YSB–623(E)
HUMAN EVOLUTION

FALL 2017 SYLLABUS

EIES SEMINAR ROOM
MONDAY
9:30 – 12:30

Instructor:
Asst. Prof. Bülent Arıkan
Office: Eurasia Institute of Earth Sciences-01
Office hours:
Thursdays 14:00 – 16:00
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Introduction:

Human evolution has been a complex and contentious area of research. Understanding the deep roots of 'humanity' is not an easy task: it requires comprehending complex and detailed processes of biological and cultural change, adaptation, adjustments, and transformations through millions of years. Added to these layers of complexity is the environmental change and diversity that affected early humans.

The aim of this course is to familiarize students with the full biological and cultural evolutionary chain; starting with the great apes, then moving on to early humans and arriving at Homo sapiens sapiens. In this long trip through time, we will focus on both biological and cultural aspects of evolution; the factors that brought evolution, reasons and results as well as both intended and unintended consequences of biological and cultural evolution.

Scope and Methods:

This is an upper division graduate course and it is designed as a seminar. I will give several lectures at the beginning of the semester about general aspects of evolution. There will be guest lecturers who will talk about the biological processes of evolution as well as the paleoenvironmental dynamics. Since this is a seminar, you are expected to read the assigned articles/chapters, discuss them in the class, and present your opinions

about the assignments. Following these lectures, each student will be asked to prepare two lectures throughout the remainder of the semester.

Textbook:

Lewin, Roger. 2004. Human Evolution: An Illustrated Introduction. Blackwell.

Cartwright, John. 2008. Evolution and Human Behavior. The MIT Press, Massachusetts.

Suggested Books:

Darwin, Charles. 1859. On the Origin of Species. 1st ed. Harvard University Press, Cambridge, Massachusetts

Futuyama, Douglas J. 2005. Evolution. Sinauer Associates, Sunderland, Mass.

Assessment:

The assessment is based on the following criteria:
Participation (25%),
Seminar presentation (25%),
Research paper (25%)
Final exam –comprehensive– (25%).

Participation, Readings, Seminars, Final Exam, and the Research Paper:

READINGS: The students are expected to read the weekly assignments before the class and participate in the class discussions. Please follow the Ninova page for the class. The lectures will not replicate the readings and the focus in the class will be to discuss the issues presented in readings from a wider perspective. Therefore, the attendance and participation of students are critical.

SEMINARS: Each student will prepare two (2) seminars during the semester. For each seminar you will be preparing, you are expected to: (a) provide a reading list reflecting the most up-to-date research on your topic, (b) prepare a digital (Powerpoint, Keynote or equivalent) presentation that focuses on the basic topics such as physical and cultural changes, the discovery stories, paleoenvironment, technology, and diet, (c) lead the discussion among others in the class.

FINAL EXAM: The exam in this course is essay-based. Students will be expected to define terms, explain concepts and theories as well as raising a coherent argument about any topic based on the assigned readings and the lectures.

RESEARCH PAPER: The research paper is a ten-page long essay about any relevant topic. Students are required to have the consent of the instructor. The research papers should follow the criteria of academic research: there should be in-text references and a bibliography.

**The language of instruction in this course is English: you are expected to speak and write in English during the class, in the exams, and in the research paper.*

No exceptions at any time!

Academic Integrity:

Plagiarism and cheating are academic offenses and the instructor will report such behavior to the head of the academic unit. If you do not know the meaning of these words, please look them up from a dictionary.

Grade Scale

4-scale	**Letter Grade**	**Weight**	**100-scale**
4	AA	3.75 >	94-100
3.5	BA	3.74 – 3.50	88-93
3	BB	3.49 – 3.00	77-87
2.5	CB	2.99 – 2.50	65-76
2	CC	2.49 – 2.00	54-64
1.5	DC	1.99 – 1.50	42-53
1	DD	1.49 – 1.00	30-41
0	FF	< 1	0-29

Weekly Schedule:

Week-1 Sep 11 — Research Methods and Concepts **(Lewin Ch. 2),**

Week-2 Sep 18 — The Theory of Evolution **(Lewin Ch. 1; Cartwright Ch. 2),**

Week-3 Sep 25 — Evolutionary Patterns and Processes-I: The Genetic Aspect
*** Guest lecturer**

Week-4 Oct 2 — Evolutionary Patterns and Processes-II: The Paleoenvironmental Aspect
*** Guest lecturer**

Week-5 Oct 9 — Mating Behavior and Selection **(Cartwright Chs. 4-5),**

*** Students are expected to announce their research paper topics**,

Week-6 Oct 16 — Humans from animal perspective **(Lewin Ch. 3),**

Week-7 Oct 23 — Hominins and their Adaptation **(Lewin Chs. 4-5),**

Week-8 Oct 30 — ITU Fall Break – No classes!

Week-9 Nov 6 — Seminar-1:
a) *Ardipithecus ramidus* and prior types
(Name: **Mertcan Kıpçak**)
b) The earliest tools, the earliest use of fire, diet
(Name: **Maya Türkmen**)

Week-10 Nov 13 — Seminar-2:
a) Gracile and Robust *Australopithecines*
(Name: **Hazel Kavılı**)
b) Tools, diet
(Name: **Mertcan Kıpçak**)

Week-11 Nov 20 — Seminar-3:
a) *Homo habilis* (Name: **Evrim Şahan**)
b) *Homo ergaster* (Name: **Maya Türkmen**)

*** Students are expected to submit a draft of their research papers**,

Week-12 Seminar-4:
Nov 27 a) *Homo erectus* (Name: **Hazel Kavılı**)
b) *Homo heidelbergensis / neanderthalensis / sapiens*
(Name: **Evrim Şahan**)

Week-13 Intelligence and Language **(Cartwright Chs. 6.2, 7; Lewin Ch.8),**
Dec 4

Week-14 Evolutionary Theory Today **(Cartwright Ch. 12),**
Dec 11

Week-15 Wrap up
Dec 18

*** Students are expected to submit their research papers (25%)**,

Final Exam (25%)
The final exam is comprehensive!

The finals will be held between January 3 – 12: the date and the place of the final exam for this course will be announced later in the semester.