

APG 201 - Fall 2008
HUMAN ORIGINS

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THE COURSE

Welcome to APG 201. This is an introductory course in physical anthropology, the science most directly concerned with humankind's evolutionary past and modern biology. Because of its biological content, APG 201 qualifies as a Natural Science and, therefore, studying this subject should give you a general understanding of how natural scientists design and conduct their research projects. More specifically, APG 201 presents detailed information about our "place in nature," including descriptions (and evidence) of when, where, and how humans evolved from our ape ancestors.

The course consists of three sections (each occupying about 1/3 of the semester) that address the following questions:

1. **How does organic evolution work?** In this section, we will explore the development of evolutionary theory, giving particular attention to the work of Charles Darwin. A general knowledge of evolutionary mechanisms (how populations change over time and how species appear and go extinct) is essential before one considers the specifics of human evolution. Primary attention will be given to elucidating the operation of natural selection, but several non-Darwinian evolutionary mechanisms (gene flow, genetic drift, mutation) will also be discussed.
2. **What are the physical similarities and differences between living apes and humans?** Here we will look at those traits that define the order Primates, a zoological grouping that includes strepsirrhines, monkeys, apes, and humans. Physical similarities between humans and the living apes (chimps, gorillas, etc.) will be given special attention since this evidence clearly shows that apes were the immediate evolutionary ancestors of humankind. We will also examine several anatomical differences between apes and humans, especially the skeletal changes that accompanied the evolution of bipedal walking.
3. **What fossil evidence is there for human evolution?** Here, we will examine and discuss the fossils assigned to our own evolutionary lineage. Approximately 7 million years of human evolution will be traced, from our African origins to our modern biological condition. This section contains lots of details about the locations, geological dates, and anatomical traits of our evolutionary ancestors. The course ends with a discussion of our modern physical variation.

TEXT

Campbell, B. G., J. D. Loy, and Kathryn Cruz-Uribe. 2006 *Humankind Emerging*, 9th edition. Boston, Allyn & Bacon.

The book is available at the Memorial Union Bookstore and at the Rhode Island Book Company. In addition, a copy has been placed on Closed Reserve at the University Library. *Caveat emptor*: used copies of earlier editions of *Humankind Emerging* may be available, but they contain out of date interpretations of the human fossil record. Be sure to buy the 9th edition.

READING ASSIGNMENTS AND QUIZZES

Throughout the semester, you will be given weekly quizzes on assigned portions of the text. Quizzes will be given on Mondays and will consist of five multiple-choice questions from the reading assignment. Collectively, the quizzes will total one-quarter (25%) of your semester grade and, therefore, they should be taken seriously. Altogether you will take 11 quizzes. I will calculate the average of your 9 highest quizzes and it is this score that will be worth a quarter of your grade. **I do not give makeups for missed quizzes. You have two quizzes to burn, so save them for real emergencies. Taking fewer than 9 quizzes will result in zeros being averaged into your overall score.**

The schedule for readings, quizzes, and exams is given on the next page. Please keep this syllabus handy throughout the semester so you can refer to it as needed. Note that it takes into account all holidays and also shows the date and time of our Final Exam (December 12th).

SCHEDULE FOR READINGS, QUIZZES, AND EXAMS

<u>DATE</u>	<u>QUIZ OR EXAM</u>	<u>ASSIGNED READING</u>
September 15	Quiz 1	<i>HE</i> Chap. 1
September 22	Quiz 2	<i>HE</i> Chap. 2
September 29	Quiz 3	<i>HE</i> Chap. 3 & pp. 332-349
October 6	Quiz 4	<i>HE</i> Chap. 4
October 15 (W)	EXAM 1	<u>Lectures to date</u>

October 20	Quiz 5	<i>HE</i> Chap. 5
October 27	Quiz 6	<i>HE</i> Chap. 6
November 3	Quiz 7	<i>HE</i> Chap. 7
November 10	EXAM 2	<u>Lectures since Exam 1</u>
November 17	Quiz 8	<i>HE</i> Chap. 8 & pp. 239-250
November 24	Quiz 9	<i>HE</i> Chaps. 10 & 12, & pp.357-371
December 1	Quiz 10	<i>HE</i> Chap. 15
December 8	Quiz 11	<i>HE</i> Chap. 17
December 12 (Fri., 11:30)	FINAL EXAM	<u>Lectures since Exam 2</u>

QUIZ AND EXAM SUMMARY

As shown above, you will have three exams during the semester (two 1-hour exams and a 3-hour Final Exam). Each exam (including the Final) will count 25% of your course grade. Makeups for missed exams will only be given for valid absences and may have an essay question format rather than multiple choice. **There will be no opportunities for extra-credit work at any point in the semester, so you need not ask.** I encourage you to take advantage of my scheduled office hours by dropping by to discuss any course material that interests you or that you don't understand.

A summary of quizzes and exams and their values follows:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Quiz/Exam</u>	<u>Value</u>
Weekly	Quizzes	25%
October 15	Exam 1	25%
November 10	Exam 2	25%
December 12	Final Exam	25%

GRADING SCALE

The following scale will be used to assign letter grades at the end of the semester.

A	93-100
A-	90-92
B+	87-89

B	83-86
B-	80-82
C+	77-79
C	73-76
C-	70-72
D+	67-69
D	60-66
F	59 and below

DISABILITIES

If you have a certified disability and require special seating for lectures, assistance with note-taking, extra time for exams, etc., please let me know as soon as possible. I will be happy to work with the University to make the necessary accommodations.