

ANTHROPOLOGY 4330
Origins of Humanity and
Civilization.

Fall Semester 2026

Location: ONLINE, ASYNCHRONOUS

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Office Hours

Monday – Friday 9AM-4PM

Course Description:

This course explores the origins of humanity meaning our biological background for the past 4 million years, How did we come to exist? The second part of the course is an exploration of how social complexity, also known as “Civilization” came to exist. We explore the theory and data associated with each of these topics.

Objectives

1. Introduce students to the theoretical and historical framework related to origins of humanity and civilization.
2. To increase students’ research and scholarly skills through preparation and presentation of information related to the subject.

Textbook: None-All course material will be provided via CANVAS and in class.

Class:

Lectures will be provided via CANVAS and will be supplemented by readings, films and discussion. The lectures will complement but not duplicate the readings. In general, I will explain methods in class that are also covered in the text then use case studies to illustrate the utility of the particular methods. In general, you are expected to have read appropriate assignments prior to coming to class. It is the student’s responsibility to be aware of all deadlines and material discussed in class.

Grading: The course grade will be based on 7 *biweekly papers*. The bi-weekly papers will be assigned on Wednesdays and due on the following Wednesday. Each will consist of a 3 page discussion of a topic to be assigned in class. and the and the highest 6 grades will be counted towards the final grade. Students are

expected to be able to synthesize major concepts and be responsible for specific details presented in class and the textbook.

GRADE SCALE:

A= 90-100; B= 80-89; C= 70-79; D= 60-69; F= 1-59

The Purposes of research papers include:

Demonstrate your ability to understand what scholarly information is... and ... what is not.

Demonstrate your ability to command and synthesize scholarly information.

Demonstrate your ability to conduct scholarly research.

Attendance & Deadlines: You chose to spend your time and money to take this class. So, I assume you desire to spend them well. Consequently, I will not normally take attendance. Deadlines for all tests and assignments are absolute unless you have conferred with me in advance or have an excuse from the Dean or University. Otherwise, there will be no make-up exams. Written assignments must be turned in by the due date. Unexcused absences for assignment due dates will result in a grade of zero for the assignment.

PLAGARISM & CHEATING

- It is your responsibility to know and understand the university policy on cheating and plagiarism.
- If you plagiarize or cheat, you WILL receive an F for this course.
- If you plagiarize, your case WILL be referred to the Dean for further action. Penalties may include expulsion.

Make-Up Exams: You may take a make-up exam only if you have made arrangements prior to the exam to do so. Do not ask for a make-up exam if you missed the exam without prior arrangements or have reason for an official absence.

Academic Problems: Feel free to talk with me about any problems you may have with the course. It's usually best to make an appointment to me in my office rather than trying to get an answer to a question or to take care of a problem between classes. Faculty members are expected to provide information at the start of each semester on how the final grade will be determined. I am extremely conscientious about determining student grades, but if you feel that an error has been made, talk with me. If you feel that your concerns have not been addressed, talk with the department chair or the dean of the school in that order.

UNIVERSITY POLICIES & STUDENT RESOURCES:

Here are links to the applicable university policies.

- [University Policy](#)
- [Student Resources](#)

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

IMPORTANT NOTE: CLASSES OCTOBER 24-_NOVEMBER 5 will be delivered online via CANVAS

Week of:	Topic:
August 25	Origins of Humanity
Sept 1	Developing the Modern View of the World
Sept 8	Australopithecines
Sept 15	Early Genus Homo
Sept 22	Late Genus Homo
Sept 29	Origins of Civilization
Oct 6	Challenging Ideas: Poverty Point and Gobleki Tepe
October 13	Co-evolution of Agriculture and Society
October 20	The Earliest Art
October 27	Early Peruvian Archaeology
November 3	Maya Origins
Nov 10	Ancient Central Mexico
Nov 23-27	Thanksgiving Week No Classes
Dec 1	Case Study in Research Designs: Blue Creek
Dec 7-11	Finals Week

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