

**Anthropology 411**  
**Evolution of the genus *Homo***  
Fall 2015  
TR 1:00–2:15

**Prof. John Hawks**  
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## **Description:**

This course is a graduate level introduction to the phylogeny, anatomy, behavior, and genetics of Pleistocene *Homo*.

## **Readings:**

The readings for this course are online reserves. They can be found at the Learn@UW site for the class, accessible through <https://learnuw.wisc.edu>. I have tried to choose the most essential articles for each week as readings. Sometimes these are classic articles that form the basis of much later work, other times they are the most current and recent research results.

Readings for the course are very important, because they provide a documentation of the elements of the fossil record of early hominids beyond the materials that are available for hands-on inspection in the laboratory. Sometimes these readings contain difficult concepts, especially anatomical terms or evolutionary terms that may be unfamiliar to you. Please make a note of these terms as you work through the readings so that you can ask during class. Believe me, you are not the only one for whom the material can be sometimes difficult.

In addition to the course readings, I post information related to the course at my own weblog:

<http://johnhawks.net/weblog/>

## **Class format and grading:**

The course meets biweekly from 1:00 to 2:15 on Tuesdays and Thursdays. The format of the class is a mixture of lecture and laboratory. Many of the class sessions will be occupied by lab exercises. These will include practical applications of the lecture subjects, comparisons between fossil and living hominoids, and other kinds of explorations. Additionally, many of the class sessions will be taught remotely by Professor Hawks from overseas. For these sessions, the

There will be no exams in this course.

Each student during the course of the semester will complete 7 brief (1000 word) articles, due on alternate Tuesdays. A draft of the paper will be due on the preceding Tuesday, with two copies to distribute to other students for comment.

Assignment scores are proficiency-based and the focus of the writing assignments is effective revision for meaning. The final grade in the course will be determined based on proficiency for the writing assignments and effective participation in class exercises.

**A:** Demonstrates high proficiency on 6 written assignments, effective commentary on other students' work, comes to class prepared as evidenced by effective questions and leadership in discussion, turns in all work on time.

**AB:** Demonstrates proficiency on 6 written assignments, effective commentary on other students' work, comes to class prepared as evidenced by effective questions, turns in all work on time.

**B:** Demonstrates proficiency on 4 written assignments, some commentary on other students' work, attends most classes prepared as evidenced by questions, turns in all work on time.

**BC:** Demonstrates proficiency on 4 written assignments, some commentary on other students' work, attends most classes prepared as evidenced by questions, some late work allowed.

**C:** Demonstrates proficiency on some written assignments, some commentary on other students' work, attends most classes, some late work allowed.

**D:** Significant late work, lack of preparation, or useful commentary to other students' work.

### **Schedule by week:**

Readings for each week will be mostly obvious by topic, and will be announced the previous week in class.

- Sept. 3 Background: *Australopithecus* to *Homo*.
- Sept. 8 The Rising Star hominin sample
- Sept. 15 *Homo habilis*, *Homo rudolfensis* and early *Homo erectus*
- Sept. 22 Dmanisi and Asian *Homo erectus*
- Sept. 29 Genetics and the Middle Pleistocene
- Oct. 6 Middle Pleistocene evolution
- Oct. 13 More Middle Pleistocene evolution
- Oct. 20 Modern human origins
- Oct. 27 Neandertals and Denisovans
- Nov. 3 More Neandertals
- Nov. 10 Modern human dispersals.
- Nov. 17 Upper Paleolithic Europe, America
- Nov. 24 Morphological change in modern humans
- Dec. 1 Recent genetic evolution of humans
- Dec. 8 Future human evolution