

COURSE SYLLABUS

ANTH 531/731: FOSSIL HUMANS PRACTICUM

Semester: Spring 2009 **Section:** 1 (MWF 2:10-4:00, SCI 273)
Instructor: Mark C. Griffin **Office:** 395 Science
Phone: 338-7519 **E-mail:** mgriffin@sfsu.edu
Web Page: <http://online.sfsu.edu/~mgriffin/mcg-home.html>
Office Hours: MWF 12:00-1:00 or by appt.

DESCRIPTION:

This course offers a descriptive survey of the evolutionary development of humans, from earliest hominid forms to the present based on the fossil record and molecular data. The material includes discussion of Tertiary hominoids and emergence of humans with emphasis on Australopithecines and later Pleistocene hominids. Theories of the origin, diversity, and continuing evolution of humans are considered.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

There are three formal writing assignments for this course. Each assignment contributes 25% toward your final grade (20% each for A731). The remaining 25% of your grade (20% for A731) will come from your performance on the laboratory assignments. **ALL OF THE EXERCISES MUST BE COMPLETED IN ORDER TO RECEIVE A PASSING GRADE OR "CR" FOR THIS COURSE.** No incompletes will be given for this course, except with the approval of the instructor.

In addition to the above requirements, students enrolled in ANTH 731 will prepare a 30-40 page special topic paper over the course of the semester. The topic will be decided upon in consultation with the instructor during the second week of classes. Students will make a one hour PowerPoint presentation to the class on this topic. The paper and presentation will count 20% each toward your final grade.

ATTENDANCE:

ATTENDANCE IS MANDATORY FOR THIS COURSE. YOU MUST COME TO CLASS IF YOU PLAN TO PASS THE COURSE.

If you stop attending this course, you *will not* be "automatically dropped" from the course. *Withdrawing from courses is your responsibility.* If you do not officially withdraw from the course, you will receive an "F".

TEXTBOOK:

POIRIER, FRANK E., JEFFREY K. MCKEE, AND W. SCOTT MCGRAW. 2005. *Understanding Human Evolution, Fifth Edition*. New Jersey: Prentice Hall.

CRITICAL THINKING EXERCISES:

The written assignments for this course will be take-home critical thinking exercises. Your responses will be typed. **Email submission of final copies of assignments is not acceptable under any circumstances.**

*You will be held responsible for all information presented in lectures, assigned readings, and any other media (i.e., films, video tapes, slides, etc.). The assigned readings are meant to compliment the material presented in class, **not** substitute for it (i.e., **attend lectures if you plan to pass the course**). **Passing grades on the essays require that you successfully integrate the information from class and from the readings.***

In general, late assignments will not be accepted. In extenuating circumstances, assignments may be turned in late with the prior consent of the instructor. Jammed printers, obstinate computers, incompetent computer users, recalcitrant cars, irritating viruses, busy schedules, and general lack of prior planning **are not** valid excuses for late papers.

SCHEDULE:

TOPIC	READING
Early Primate Evolution	Poirier and McKee Chp. 1-6
<i>Australopithecus</i>	Poirier and McKee Chp. 7-9
EXAM 1	
<i>Homo erectus</i>	Poirier and McKee Chp. 10
Early Archaic <i>Homo sapiens</i>	Poirier and McKee Chp. 11
EXAM 2	
Late Archaic <i>Homo sapiens</i>	Poirier and McKee Chp. 12
Modern Humans	Poirier and McKee Chp. 13-14
EXAM 3	

ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT

- (1) Students are responsible for knowing the San Francisco State University regulations concerning cheating and plagiarism that are described in the University Bulletin.
- (2) Misconduct includes, but is not limited to: cheating on exams; fabrication of reports, assignments, sources, etc.; plagiarism or the reproduction of others' work without **proper** acknowledgment; interfering with another student's work; or helping another student cheat.
- (3) Plagiarism is specifically defined as copying another person's words without appropriate acknowledgment. This includes: (a) quoting another person's actual words; (b) paraphrasing another person's words; (c) use of another person's idea, opinion, or theory; or (d) borrowing of facts, statistics, or other illustrative material, unless the information is common knowledge.
- (4) ***The essays you write for this course are to be substantially your work. That is, long block quotes, paraphrasing or copying from the text or any other source, and copying another student's work are unacceptable.***
- (5) **If plagiarism is proven in this class, the student will be given an "F" for the assignment.**

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