

# Earth Sciences 3113: Geology of Human Origins

## Fall 2022 Course Syllabus

<b>Instructor</b>	Genevieve Ferguson, Ph.D.
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<b>Office hours</b>	Virtual and/or by appointment (NB 313A)
<b>TA</b>	Dana Korneisel : <a href="mailto:DanaKorneisel@cmail.carleton.ca">DanaKorneisel@cmail.carleton.ca</a>
<b>Lectures</b>	<b>Mondays 18:05 - 20:55 (6:05pm 8:55 pm) HP 2130</b>
<b>Note</b>	Email correspondence regarding the course must originate from a Carleton email address and have the course code in the subject line.
<b>Course Materials</b>	<b>Brightspace</b> The course schedule, weekly readings, lecture notes and videos will all be available on the course Brightspace page. There are also web resources, links, and interesting things of note available to you on the Brightspace course page – please use it!  <b>Text</b> <u><a href="#">Human Evolution: A Very Short Introduction</a></u> , 2 <sup>nd</sup> Edition Bernard Wood, 2019 Oxford University Press

### Course Description

The origin and evolution of our species from geological, biological and cultural perspectives. The course traces human ancestry from our primate roots through time and changing environments, and explores controversies, frauds, and misperceptions.

### Learning Outcomes

This class is an evolutionary survey of how changes to the environment have affected human biology, morphology, ecology, and culture. Students completing this class will gain an understanding of scientific knowledge about the origin and evolution of humans in the light of the fossil record and geologic history of Earth.

By the end of this course, students should be able to:

- Objectively evaluate novel hypotheses and controversies about human origins, evolution, and general science;
- Recognize misconceptions surrounding scientific theory and application;
- Demonstrate an understanding of their own evolutionary history and relationships with other organisms; and
- Describe how geological processes and time have influenced human evolution.

## Expectations for Students

Each week, 1-2 major topics will be covered. Lecture videos and assigned readings will be posted on Brightspace the week before each tutorial. Students are expected to attend the weekly live tutorials to discuss key concepts from the posted lectures and readings, answer questions, and explore the main evolutionary theories. Each learning module will have 2-3 short quizzes associated with it. To get a full understanding of the material and perform well on the exam and assignments, it is essential and extremely beneficial to watch the lecture videos and finish the readings ahead of the tutorials, in addition to attending the tutorials (where technically able). You are welcome to contact me by email about any issues you may have. If you choose to do so, please remember to include both your name and the subject of your email.

## Evaluation

Participation/Lecture Attendance	5%
Online Quizzes (5 x 6%)	30%
Written Assignments (3 x 10%)	30%
unEssay Project	15%
Final Exam	20%

## Final Exam

The final exam will be a take-home exam provided during the final exam period. **Please note that the final exam schedule is from December 10<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup>. The final due date will be announced closer to exam time.**

Standing in a course is determined by the course instructor subject to the approval of the Faculty Dean. This means that grades submitted by the instructor may be subject to revision. No grades are final until they have been approved by the Dean

## Course Outline\*

Week Of	Topics to Cover	Due Dates
12/09/2022	Introduction to EARTH3113 unEssay Project Lecture 1. Development of Evolutionary Theory	
19/09/2022	Lecture 2. Mechanisms of Evolution Lecture 3. Fossilization and Geological Time Scientific Nomenclature	
26/09/2022	Lecture 4. What are Primates Lecture 5. Reconstructing Behaviour and Paleoecology Referencing/Citations/Plagiarism	
03/10/2022	Lecture 6. Early Ape Evolution Lecture 7. Trends in Hominin Evolution Reading Scientific Papers	Written Assignment 1
10/10/2022	<b>Holiday – University Closed – NO TUTORIAL</b>	
17/10/2022	Lecture 8. Origins of Hominins Lecture 9. Bipedalism Science and Society	
24/10/2022	<b>Fall Break—NO TUTORIAL</b>	
31/10/2022	Lecture 10. The Australopithecines	Written Assignment 2
07/11/2022	Lecture 11. Origins of the Genus Homo Lecture 12. Homo Erectus/Ergaster	
14/11/2022	Lecture 13. Pre-Modern Homo Lecture 14. Homo Neanderthalensis	
21/11/2022	Lecture 15. Modern Humans	Written Assignment 3
28/11/2022	Lecture 16. Cultural Evolution	
05/12/2022	Lecture 17. What Makes Us Human	
09/12/2022	unEssay Presentations	unEssay Due

\* More detail available on class Brightspace page; Contents of syllabus are subject to change if we get distracted by a really great topic.

## Course and University Policies

### Academic Dishonesty

Plagiarism or any other form of academic dishonesty, such as cheating, will not be allowed. Plagiarism includes cases of lack of citations and sources of information and ideas as well as failure to paraphrase or acknowledge other people's work. If any cases of academic dishonesty are discovered, the responsible student/s will not receive any credits for the affected work. Repeated cases of academic dishonesty will be reported to the University administration. Please see <https://carleton.ca/registrar/academic-integrity/> for the university policy on academic integrity.

### Rights and Responsibilities

The *Carleton University Undergraduate Calendar* details the rights and responsibilities of students registered at the University. It is the responsibility of each student to familiarize themselves with the Academic Regulations of the University (<https://calendar.carleton.ca/undergrad/regulations/academicregulationsoftheuniversity/>).

### Academic Accommodations

You may need special arrangements to meet your academic obligations during the term. Every effort will be made to provide accommodations in course, however the student will be required to contact the instructor to discuss any accommodations prior to their implementation. The processes for requesting an accommodation are outlined below:

**Pregnancy obligation:** write to the instructor with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For more details see the Student Guide at Equity services: [carleton.ca/equity/wp-content/uploads/Student-Guide-to-Academic-Accommodation.pdf](http://carleton.ca/equity/wp-content/uploads/Student-Guide-to-Academic-Accommodation.pdf)

**Medical and Missed Exam Accommodation:** Carleton University has suspended the need for a doctor's note or medical certificate until further notice when requesting academic accommodation related to COVID-19. Students are encouraged to connect directly with their instructors to discuss required accommodations arising from the COVID-19 situation. In the case of a less serious illness (cold, flu), please inform the instructor by e-mail immediately, and we will schedule a deferred exam or reschedule the assignment as soon as possible. In the case of a serious illness, see <http://carleton.ca/registrar/special-requests/deferral/> for the rules concerning deferral of an exam or assignment, and contact the instructor soon as possible.

**Religious obligation:** write to the instructor with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For more details see the Student Guide at Equity Services: [carleton.ca/equity/wp-content/uploads/Student-Guide-to-Academic-Accommodation.pdf](http://carleton.ca/equity/wp-content/uploads/Student-Guide-to-Academic-Accommodation.pdf)

**Academic Accommodations for Students with Disabilities:** If you have a documented disability requiring academic accommodations in this course, please contact the Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (PMC) at 613-520-6608 or [pmc@carleton.ca](mailto:pmc@carleton.ca) for a formal evaluation or contact your PMC coordinator to send your instructor your Letter of Accommodation at the

beginning of the term. You must also contact the PMC no later than two weeks before the first in-class scheduled test or exam requiring accommodation (if applicable). After requesting accommodation from PMC, meet with your instructor as soon as possible to ensure accommodation arrangements are made.

**Survivors of Sexual Violence:** As a community, Carleton University is committed to maintaining a positive learning, working and living environment where sexual violence will not be tolerated, and its survivors are supported through academic accommodations as per Carleton's Sexual Violence Policy. For more information about the services available at the university and to obtain information about sexual violence and/or support, visit: [carleton.ca/sexual-violence-support](https://carleton.ca/sexual-violence-support)

**Accommodation for Student Activities:** Carleton University recognizes the substantial benefits, both to the individual student and for the university, that result from a student participating in activities beyond the classroom experience. Reasonable accommodation must be provided to students who compete or perform at the national or international level. Please contact your instructor with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist.

<https://carleton.ca/senate/wp-content/uploads/Accommodation-for-Student-Activities-1.pdf>

#### **Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FIPPA)**

In accordance with the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FIPPA), all personal and academic information is considered confidential and will not be disclosed to a third party without the authorization of the person to whom the information pertains. Carleton University's FIPPA policy requires that information requests concerning academic or administrative issues will only be answered if the request originates from the student's University provided email account (cmail) or in person upon presentation of their Carleton Campus Card. Requests via phone or originating from other emails accounts, will not be answered.

#### **Carleton's Covid-19 Policy**

It is important to remember that COVID is still present in Ottawa. The situation can change at any time and the risks of new variants and outbreaks are very real. There are a number of actions you can take to lower your risk and the risk you pose to those around you including being vaccinated, wearing a mask, staying home when you're sick, washing your hands and maintaining proper respiratory and cough etiquette.

Feeling sick? Remaining vigilant and not attending work or school when sick or with symptoms is critically important. If you feel ill or exhibit COVID-19 symptoms do not come to class or campus. If you feel ill or exhibit symptoms while on campus or in class, please leave campus immediately. In all situations, you must follow Carleton's symptom reporting protocols.

Masks: Carleton has paused the COVID-19 Mask Policy, but continues to strongly recommend masking when indoors, particularly if physical distancing cannot be maintained. It may become necessary to quickly reinstate the mask requirement if pandemic circumstances were to change.

Vaccines: Further, while proof of vaccination is no longer required as of May 1 to attend campus or in-person activity, it may become necessary for the University to bring back proof of vaccination requirements on short notice if the situation and public health advice changes. Students are strongly encouraged to get a full course of vaccination, including booster doses as soon as they are eligible, and submit their booster dose information in cuScreen as soon as possible. Please note that Carleton cannot guarantee that it will be able to offer virtual or hybrid learning options for those who are unable to attend the campus.

All members of the Carleton community are required to follow requirements and guidelines regarding health and safety which may change from time to time. For the most recent information about Carleton's COVID-19 response and health and safety requirements please see the University's COVID-19 website and review the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs). Should you have additional questions after reviewing, please contact [covidinfo@carleton.ca](mailto:covidinfo@carleton.ca).

### **Course Copyright**

My lectures and course materials (including all PowerPoint presentations, outlines, and similar materials) are protected by copyright. I am the exclusive owner of copyright and intellectual property of all course materials. You may take notes and make copies of course materials for your own educational use. You may not allow others to reproduce or distribute lecture notes and course materials publicly for commercial purposes without my express written consent.