Evolution
2. Human Genetics/Population Genetics and Evolution
3. Human Variation and Adaptation.
4. The Human's Place in Nature
5. Comparative Studies: Anatomy and Genetics
6. Anatomy of Locomotion, Manipulation, and the Skull
7. Nonhuman and Human Social Behavior
8. Recording the Past
9. Early Primate Fossil Record
10. Australopithecines
11. The Genus Homo
12. Homo Sapiens