

**From Ape to Madonna:
The Evolution of Humankind
IDIS 217
Spring 2012**

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Office Hours: MWF 9:00 AM – 10:00 AM or by appointment

Classroom: 335 Pricilla Payne Hurd Academic Complex
MWF 4 (11:45 AM-12:35 PM)

Course Description: One of the most profound questions that human beings can ask of themselves has to be, "Where do we come from?" This course will deal with the historical and comparative bio-anthropology of our species, looking at humans as members of the animal kingdom, focusing on the attributes shared with our primate relatives, and exploring the origins of uniquely human attributes. Using the approaches of evolutionary biology, physical anthropology, and archaeology, this course traces human physical evolution and cultural development from its earliest beginning, more than five million years ago, to about 15,000 years ago, just before the beginnings of plant and animal domestication and the rise of complex societies. In addition, this course will pay special attention to the impact that evolutionary ideas have had on social, political, and legal issues in American life. *This course satisfies the Social Impact of Science (U1) requirement within the LinC curriculum.*

Course Objectives: Upon completion of this course students will be able to demonstrate:

- 1) Knowledge of basic concepts of evolutionary biology, including the processes of genetic change, natural selection, and speciation
- 2) Awareness of the historical development of major evolutionary ideas, including Darwinism, the Modern Evolutionary Synthesis, and contemporary evolutionary theory
- 3) Understanding of the major scenarios of human evolution from origins to the present
- 4) Awareness of the impact that evolutionary ideas have had on the social, political, and legal history of the United States
- 5) Ability to distinguish between scientific and nonscientific theories, generate scientific arguments, and support them with appropriate examples or scientific justifications
- 6) Knowledge of and ability to apply the scientific process
- 7) Competence in writing and oral communication of scientific issues

- 8) Ability to integrate concepts within and among science and non-science disciplines
- 9) Understanding of the relevance of evolutionary biology to modern society

Required Texts: Baker, Catherine and James B. Miller (eds.). 2006. *The Evolution Dialogues: Science, Christianity, and the Quest for Understanding*. American Association for the Advancement of Science, Washington, DC (ISBN: 0-87168-709-7).

Relethford, John. 2010. *The Human Species: An Introduction to Biological Anthropology*. McGraw-Hill, Boston, MA. (ISBN: 978-0-07-353101-4)

Other readings as assigned

Grading: The grading system is as follows:

A	=	93.00-100.00	C	=	73.00-76.99
A-	=	90.00-92.99	C-	=	70.00-72.99
B+	=	87.00-89.99	D+	=	67.00-69.99
B	=	83.00-86.99	D	=	63.00-66.99
B-	=	80.00-82.99	D-	=	60.00-62.99
C+	=	77.00-79.99	F	=	59.99 and below

Lecture Exam 1	100 points
Lecture Exam 2	100 points
Lecture Exam 3 (Final Exam)	100 points
Personal Reflection Paper	100 points
Discussion Question Assignments	150 points
Class Participation	<u>50 points</u>
	600 points

It is within the instructor's purview to apply qualitative judgment in determining grades for an assignment or for the course.

Personal Reflection Paper: Due Monday, April 16. For this paper I am asking you to reflect upon your religious/spiritual tradition and/or the religious/spiritual tradition that you grew up in and **to do some research into what this tradition says about the relationship between religious belief and science, especially as it pertains to evolution.** In the paper you should reflect upon your experiences as you grew up and address how you feel about this issue today, after having taken this course.

Demonstrating that you have done some research and are not just providing your opinions is the key to a successful paper. In addition to using print and Internet sources students in the past have interviewed their priest, minister or rabbi or one of the college's chaplains. Others have reported talking with their parents about this issue, some for the first time. Discussing one's religious beliefs can be a sensitive issue. My intent in giving you this assignment is not to criticize or judge your beliefs---I will not do that in grading this assignment. My purpose is to get you to critically think about this issue in order to get you to better reflect upon this subject.

The paper is to be 4-5 pages, typed, single-spaced, size 12 font, 1" margins top/bottom and left/right. The paper must be at least **four full pages** and no more than five full pages (including references), single-spaced typed. You may print your paper on both sides of the page.

In writing this paper, you are encouraged to seek help from the Writing Center. Although short, the assignment asks you to think clearly and to write concisely about a given subject. Writing Center tutors can be very helpful in this process. You will also be expected to proofread the paper and use correct citations. Points will be deducted for grammatical errors, spelling mistakes, incorrect citations, and failure to cite material. Seeking help from the Writing Center can only improve your work.

Class Attendance: It is my experience that students who do poorly in this course are those who miss an excessive number of class meetings. I will not be taking attendance each day. However, if I detect that you are missing an excessive number of classes I will speak with you personally.

An absence on an examination day will require either prior permission or a suitable excuse from a physician, the Health Center or Dean of Students Office before a make-up is given.

Class Participation: Remember---Part of your grade for this course is based on your participation. Much of the course, unfortunately, consists of lectures. However, I encourage you to ask questions and respond to questions that I ask during class. There will be several opportunities for us to engage in prolonged discussions during the course---take advantage of them. It is your responsibility to make sure that I get to know who you are by actively participating in class!

Course Guidelines: All assignments are expected to be handed in according to the due date on the syllabus. **Late work will be penalized.**

All students are expected to follow the principles of academic honesty as set out in the policies of Moravian College. See the Student Handbook for

details. Any and all written work must be done in your own words (with the exception of direct quotations which are clearly indicated as such), and written work must include proper citations indicating the sources for any ideas, concepts, facts, or other information derived from others, whether or not you have restated it in your own words. Any cases of suspected cheating or plagiarism will be referred to the Academic Affairs Office. Academic dishonesty may result in a failing grade in the course.

In case of any crisis or emergency, or an extended absence from class, you must inform me directly, through Learning Services or the Academic Dean's Office.

Students who wish to request accommodations in this class for a disability should contact Mr. Joe Kempfer, Assistant Director of Learning Services for Disability Support, 1307 Main Street (extension 1510). Accommodations cannot be provided until authorization is received from the office of Learning Services.

These guidelines are intended for the benefit of the students as far as clarification of my expectations for the course; however, in exceptional circumstances I reserve the right to exercise discretion in the application of these guidelines to individual cases or to refer a particular case to the Academic Dean if necessary.

Classroom Expectations:

Respect for others' answers and views.

Disruptive behavior during class will result in your dismissal from the class the first time, after that, disciplinary action will be taken.

Cell phones need to be turned to OFF and put away in a purse or bookbag during class. Use of cell phones in any way during class will result in dismissal from class and be counted as an absence.

Non-alcoholic drinks and non-odiferous snacks are allowed in class, other "odiferous food" is not.

If you arrive late, be respectful by not disrupting a class already in progress.

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Class Schedule
Spring 2012

Day & Date			Topic	Reading Chapters
M	Jan.	16	A Modern Creation Story--- <i>2001: A Space Odyssey</i>	
W		18	Discussion: <i>2001: A Space Odyssey</i>	
F		20	The Natural World Before Darwin	Relethford-Ch. 1 B&M-Prologue, Ch. 1, 2
M		23	The Natural World Before Darwin	Relethford-Ch. 1 B&M-Prologue, Ch. 1, 2
W		25	The Darwinian Revolution	Relethford-Ch. 1 B&M-Ch. 3, 5
F		27	The Darwinian Revolution	Relethford-Ch. 1 B&M-Ch. 3, 5
M		30	Variation, Heredity & The Modern Evolutionary Synthesis	Relethford-Ch. 2, 3 B&M-Ch. 3, 5
W	Feb.	01	Variation, Heredity & The Modern Evolutionary Synthesis	Relethford-Ch. 2, 3 B&M-Ch. 3, 5
F		03	History of Life on Earth	Relethford-Ch. 4, 8 B&M-Ch. 7
M		06	History of Life on Earth	Relethford-Ch. 4, 8 B&M-Ch. 7
W		08	Fossils, Isotopes & Time	Relethford-Ch. 4, 8 B&M-Appendix
F		10	Principles of Molecular Evolution	Relethford-Ch. 2, 3
Sunday		12	Charles Darwin's 203rd Birthday!	
M		13	Principles of Molecular Evolution	Relethford-Ch. 2, 3

W	15	Exam 1	Relethford-Ch. 1-4,8 B&M-Prologue, Ch. 1-3, 5, 7
F	17	Our Primate Heritage	Relethford-Ch. 5, 6, 7
M	20	Our Primate Heritage	Relethford-Ch. 5, 6, 7
W	22	Our Primate Heritage	Relethford-Ch. 5, 6, 7
F	24	Introducing the Hominins	Relethford-Ch. 9, 10
M	27	Introducing the Hominins	Relethford-Ch. 9, 10
W	29	The Australopithecines	Relethford-Ch. 10
F	Mar. 02	The Australopithecines	Relethford-Ch. 10
M	05	NO CLASS: Spring Break	
W	07	NO CLASS: Spring Break	
F	09	NO CLASS: Spring Break	
M	12	The Australopithecines	Relethford-Ch. 10
W	14	Stones & Bones	Relethford-Ch. 11
F	16	Stones & Bones	Relethford-Ch. 11
M	19	Out of Africa	Relethford-Ch. 11
W	21	Out of Africa	Relethford-Ch. 11
F	23	Exam 2	Relethford-Ch. 5, 6, 7, 9, 10, 11
M	26	Archaic Humans	Relethford-Ch. 12
W	28	Modern Humans	Relethford-Ch. 13
F	30	Modern Humans	Relethford-Ch. 13

M	Apr.	02	Atlatl Competition: MC Javelin Area ¹	
W		04	The Dark Side: Social Darwinism & Eugenics	
F		06	NO CLASS: Easter Break	
M		09	NO CLASS: Easter Break	
W		11	The Dark Side: Social Darwinism & Eugenics	
F		13	Trial of the Century-Scopes Monkey Trial	B&M-Ch. 4
M		16	Trial of the Century-Scopes Monkey Trial	B&M-Ch. 4
W		18	Discussion: <i>Inherit the Wind</i>	
F		20	Evolution & Creationism in the Classroom	B&M-Ch. 6, 8
M		23	Evolution & Creationism in the Classroom	B&M-Ch. 6, 8
W		25	Science, Evolution & Faith	B&M-Epilogue
F		27	Materialism and <i>The Material Girl</i>	
Final Exam: Wednesday, May 2 @ 1:30 PM				Relethford-Ch. 12,13 B&M-Ch. 4, 6, 8, Epilogue

¹ Rain Date: Wednesday, April 4