



## Anthropology 06

### Introduction to Biological Anthropology

MWF 11:15–12:20; X-Hour Tu 12:00–12:50

Instructor: Vivek V. Venkataraman

E-mail: [vivek.v.venkataraman@dartmouth.edu](mailto:vivek.v.venkataraman@dartmouth.edu)

Website: <http://sites.dartmouth.edu/vvvenkataraman/>

Office Location: 408A Silsby Hall

Office Hours: Wed 1-3pm

**Course Description:** The origin of our species has long been a topic of deep curiosity for humans. In this course, we will look at the scientific evidence for the origin and evolution of *Homo sapiens*. This course will use data from evolutionary theory, primatology, comparative anatomy, genetics, and paleontology to understand the latest hypotheses regarding human evolution and modern human behavioral biology.

**Prerequisite(s):** None.

**Text(s):** *How Humans Evolved*, 7<sup>th</sup> Edition

**Author(s):** Robert Boyd and Joan Silk

#### Grade Distribution:

Exam 1	30%
Exam 2 (non-cumulative)	30%
Exam 3 (non-cumulative)	30%
Minute Papers	10%

#### Letter Grade Distribution:

$\geq 94.00$	A	74 - 76	C
90 - 93	A-	70 - 73	C-
87 - 89	B+	67 - 69	D+
84 - 86	B	64 - 66	D
80 - 83	B-	60 - 63	D-
77 - 79	C+	$\leq 60$	F

#### Course Policies:

- **Academic Integrity and Dartmouth Honor Principle**

- Students are expected to live up to the Dartmouth Honor Principle and not participate in behaviors—including cheating and plagiarism—that compromise it. For

information on how to reference sources, please see Sources, Their Use, and Acknowledgement at: <http://www.dartmouth.edu/sources/>.

- **Students with disabilities**

- Students with learning, physical, or psychiatric disabilities who may need classroom accommodations are encouraged to see me before the end of the second week of the term. Discussions will remain confidential, but the Student Accessibility Office may be consulted to discuss how to best implement the requested accommodation.

- **Religious observances**

- If you have a religious observance that may conflict with your participation in the course, please speak with me before the end of the second week of the quarter to discuss appropriate accommodations.

- **Use of computers in the classroom**

- It has become commonplace for students to take notes on their laptops or iPads. If you take notes on a screened device, that is fine. You are NOT allowed to use your computer to browse the internet (unless I ask you to do so), check your email or Facebook, or watch YouTube videos- it is counterproductive and distracting to those around you.

- **Contacting the Professor**

- For the majority of issues that come up during the semester, the appropriate way to contact me, ask questions, and gain a better understanding of the material, is to come to my office hours. Email is not the appropriate forum to ask basic questions related to course logistics. If you cannot make office hours during the scheduled time, you may see me after class to arrange a meeting. I answer emails within 24 hours. If you do not hear back from me, it is because the answer to your question is on the syllabus. Please note: Letters of recommendation will only be given to students who receive an 'A' in the course.

- **X-Hours**

- The X-hour period for this class (Tuesday 12-12:50) consists of optional activities that will help you understand the course material better and in more detail. For students interested in becoming anthropology majors, or interested in working directly with fossil material, you should plan to attend these x-hour sessions.

**Tentative Course Outline:** The weekly coverage might change slightly throughout the course. See Canvas for more specifics on the weekly assignments, and be sure to check Canvas frequently for updates.

Week	Content
Week 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Monday Jan 4: NO CLASS (we will catch up during X-hours)</li> <li>Wednesday Jan 6: Introduction to class; study of human origins</li> <li>Friday Jan 8: Evolution and natural selection</li> <li>Reading assignment: Boyd and Silk: Ch. 1-3</li> </ul>
Week 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Monday Jan 11: Primate Origins I</li> <li>Wednesday Jan 13: Primate diversity</li> <li>Friday Jan 15: Strepsirrhines</li> <li>Reading assignment: Boyd and Silk Ch. 4-5 + additional</li> </ul>
Week 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Tuesday Jan 19: Haplorrhines</li> <li>Wednesday Jan 20: Apes</li> <li>Friday Jan 22: Primate sociality and mating systems</li> <li>Reading assignment: Boyd and Silk Ch. 6 + additional</li> </ul>
Week 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Monday Jan 25: <b>Exam 1 (Chapters 1–6)</b></li> <li>Wednesday Jan 27: Cooperation</li> <li>Friday Jan 29: Primate life history and intelligence</li> <li>Reading assignment: Boyd and Silk Ch. 7-8 + additional</li> </ul>
Week 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Monday Feb 1: Fossil primates</li> <li>Wednesday Feb 3: Introduction to hominins</li> <li>Friday Feb 5: Ardipithecines</li> <li>Reading assignment: Boyd and Silk Ch. 9-10 + additional</li> </ul>
Week 6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Monday Feb 8: Australopiths</li> <li>Wednesday Feb 10: Evolution of <i>Homo</i></li> <li>Friday Feb 12: Erectines and Heidelbergers</li> <li>Reading assignment: Boyd and Silk Ch. 11-12 + additional</li> </ul>
Week 7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Monday Feb 15: <b>Exam 2 (Chapters 7–12)</b></li> <li>Wednesday Feb 17: Neandertals</li> <li>Friday Feb 19: Origin of <i>H. sapiens</i></li> <li>Reading assignment: Boyd and Silk Ch. 13 + additional</li> </ul>
Week 8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Monday Feb 22: Hunter-gatherers</li> <li>Wednesday Feb 24: Human behavioral ecology</li> <li>Friday Feb 26: Modern human adaptations</li> <li>Reading assignment: Boyd and Silk Ch. 14-15 + additional</li> </ul>
Week 9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Monday Feb 29: Race and human variation</li> <li>Wednesday Mar 2: Recent human evolution</li> <li>Friday Mar 4: Future of human evolution</li> <li>Reading assignment: Boyd and Silk Ch. 16</li> </ul>
Week 10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Monday Mar 7: <b>Exam 3 (Chapters 13–16)</b></li> </ul>