AROL 213
The Human Story I: The Old Stone Age
Fall Semester 2009/10

1. General Instructional Objective/Goal:

By attending this course students will get a solid knowledge about the physical and cultural evolution of mankind from the very beginnings until the end of the Palaeolithic Period (ca. 10,000 BC). To understand the physical evolution of humans, first the general principles of the evolution theory will be discussed. The Palaeolithic Period, in fact the longest in human history, witnesses the emergence of many cultural features that lay the foundations for the further development of mankind, such as the first use of tools, the beginnings of the use of fire, the appearance of art as well as the first evidence of religious beliefs. The development of early humans was greatly influenced by the environment, especially the climate (ice ages versus warmer periods). On the other hand, humans started to influence and even to alter their environment. This course first is devoted to create a general knowledge of the first stages of human evolution in general, before moving to more specialized topics related to the Levant in its later sessions.

Specific Learning Outcomes:

Students will be able to:

- Learn how to read and interpret scientific texts
- Identify and list the main archaeological sources available for the study of early humans
- Assess the value and contribution of each type of source for the study of human origins and evolution
- Explain and discuss the main theories relating to the origin of early humans and their physical and cultural evolution

2. Suggested Readings

Jordan, P.
1999    Early Man (Thrupp).
Lewin, R.
1999    Human Evolution: An Illustrated Introduction (Blackwell).
Mellars, P.
Shea, J. J.

The relevant chapters will be placed on Moodle.
3. Grading Criteria

Grades in the course will be calculated based on:
- regular attendance and active participation during the class (10%)
- the midterm examination (40%)
- the final examination (50%)

A visit to the ‘Musée de Préhistoire Libanaise’ (Université de Saint Joseph) is obligatory for all students (date to be announced in class).

4. Course Policy

Students are expected to be on time for class. Latecomers will be counted as absent. Class attendance is required and repeated absence may lead to dropping a student from the course. Make-up exams will only be given to students with a valid excuse. For definitions of cheating and plagiarism as well as the consequences for such see the AUB “Student Code of Conduct” in the Student Handbook (79-94).
### 5. Course Syllabus

| Week 1 | Mo 05.10.09: Introduction: Aims of the course  
We 07.10.09: The origins of mankind: pre-scientific approaches  
Fr 09.10.09: Charles Darwin | Reading assignments: Lewin 1999, 10-14. |
|---|---|
| Week 2 | Mo 12.10.09: The origins of mankind: scientific approaches  
We 14.10.09: How do Palaeoanthropologists work?  
| Week 3 | Mo 19.10.09: The evolution of primates  
We 21.10.09: When does human history begin, or: what is a human?  
Lewin 1999, 80-87. |
| Week 4 | Mo 26.10.09: First humans: the Australopithecines  
We 28.10.09: First humans: the Australopithecines  
| Week 5 | Mo 02.11.09: Homo habilis  
We 04.11.09: Homo habilis  
Fr 06.11.09: The first tools | Lewin 1999, 104-118.  
| Week 6 | Mo 09.11.09: Homo erectus  
We 11.11.09: The spread of Homo erectus from Africa  
Fr 13.11.09: The first use of fire | Jordan 1999, ch. 3 (p. 45-61).  
Lewin 1999, 138-144 |
| Week 7 | Mo 16.11.09: New technologies  
We 18.11.09: Revision  
Fr. 20.11.09: **Midterm examination** |  |
| Week 8 | Mo 23.11.09: The transition from Homo erectus to Homo sapiens neanderthalensis  
We 25.11.09: Homo sapiens neanderthalensis  
Fr 27.11.09: Homo sapiens neanderthalensis | Lewin 1999, 156-163.  
| Week 9 | We 02.12.09: The toolkit of the Neanderthals  
Fr 04.12.09: The first deliberate human burials | Lewin 1999, 183-188. |
| Week 10 | Mo 07.12.09: Neanderthal sites from the Levant  
We 09.12.09: The transition from Homo sapiens neanderthalensis to modern humans  
Mellars 2004. |
| Week 11 | Mo 14.12.09: Homo sapiens sapiens  
We 16.12.09: Homo sapiens sapiens  
| Week 12 | Mo 21.12.09: The first evidence of art  
We 23.12.09: Cave paintings and figurines |  |
| Week 13 | Mo 04.01.10: Palaeolithic art: its interpretation  
Fr 08.01.10: Colonizing new worlds: America and Australia | Lewin 1999, 201-206. |
| Week 14 | Mo 11.01.10: Climatic changes: the end of the Ice Age  
We 13.01.10: The end of the Palaeolithic  
Fr 15.01.10: The Epipalaeolithic way of life |  |
| Week 15 | Mo 18.01.10: The Natufian in the Levant  
We 20.01.10: Modern Hunter-Gatherer Societies  
Fr 22.01.10: Revision |  |