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College Hall, Room 447

Office hours: Wednesday, 2:00-3:30; Thursday 2:00-3:30

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.

2004 Neanderthals and the modern human colonization of Europe. *Nature* 432/25: 461-465.

Shea, J. J.

2001 The Middle Palaeolithic: Early Modern Humans and Neanderthals in the Levant. *Near Eastern Archaeology* 64: 38-64.

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

	Topic of the class	Reading assignments
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	Lewin 1999, 10-14.
Week 2	Mo 12.10.09: The origins of mankind: scientific approaches We 14.10.09: How do Palaeoanthropologists work? Fr 16.10.09: Dating methods	Lewin 1999, 15-20.
Week 3	Mo 19.10.09: The evolution of primates We 21.10.09: When does human history begin, or: what is a human? Fr 23.10.09: Bipedalism and its consequences	Lewin 1999, 50-55. Jordan 1999, chapter 1 (p. 1-22). Lewin 1999, 80-87. Lewin 1999, 93-98.
Week 4	Mo 26.10.09: First humans: the Australopithecines We 28.10.09: First humans: the Australopithecines Fr 30.10.09: First humans: the Australopithecines	Lewin 1999, 104-118.
Week 5	Mo 02.11.09: Homo habilis We 04.11.09: Homo habilis Fr 06.11.09: The first tools	Jordan 1999, chapter 2 (p. 23-44); Lewin 1999, 119-124. Lewin 1999, 130-135.
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. Jordan 1999, chapter 4 (p. 62-83).
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 Fr 11.12.09: The transition from Homo sapiens neanderthalensis to modern humans	Shea 2001. Mellars 2004.
Week 11	Mo 14.12.09: Homo sapiens sapiens We 16.12.09: Homo sapiens sapiens Fr 18.12.09: The toolkit of Homo sapiens sapiens	Jordan 1999, chapter 5 (p. 84-109).
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	