

Global Learning Semesters

Course Syllabus

Course: BIOL-345 Human Evolution

Department: Health and Life Sciences

Host Institution: University of Nicosia, Nicosia, Cyprus



Course Summary		
Course Code	Course Title	Recommended Credit Hours
BIOL-345	Human Evolution	3
Semester Offered	Contact Hours	Prerequisites
Please contact us	42-45	MATH-220, BIOL-210
Department	Level of Course	Language of Instruction
Health and Life Sciences	Upper Division	English

Course Description

This is course about the history of the evolutionary progression of the human lineage through time. Evolution by natural selection provides the conceptual framework as students learn the essentials of molecular anthropology, and are led through geological time to the origins of vertebrates, mammals, primates, hominoids, and finally hominids. The relationships between behavior, morphology, adaptation, and ecology are discussed to provide the comparative basis for human origins. At the end of the course the student will have a good knowledge of the various evolutionary perspectives on human biology, hominoid behavior and the evolution of human social behavior. The format of the course is 3h/week lectures and assigned readings.

Prerequisites

MATH-220, BIOL-210

Topic Areas

1. Historical perspectives in evolutionary biology;
2. Human Genetics and Cell Biology: A Review
3. Dating methods in pale anthropology
4. Evolutionary Theory and driving forces; Natural Selection, Sexual Selection, Adaptation
5. The Primates; models for hominid behavior
6. The Human Species
7. Primate Origins and Evolution; Cooperation and conflict
8. Human Origins, The Australopithecines
9. The Evolution of the Genus Homo
10. The Origin of Modern Humans; The ice man.
11. Human Biology and Variation
12. Human Microevolution
13. The Human Life Cycle; Growth and Adaptability
14. Human Biology and Culture Change
15. The biological impact of Civilization; the baby boom, the aging population

Readings and Resources

Required Textbooks

1. Biological Anthropology: A Synthetic Approach to Human Evolution (2nd Edition) by Noel Thomas Boaz, Alan J. Almquist, Noel T. Boaz Publisher: Prentice Hall; 2nd edition (December 14, 2001) ISBN: 0130908193

Recommended Textbooks

2. The Human Species: An Introduction to Biological Anthropology, Fifth Edition, by John Relethford, Publishers: McGraw-Hill, 2002, ISBN: 0-767-43022-0
3. Fundamentals Of Biological Anthropology, Second Edition by John Relethford, Publishers: McGraw-Hill, 1996, ISBN: 1-559-34667-1
4. How Humans Evolved, Third Edition by Robert Boyd, Joan B. Silk Publisher: W.W. Norton & Company; 3 edition (November 2002) ISBN: 0393978540
5. Genome: The Autobiography of a Species in 23 Chapters] by Matt Ridley Publisher: HarperCollins; (February 2000) ISBN: 0060194979
6. The Selfish Gene by Richard Dawkins Publisher: Oxford University Press; 2nd edition (December 1989) ISBN: 0192177737
7. Evolution's Eye: A Systems View of the Biology-Culture Divide (Science and Cultural Theory) by Susan Oyama Publisher: Duke University Press (April 1, 2000) ISBN: 0822324725
8. Race: The Reality of Human Differences by Vincent Sarich, Frank Miele Publisher: Westview Press (January 1, 2004) ISBN: 0813340861
9. The Birth of the Mind: How a Tiny Number of Genes Creates the Complexities of Human Thought by Gary Marcus Publisher: Basic Books (January 1, 2004) ISBN: 0465044050