Benedictine University

Informing today—Transforming tomorrow

BIOL 301A

Human Evolution

Spring 2013

Instructor:	Dr. Robert McCarthy		
Office:	Birck 336	Time:	TR 11:00 – 12:15 am
Phone:	630-829-6577	Place:	Birck 144
E-mail:	rmccarthy@ben.edu	Format:	Lecture/discussion
Office hours:	TR 9-11, W10-12	Prerequisite:	BIOL 201 or 203

Course objectives: This course will introduce students to the fundamental principles of human evolution and the basics of the human fossil record, providing a basis for further study of the subject. Students will be encouraged to think critically about all aspects of human evolution, including such topics as evolution and natural selection, primate and human evolutionary history, and human biological variation. The course will be run as a combination of lecture and discussion, and students are expected to read the textbook and appropriate articles and websites prior to class and to come prepared with questions and comments.

Textbook and readings:

Boyd, Robert, Silk, Joan B., 2012. *How Humans Evolved 6e.* W.W. Norton and Company, NY.

In addition to reading the textbook, students will be expected to read a few supplemental articles and handouts posted on D2L. Please be sure to check D2L regularly, as there will be new announcements, Powerpoint slides, articles, handouts, and grades posted each week.

Course requirements and grading: Your grade in this course will be based on your scores on four exams (25% each). Grades will not be rounded up. The following grading scale will be used: A=90-100; B=80-89.9; C=70-79.9; D=60-69.9; F=<59.9

Expectations: We have a lot of material to cover in this course and a very short amount of time to cover it. Students will be expected to (1) prepare for lecture by reading the book and supplemental readings; (2) come to class on time, prepared to take notes and participate in discussions; and (3) study outside of class. In order to fulfill university policy, **attendance will be taken in lecture for the first two weeks**, but not thereafter. However, students will find it difficult to do well in this course without attending lecture regularly. Students will be expected to follow rules of common courtesy, including turning off cell phones and only using computers to look at lecture slides. Students who disrupt class will be asked to leave. Refer to the "Electronic Devices Policy" below for more information.

Academic Honesty Policy (AHP): The search for truth and the dissemination of knowledge are the central missions of a university. Benedictine University pursues these missions in an environment guided by our Roman Catholic tradition and our Benedictine heritage. Integrity and honesty are therefore expected of all members of the University community, including students, faculty members, administration, and staff. Actions such as cheating, plagiarism, collusion, fabrication, forgery, falsification, destruction, multiple submission, solicitation, and misrepresentation, are violations of these expectations and constitute unacceptable behavior in the University community. The penalties for such actions can range from a private verbal warning, all the way to expulsion from the University. The University's Academic Honesty Policy is available at http://www.ben.edu/AHP and students are expected to read it.

In the Biology department, the first infraction on an assignment/paper/quiz will result in a zero for that task. The second infraction will result in an F for the course. Dishonesty on tests/exams or specified assignments will result in an F for the course. In all cases of academic dishonesty, your faculty advisor and the Dean of Student Affairs will be notified.

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA): If you have a documented learning, psychological or physical disability, you may be eligible for reasonable academic accommodations or services. To request accommodations or services, please contact Jennifer Rigor-Golminas in the Student Success Center, 012 Krasa Student Center, (630) 829-6512. All students are expected to fulfill essential course requirements. The University will not waive any essential skill or requirement of a course or degree program.

Academic Accommodations For Religious Obligations (AAFRO): A student whose religious obligation conflicts with a course requirement may request an academic accommodation from the instructor. Students must make such requests in writing by the end of the first week of class (**by 1/18/2013**).

Electronic Devices Policy: One aspect of being a member of a community of scholars is to show respect for others by the way you behave. One way of showing respect for others is to do your part to create or maintain an environment that is conducive to learning. That being said, allowing your cell phone to ring in class is completely inappropriate because it distracts your classmates and thus degrades their overall classroom experience. You are expected to turn off your cell phone or set it to mute/silence BEFORE you enter class—every class. Furthermore, if you use your cell phone in any manner during class (e.g. text messaging, games, etc.), you will be dismissed from class and will forfeit any points you might have earned in the remainder of the period. If you use your cell phone in any manner during a test or quiz, you will receive a zero for that test or quiz. (This policy also applies to pagers, iPods, iPhones, Palms, BlackBerrys, PDAs, MP3 players and all other electronic communication and/or data storage devices.)

COURSE SCHEDULE

Day	Date	Lecture topic	Assignment[2]
T	1/15	Introduction	-
		Part 1: How Evolution Works	
R	1/17	Pre-darwinian theory, scientific inquiry	Chapter 1
T	1/22	Darwin and evolutionary theory	Chapter 1
R	1/24	Natural selection	Chapter 1
T	1/29	Genetics	Chapter 2
R	1/31	Modern synthesis	Chapter 3
T	2/5	Speciation and macroevolution	Chapter 4
R	2/7	Constraint and phylogeny	Chapter 4
T	2/12	**EXAM CONTENT: lectures 1-8**	**EXAM #1**
		Part 2: Primate ecology, behavior, and evolution	
R	2/14	Introduction to primates	Chapter 5
T	2/19	Primate socioecology I	Chapter 6
R	2/21	Primate socioecology II	Chapter 7
T	2/26	Primate life history	Chapter 8
R	2/28	Early primate evolution	Chapter 9
T	3/5	Hominoid evolution	Chapter 9
R	3/7	**EXAM CONTENT: lectures 9-14**	**EXAM #2**
		Part 3: Early human evolution	
T	3/12	Bipedalism	Chapter 10
R	3/14	Earliest hominins	Chapter 10
T	3/19	Spring Break – NO CLASS	
R	3/21	Spring Break – NO CLASS	
T	3/26	Gracile australopiths	Chapter 10
R	3/28	Paranthropiths	Chapter 10
T	4/2	Early *Homo*	Chapter 11
R	4/4	*Homo erectus* I	Chapter 12
T	4/9	*Homo erectus* II	Chapter 12
R	4/11	**EXAM CONTENT: lectures 15-21**	**EXAM #3**
		Part 4: Later human evolution	
T	4/16	*Homo heidelbergensis*	Chapter 12
R	4/18	Neanderthals	Chapter 12
T	4/23	Modern human origins	Chapter 13
R	4/25	Biological diversity	Chapter 14
T	4/30	"Race" and human prehistory	Chapter 14
R	5/2	Modern hunter-gatherers	Chapter 16
R	5/9	**EXAM 10:15 – 12:15**	**EXAM #4**

[1] Chapters from *How Humans Evolved 6e*