**SYLLABUS**

**Biol 171: Human Evolution, fall semester 2019**

**Instructor:** Michel Masson

**Email:** [masson@sbcc.edu](mailto:masson@sbcc.edu)

**Office hours:** Tu/Th 2:20-3:40

**Lecture:** M/W 2:20-3:40, in EBS 301

**Ticket Number:** 41145

**Course Overview:**

In this course we will examine the process of evolution as it applies to the evolution of the human species and its primate relatives. We will study the structural and behavioral adaptations of humans and the other primates, and the fossils that bear on the evolution of all the primates and of humans in particular.

**Student Learning Outcomes:**

After taking this course, you should be able to:

* Explain, at length and with specific examples, the story of human evolution.
* Explain why we humans look the way we do, and why we are built the way we are.
* Explain our biological relationship to the other primates.
* Integrate new findings into your understanding of these matters, as they arise.

**Learning Disabilities Statement:**

***Accommodations for students with Disabilities:***

*Disability Services and Programs for Students (DSPS) coordinates all academic accommodations for students with documented disabilities at Santa Barbara City College. If you have or think you might have a disability that impacts your educational experience in this class, contact DSPS to determine you eligibility for accommodations.*

*DSPS is located in the Student Services (SS) Building, Room 160. Their phone number is 805-73—4164. If you have already registered with DSP, please submit your accommodation requests via the* ***‘DSPS Online Services Student Portal’*** *as soon as possible. This needs to be done each semester. If you have any questions or concerns about your accommodations, make an appointment with a DSPS Counselor.*

*Please complete this process in a timely manner to allow adequate time to* ***provide accommodations****.*

**Inclusiveness Statement:**

*The SBCC community supports ALL students without regard to race, ethnicity, religion, national origin immigration status, age, gender identity, sexual orientation language, socioeconomic status, medical status or disability.*

Course Requirements and Expectations:

The course gradewill be based upon quizzes and performance in three exams, as follows:

Quizzes: (5 points per quiz, 10 best quizzes) = 50 points

1st Hour Exam: 30 objective questions, one 20-point essay = 50 points

2nd Hour Exam: 30 objective questions, one 20-point essay = 50 points

# Final Exam: 50 objective questions, one 50-point essay = 100 points

Total = 250 points

**Letter grades** will be assigned on the following basis:

**A** = Excellent work, usually above 90% overall

**B** = Good work, usually above 80% overall

**C** = Adequate work, totaling at least 60% overall

**D** = Inadequate work; less than 60%, but with good effort and attendance

**F** = Unacceptable work; less than 60%, with poor effort and/or poor attendance

(A+, A-, B+, B- and C+ grades **may** be assigned when close to borderlines)

**Quizzes:** Quizzes will be given at the beginning of each lecture, covering material from the previous lecture. Quizzes cannot be made up, so get there on time.

**Attendance Policy:** Attend meticulously; attendance is **not** optional! If anything correlates with a poor grade, it is poor attendance. 3 missed classes can result in your being dropped from the class.

**Arrive on Time:** I will start class punctually, and I expect you to be in your seat when lecture starts. If parking is a problem then plan on it and start earlier for school. **If you come in late, please enter through the back door only**.

**Sit down front:** Absolutely no sitting in the back; if there is an open seat in front of you, occupy it.

**Give me your Full Attention:**  No napping and no web-surfing, please. Turn in your neighbor who is doing it, or shake him/her awake. Education just works better that way! Ringers off, too, please.

**Talking in Class:** It annoys the Hell out of me and throws me off my game, so **do not do it**.!! Pass notes or text if you must, but please don't talk **or even whisper**. Thanks!

**Missed Exams:** Any makeup exams or change of exam dates must be cleared with me **before** the missed exam; otherwise, makeups may not be possible. Since a missed exam can lower your grade by one whole letter, plan not to miss any exams.

**Cheating on Exams:** It is unethical, unfair to other students, and a violation of the trust that should exist between instructor and students. **Do not do it! You get caught, you’re gone. Understand?**

**Please Note:** The last day to withdraw from class is **Oct 19**. It is **your** **responsibility** to withdraw officially. State law (the Education Code) requires me to assign a grade of "F" to anyone who "disappears" without officially withdrawing.

**Contact Me:** Since I am an Adjunct Professor I have no office, so start looking for me by enquiring at the Bio Office, EBS 212, or look in the window of EBS 211 next door. You may call or text me at 805-729-1107 Tues/Thurs from 2-4 PM: Those are my “office hours” until further notice. You may e-mail me any time at [**masson@sbcc.edu**](mailto:masson@sbcc.edu) **or** [**mtmasson@pipeline.sbcc.edu**](mailto:mtmasson@pipeline.sbcc.edu)

**Schedule of Lectures and Assignments:**

**BIOL 171: HUMAN EVOLUTION**

Schedule of Lectures and Assignments, Fall 2019

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Date |  | Lecture Topic |
|  |  |  |
| Aug | 26 | Lec 01: Introduction to Human Evolution |
|  | 28 | Lec 02: Charles Darwin and the Theory of Natural Selection |
|  |  |  |
| Sept | 02 | **Labor Day, no classes** |
|  | 04 | Lec 03: Mendelian (“Classical”) Genetics |
|  |  |  |
|  | 09 | Lec 04: Chromosomes, Karyotypes, and Cell Division |
|  | 11 | Lec 05: DNA and Molecular Genetics |
|  |  |  |
|  | 16 | Lec 06: Population Genetics |
|  | 18 | Lec 07: The "Modern Synthesis" |
|  |  |  |
|  | 23 | Lec 08: The History of Life on Earth |
|  | 25 | **First Hour Examination** (on material through Lec 07) |
|  |  |  |
|  | 30 | Lec 09: Human Variation |
| Oct | 02 | Lec 10: A Survey of the Modern Primates |
|  |  |  |
|  | 07 | Lec 11: The Evolution of Primate Locomotion |
|  | 09 | Lec 12: Human Locomotion |
|  |  |  |
|  | 14 | Lec 13: Diet and Dentition |
|  | 16 | Lec 14: Growth, Neoteny, and Sexual Dimorphism, |
|  |  |  |
|  | 21 | Lec 15: Primate Social Structure |
|  | 23 | Lec 16: Language, Culture, Brain Size, and Intelligence |
|  |  |  |
|  | 28 | Lec 17: Taphonomy, Dating Methods, and The Early Primates |
|  | 30 | **Second Hour Examination** (on material from Lecs 08 through 16) |
|  |  |  |
| Nov | 04 | Lec 18: The Early Hominins, and the Genus *Australopithecus* |
|  | 06 | Lec 19: The Genus *Homo,* and the Lower Paleolithic |
|  |  |  |
|  | 11 | **Veterans Day: no classes** |
|  | 13 | Lec 20: *Homo erectus, H. ergaster,*and *H.* *heidelbergensis* |
|  |  |  |
|  | 25 | Lec 21: The Neanderthals, and the Middle Paleolithic |
|  | 27 | **No class: Happy Thanksgiving!** |
|  |  |  |
|  | 19 | Lec 22: *Homo sapiens,*and the Upper Paleolithic |
|  | 21 | Lec 23: “Regional Continuity”, or “Out of Africa”? |
|  |  |  |
| Dec | 02 | Lec 24: The Spread of Modern Man, Denisovans & Floresians |
|  | 04 | Lec 25: Alternatives in Human Phylogeny; Prep for Final Exam |

**FINAL EXAM: Monday 09 Dec, 2 PM, mostly on material from lectures 17 through 25**

Please be aware that final exam schedules are fixed by the administration and cannot be altered to accommodate individual students.  **If this final exam date and time will not be possible for you, then do not sign up for this course.** Airplane tickets and vacation plans will **not** be accepted as excuses.