

**ANTHROPOLOGY 110: INTRODUCTION TO HUMAN EVOLUTION**  
**SPRIG 2025 (CLASS 1015; 3 CREDIT HOURS)**  
**LECTURE: Time and place to be specified**

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Office hours: Wednesday, 11:00 to 14:00, and any other time with previous appointment.

**Prerequisites:** There are no required prerequisites for this class.

**Course Objectives:** This course provides students with a basic introduction to the facts, skills and concepts needed to understand human evolution. Topics covered include the history of evolutionary biology, human osteology, primatology, functional anatomy, and the human fossil record. Special attention will be given to the evidence found in the Iberian Peninsula and broader Europe. Field trips to archaeological sites and museums in the region will also be included. This course provides a springboard to subsequent classes in Biological Anthropology and Human Biology.

**General Education:** The course fulfills the objectives of General Education in the Natural Sciences Course. The university identifies the objectives of these courses as follows (from <http://www.albany.edu/generaleducation/>):

*“Natural Sciences: Approved courses show how understandings of natural phenomena are obtained using the scientific method, including data collection, hypothesis development, employment of mathematical analysis, and critical evaluation of evidence. Courses provide an overview of major principles and concepts underpinning a discipline's current base of knowledge and discuss major topics at the current frontiers of disciplinary knowledge. Courses show how answers to fundamental questions in science can change the world in which we live and often explore how social issues can influence scientific research. Opportunities for scientific inquiry within laboratory and/or field settings may be provided.”*

We will meet these requirements by investigating the theoretical basis and empirical evidence underlying the discipline of biological anthropology, both in lecture and in the field trips.

### **Course Readings**

The instructor will provide students with specific readings from different sources throughout the course. Readings could include handbook chapters, research articles and/or any other type of written material. No specific textbook is required.

Students will be expected to read some readings in advance of each class. Other readings will be handed out after the lectures as a sum-up of the content discussed in class. Note that the readings

are designed to supplement the material presented in lectures, not to duplicate it. In addition, there may be instances in which the material presented in lectures contradicts or otherwise disagrees with material presented in the readings. In those cases, the material presented in the lecture will be considered correct for the purposes of exams.

**Please note:** Slides from lectures will not be handed out. Students are expected to take their own notes during lecture time. Some material covered in lecture does not appear on the readings at all. Do not expect to earn a good grade in this course if you try to learn the material from the readings alone.

### **Course Requirements**

**Exams:** There will be only a final exam at the end of the course. The final exam may include questions drawn from lectures and readings. The final exam could include multiple test, short and/or essay questions.

Also, please note the following exam policies:

- Anyone arriving after any student has completed the exam and left the lecture hall will not be allowed to take the exam. In addition, please arrive several minutes early on exam day so that we may begin the exam on time.
- During the exam, all bags and notebooks must be placed on the floor under your seat. No electronic device will be allowed (the time will be displayed on the screen at the front of the room so students know how much time they have left).
- You will be required to write and bubble-in your name and student ID number on your exam scantron sheet. Please be sure to write down your student ID number before coming to the exam, and please bring your student ID with you to the exam.

**Field trip assignments:** Four field trips have been scheduled during the course. Students are expected to hand in an assignment from each of the field trips before the date of the Final Exam. Details on each assignment will be given in class. It is mandatory to attend the field trips in order to pass the course. Please see the 'Field trip structure and policies' section below for more information.

### **Components of Overall Course Grade:**

Final exam: 60%

Field trip assignments: 20%

Lecture attendance: 10%

Participation during lectures and field trips: 10%

Your overall course grade on an A-E scale is based on your overall percentage according to standard cutoffs. Below are the minimum percentages required for each grade:

A: 93.33% A-: 90% B+: 86.67% B: 83.33% B-: 80% C+: 76.67%

C: 73.33% C-: 70% D+: 66.67% D: 63.33% D-: 60% E: below 60%

**Note on Extra Credit:** No extra credit assignments will be allowed to bring up the overall course grade. Plan your time and effort throughout the semester accordingly.

## Course Policies

**Make-up Exams:** In most cases there will be no make-up exams. If you miss the final exam, you will receive a zero for it. Exceptions will be made only 1) with *proof* of dire emergency or illness, 2) with advance notice of a compelling time conflict *in some cases* (see web link below), or 3) due to religious observance per New York State Education Law ([Section 224-A](#)). Please refer to the “Attendance and Timely Compliance with Course Requirements” section of the university’s Undergraduate Academic Regulations for more details ([http://www.albany.edu/undergraduate\\_bulletin/regulations.html](http://www.albany.edu/undergraduate_bulletin/regulations.html)).

If you think you have an excusable absence for an exam, please talk to the instructor about it in advance or immediately after missing the exam so that a make-up can be scheduled in a timely manner. All medical excuses must include a written excuse from a medical provider and be submitted to the instructor within one week of the missed exam. Be aware that the University Health Center will provide medical excuses only under very specific situations ([http://www.albany.edu/health\\_center/medicalexcuse.shtml](http://www.albany.edu/health_center/medicalexcuse.shtml)).

### **University Policy Regarding Three Finals on One Day**

(<https://www.albany.edu/undergraduateeducation/examinations.php>):

*“If a student has three examinations in one day as a result of a departmental exam or of the official rescheduling of an examination after the initial final examination schedule has been published, then that student has the right to be given a makeup examination for the departmental or rescheduled examination. The request for such an exam must be made to the instructor in the appropriate course no later than two weeks before the last day of classes of the given semester. If possible, the makeup examination should be given within the final examination period.”*

Note that the final exam for this course is not a departmental exam and so students are not entitled to request a makeup exam for the final in this course if they have three finals on one day. They must make that request of the course that has the departmental exam. In the unlikely event that the final exam for this course is rescheduled after the initial final exam schedule is published, note that the request for an alternative final exam time must be made at least two weeks before the end of classes.

**Students with Special Needs:** If you require a disability-related academic accommodation for this class, please register with Disability Access and Inclusion Student Services (DAISS) as soon as possible and ask them to communicate with the instructor regarding any reasonable accommodation for the course or instructions about physical access. Please be aware that DAISS will communicate directly with the instructor regarding any modifications to the course absence policy for a specific student, and in the absence of such communication DAISS has instructed faculty to follow the stated absence policy in the course syllabus. For more information about “reasonable accommodation”, please see DAISS’s Reasonable Accommodation Policy: <http://www.albany.edu/disability/docs/RAP.pdf>

**Lecture Attendance:** While it is recommended for students to attend every class, attendance is not required to pass the course. However, students are responsible for keeping up with what happens in class. This applies to the content of the class, readings, handouts, and announcements about class policies, events, deadlines, *etc.* Furthermore, please note that 10% of the final course grade will be allocated to class attendance, which will be registered in every class.

**Field trip attendance:** Field trip attendance is mandatory. Please see the ‘Field Trip Structure and Policies’ section below.

**Cell Phones and Laptops:** Please show respect for the other members of the class and silence your phones before you enter the classroom. To enhance concentration during lectures, it is recommended to avoid the use of electronic devices. The instructor will hand out pencils and paper for taking notes if needed.

**Lecture Hall Conduct:** Please be considerate of your fellow students: arrive before class begins so you do not disturb others with a late arrival, and don’t have side conversations during lecture – but please feel free to raise your hand to ask questions to the instructor during lectures.

**Grades:** The grade you receive, either on an individual exam or assignment or as your final grade, is not subject to negotiation. It is your grade unless an error has been made (e.g., if you marked “B” and the correct answer was “B”, but your answer was scored as incorrect). If you think an error has been made, let the instructor know within one week of receiving the assignment or reviewing your exam.

**IMPORTANT NOTE:** If you are struggling in the course, please come for help *during* the semester when there is still time for the instructor to help you. Do not wait until the course is over.

**Academic Integrity:** The following statement is a quote from the University’s Standards of Academic Integrity Policy:

“Every student has the responsibility to become familiar with the standards of academic integrity at the University. Faculty members must specify in their syllabi information about academic integrity, and may refer students to this policy for more information. Nonetheless, student claims of ignorance, unintentional error, or personal or academic pressures cannot be excuses for violation of academic integrity. Students are responsible for familiarizing themselves with the standards and behaving accordingly, and UAlbany faculty are responsible for teaching, modeling and upholding them. *Anything less undermines the worth and value of our intellectual work, and the reputation and credibility of the University at Albany degree.*”

Students who violate university policy on academic integrity are subject to disciplinary penalties, including the possibility of a failing grade for the course, disciplinary probation, suspension, or expulsion from the University. Prohibited activities include, but are not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, collusion, falsifying academic records, misrepresenting facts, and any act designed to give unfair academic advantage to the student (such as, but not limited to, submission of essentially the same written assignment for two courses without the prior permission of the instructor), or the attempt to commit such an act. For more information, refer to the section “Standards of Academic Integrity” in the Undergraduate Academic Regulations ([http://www.albany.edu/undergraduate\\_bulletin/regulations.html#integrity](http://www.albany.edu/undergraduate_bulletin/regulations.html#integrity)).

**Changes to Course Structure:** The instructor reserves the right to change the lecture schedule, exam date and/or structure, and other aspects of the course. Announcements and amendments to this syllabus will be mentioned during lecture time, as well as sent out via email to UAlbany email addresses of all students enrolled in the course.

## Field Trip Structure and Policies

**Field trip Structure:** There are 4 field trips scheduled throughout the course of the semester. All fieldtrips directly relate to concepts and/or information covered in lectures. All of them comprise an on-site guided tour lead by the course instructor that could be complemented by local specialists. The first three field trips are half-day trips, while the fourth one is a full-day trip. All destinations are located in the Valencian Community, Spain. Point for departures and arrivals will be the building where lectures are given.

The first one will be a visit to a Middle Paleolithic site (possibly or *Cova Foradada* or *Cova Negra*). The second field trip will be to the Upper Paleolithic site of *Cova del Parpalló*. The third trip will consist on the visit to the Museum of Prehistory of Valencia. The fourth and final fieldtrip will include the Valltorta Museum of Rock Art and two rock shelters with Levantine Rock Art (listed as UNESCO World Heritage). If time allows, during the last fieldtrip a Neolithic archaeological site in the Prat de Cabanes area will be visited as well. Detailed information about the field trips will be provided once the course starts.

**Field trip assignments:** After each fieldtrip, students will be given an assignment to complete and hand in before the date of the Final Exam. A total of 4 assignments will be required, each one of them counting up to 5% of the final course grade. More details on them will be given once the course starts.

**Field trip attendance:** Field trip attendance is mandatory to pass the course – there are no make-ups. Field trips will only be exempted with proof of dire emergency or illness (e.g., a signed and dated doctor's note or discharge paperwork).



*Cova dels Cavalls rock shelter in La Valltorta*



*Neanderthal remains at the Museum of Prehistory*

## **Other Resources**

If you feel stressed or overwhelmed, please know that you are not alone. The University offers many different resources to help you academically and personally. They include, but are not limited to:

- Undergraduate Resources and Services:  
[https://www.albany.edu/undergraduate\\_bulletin/undergraduate\\_resources\\_services.html](https://www.albany.edu/undergraduate_bulletin/undergraduate_resources_services.html)
- Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS): <https://www.albany.edu/health-well-being/mental-health/caps>
- Center for Behavioral Health: <https://www.albany.edu/behavioralhealth/>
- Survivors of Sexual Violence:
  - <https://www.albany.edu/equity-compliance/title-ix-sexual-misconduct/resources-victims-survivors>
  - <https://www.albany.edu/advocacycenter/>
- Gender and Sexuality Resource Center: <https://www.albany.edu/lgbt/>
- Office of Intercultural Student Engagement:  
<https://www.albany.edu/multicultural/programs.php>

## **How to Succeed in this Course**

To do well in this course, be sure to read the assigned readings and attend every lecture. Please feel free to raise your hand in lecture and ask questions about anything you're unclear on. You are also welcome to come to the instructor's office hours to get help in understanding the course content – that's what office hours are there for.

The final exam makes up 60% of the total course grade. There are no late exams or makeups in general, and there is no extra credit in this course, so be sure to study for the exam. Field trip assignments make up 20% of the total course grade, and field trip attendance is mandatory, so be sure to attend every field included in the course. Also, please keep in mind that 10% of the course mark will be allocated to lecture attendance, and another 10% to active and constructive participation during lectures and fieldtrips. Therefore, coming ready to class and with a positive and open attitude towards learning will eventually pay off as well.

### Lecture Schedule (40 hours)

(Note that this schedule may be adjusted later in the semester)

Week	Dates	Lecture Topic
Week 1	13th-17th January	
Hour 1		Course introduction
Hour 2		What is Prehistory?
Hour 3		Principles of Evolutionary Biology and speciation
Week 2	20 <sup>th</sup> -24 <sup>th</sup> January	
Hour 4		What makes us human? Primate phylogenetic relationships
Hour 5		Human osteology
Hour 6		Early hominins and the origin of bipedalism
Week 3	27 <sup>th</sup> -31 <sup>st</sup> January	
Hour 7		Australopithecines
Hour 8		Origins of the genus <i>Homo</i>
Hour 9		<i>Homo erectus</i> and its expansion out of Africa
Week 4	3 <sup>rd</sup> -7 <sup>th</sup> February	
Hour 10		The world of Neanderthals I
Hour 11		The world of Neanderthals II
Hour 12		Neanderthals in the Iberian Peninsula
Week 5	10 <sup>th</sup> -14 <sup>th</sup> February	
Hours 13-15		Trip to Cova Foradada or Cova Negra (Middle Paleolithic)
Week 6	17 <sup>th</sup> -21 <sup>st</sup> February	
Hour 16		Origins of Modern Humans
Hour 17		The Modern Human Diaspora
Hour 18		The Upper Paleolithic in Europe
Week 7	24 <sup>th</sup> -28 <sup>th</sup> February	
Hours 19-21		Trip to Cova del Parpalló (Upper Paleolithic)
Week 8	3 <sup>rd</sup> -7 <sup>th</sup> March	
Hour 22		Last hunter-gatherer populations
Hour 23		Domestication & the origins of food production
Hour 24		Consequences of food production
Week 9	10 <sup>th</sup> -14 <sup>th</sup> March	
Hours 25-27		Museum of Prehistory guided tour
Week 10		
	17 <sup>th</sup> -21 <sup>st</sup> March (FALLAS)	HOLIDAYS
Week 11	24 <sup>th</sup> -28 <sup>th</sup> March	
Hour 28		The Neolithic
Hour 29		The arrival of the Neolithic to Europe
Hour 30		Neolithic Rock Art
Week 12	31 <sup>st</sup> March-4 <sup>th</sup> April	
Hours 31-37		Trip to Valltorta & Prat de Cabanes
Week 13	7 <sup>th</sup> April-11 <sup>th</sup> April	
Hour 38		Course summary and review
	17 <sup>th</sup> April-28 <sup>th</sup> April (EASTER)	HOLIDAYS
Week 14	29 <sup>th</sup> April-2 <sup>nd</sup> May	
Hours 39-40		<b>FINAL EXAM</b>