

# Anthropology 150

## Evolution and Human Emergence



### Instructor

Dr. Martin Muller

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Office hours: Tue 11:00-12:30, Wed 10:00-11:30 and by appointment

### Class Hours

Fall 2007

Tue/Thur: 9:30-10:45

Classroom: ANTH 163

### Teaching Assistant

Vitale Sparacello

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Office hours: Tue/Thur 11:00-12:00 and by appointment

### Course Aims

What is the material basis for evolution? How have humans evolved? Why do humans behave in the manner that they do? This class seeks answers to these enduring questions. The course is divided into four parts. We begin by reviewing the theory of evolution, and examining how evolution produces adaptations and creates new species. The second section considers how evolution has shaped the behavior of our closest living relatives, the non-human primates. The third part of the class will be devoted to investigating the human fossil record, and tracing the physical and behavioral evolution of our species. Finally, we will ask how evolution has affected contemporary human behavior. The emphasis throughout will be on the processes that have shaped human evolution, and how these have made us what we are.

### Readings

Assigned readings are from the following books, available at the UNM bookstores:

Robert Boyd and Joan Silk (2006) *How Humans Evolved*. 4<sup>th</sup> Edition

Marjorie Shostak (1981) *Nisa: The Life and Words of a !Kung Woman*. Harvard University Press

**WebCT and e-mail.** All course materials will be posted on WebCT (vista.unm.edu). Students are responsible for accessing these materials regularly. I will communicate with the class during the term via e-mail. All students are required to have a UNM e-mail account and to check it regularly. Please do not hesitate to e-mail me with questions or comments during the term.

## Grading

1. *Exams:* Four exams will be given during the term. The scheduled dates are tentative, and may be adjusted (any changes will be announced in class). The last exam will not be cumulative. Exams are based on the readings, lectures, and films. Each exam is worth 100 points.

2. *In-class assignments:* Ten short assignments will be given in class at various times during the term. Each will be worth 10 points. Assignments will be returned in a timely fashion. Students who are unhappy with their grade may resubmit the assignment for full credit, but this must be done within one week of the graded assignment being returned in class. Students not present the day of the assignment will be permitted to turn the assignment in on the day of resubmission. The maximum grade for students not present the day of the original in-class assignment is 5 points.

**The lowest of the three exam grades will be dropped. A missed exam will be counted as the dropped score.** The in-class assignment grade will NOT be dropped. Final grades will be assigned as follows:

98-100%	A+	80-83%	B-	67-69%	D+
94-97%	A	77-79%	C+	64-66%	D
90-93%	A-	74-76%	C	60-63%	D-
87-89%	B+	70-73%	C-	below 60%	F
84-86%	B				

## General policies

1. Attendance is required.
2. All students must attend the four exams. Make-up exams will only be allowed with a valid written medical excuse. Valid written excuses will also be accepted for missed in-class assignments.
3. Qualified students with disabilities needing appropriate academic adjustments should contact me as soon as possible to ensure their needs are met in a timely manner.
4. Cheating will not be tolerated. Students who are caught cheating will receive an F. The University of New Mexico may take further disciplinary action.
5. Students must retain all material distributed in class and on WebCT. It is especially important that students retain all graded assignments. If a student has a grade dispute, he/she will be required to produce the disputed graded assignment(s).

**Some of the material presented in lectures is not covered in the text book.** If you miss a lecture, contact other students for notes.

## Schedule

- Week 1: Tue Jan 22: Introduction to biological anthropology  
Thur Jan 24: Evolutionary biology and the scientific method  
Reading: Boyd and Silk, Chapter 1
- Week 2: Tue Jan 29: Evolutionary theory  
Thur Jan 31: Genetics  
Reading: Boyd and Silk, Chapter 2-3
- Week 3: Tue Feb 5: Population Genetics  
Thur Feb 7: Speciation and phylogenetics  
Reading: Boyd and Silk, Chapter 3
- Week 4: Tue Feb 12: Evolution and human diversity  
Thur Feb 14: **Exam 1**  
Reading: Boyd and Silk, Chapters 4 and 15
- Week 5: Tue Feb 19: Introduction to the primates  
Thur Feb 21: Introduction to the primates 2  
Reading: Boyd and Silk, Chapter 5
- Week 6: Tue Feb 26: Film: Life of Mammals  
Thur Feb 28: Primate diets and sociality  
Reading: Boyd and Silk, Chapter 6
- Week 7: Tue March 4: Primate mating systems  
Thur March 6: Primate social behavior  
Reading: Boyd and Silk, Chapter 7-8
- Week 8: Tue March 11: Primate intelligence  
Thur March 13: Film: The New Chimpanzees  
Reading: Boyd and Silk, Chapter 9
- Week 9: Spring Break
- Week 10: Tue March 25: The apes  
Thur March 27: The apes 2
- Week 11: Tue April 1: **Exam 2**  
Thur April 3: The earliest hominids  
Reading: Boyd and Silk, Chapter 10-11

Week 12: Tue April 8: The Australopithecines  
Thur April 10: Home ergaster and Homo erectus  
Reading: Boyd and Silk, Chapter 12

Week 13: Tue April 15: Later Homo  
Thur April 17: Neanderthals  
Reading: Boyd and Silk, Chapter 13

Week 14: Tue April 22: Homo sapiens  
Thur April 24: **Exam 3**  
Reading: Boyd and Silk, Chapter 14

Week 15: Tue April 29: Foragers  
Thur May 1: Mate choice  
Reading: Boyd and Silk, Chapter 16  
*Nisa*, Part 1

Week 16: Tue May 6: Mating strategies  
Thur May 8: Culture  
Reading: Boyd and Silk, Chapter 17  
*Nisa*, Part 2

**Exam 4:** Final exam period  
Tue May 13 7:30-9:30 a.m.