

## Syllabus EARTH 3113A – Fall 2024

### Welcome to Geology of Human Origins

Have you ever looked at a monkey and tried to understand how you are related? Or how you are related to a squirrel? Are you curious about fossils? Do you want to know why only humans have chins? Would you like to better understand how important evolutionary events have shaped our current biology as a species? This course examines the origins and evolution of our species from geological, biological and cultural perspectives and explores these questions and more! We will trace human ancestry from our primate roots through time and changing environments, and explore controversies, frauds, and misconceptions surrounding human evolution and evolutionary theory.

#### Lectures:

Mondays 18:05 - 20:55 (6:05pm 8:55 pm) Tory Building Room 202 (In person only)

First Lecture: Monday September 9<sup>th</sup>



#### 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 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 and describe 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.

### Teaching Team

**Course Instructor:** Genevieve Ferguson, Ph.D.

Email: [genevieveferguson@cunet.carleton.ca](mailto:genevieveferguson@cunet.carleton.ca) / [genevieve.ferguson@carleton.ca](mailto:genevieve.ferguson@carleton.ca)

Office hours: Virtual and/or by appointment (NB 316A)

**Your TA:** TBA – will be posted on Brightspace when available



Email correspondence regarding the course must originate from a Carleton email address and should have the course code in the subject line.

## Course Materials

### Mandatory Textbooks:

Human Evolution: A Very Short Introduction, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition, Bernard Wood, 2019 Oxford University Press

Understanding Human Evolution, Ian Tattersall, 2022 Cambridge University Press.

Both are available from the Carleton Bookstore or on [Amazon](#) or [Indigo-Chapters](#) as paperback, e-book, or audio book

### Brightspace Page:

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!

## Land Acknowledgment

Carleton University acknowledges the location of its campus on the traditional, unceded territories of the Algonquin nation. In doing so, Carleton acknowledges it has a responsibility to the Algonquin people and a responsibility to adhere to Algonquin cultural protocols.

## Course Assessment

Each week 1-2 major topics will be covered. Lecture slides and assigned reading will be posted on Brightspace before each tutorial. Students are expected to attend the weekly in-person tutorials to discuss key concepts from lectures and readings, interact with fossil replicas, and explore the main evolutionary theories.



Component	Description	Value
Quizzes	5 quizzes spaced throughout the semester that will cover topics from the previous 1-2 lecture periods and readings. Quizzes will be available on Brightspace and are worth 7% each. There will be 1 optional bonus quiz at the end of term to <b>replace</b> the lowest quiz mark.	35%
Written Assignments	There will be 3 written assignments throughout the semester that will cover a topic in more detail than what we examined during lecture. These assignments will consist of short-answers and longer written answers. Each assignment is worth between 10-15%. Available and handed in through Brightspace.	40%
UnEssay Project	The UnEssay project is an opportunity for students to explore a single topic of their choice in greater detail and share it at the end of the semester. The projects can take on several media forms including (but not limited to) essays, PPT presentations, artwork, games, needlework, websites, songs, etc. Several aspects of the project <b>must be completed</b> throughout the semester for full grades.	25%

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.

### Late Policy

The breakdown of late penalties for each assessment component is outlined below. While overall the late policy is generous, it is up to each student to ensure that they are communicating with the course instructor concerning difficulties meeting deadlines or attending lectures (life happens). For short term accommodations (5 days or less) written requests must be sent to the instructor via email. If accommodations are required for longer than the 5-day period, please email the instructor to discuss how/whether accommodation needs can be met for this course.

Component	Description
Quizzes	Each quiz will become available to students (open) on a set date (Fridays) and will close 2 weeks after (also Fridays). Quizzes will not have a set time duration once opened and are considered open book. Unless you have discussed it with the instructor by <b>1 day after closing</b> you will not be allowed to make-up quizzes.
Written Assignments	Each written assignment has a due date for the “week of”. It is understood that students will hand in assignments during that week. You will be notified when they will be marked, and no late marks will accrue before this point. If assignments are handed in after marking has occurred (and they have been returned to students) an automatic late penalty of <b>-50%</b> will apply.
UnEssay Project	Many components of the UnEssay project have a due date for the “week of”. It is understood that students will hand in components during the specified week. If components are handed in after marking has occurred (and they have been returned to students) an automatic late penalty of <b>-5%</b> will apply per occurrence. The Final UnEssay project is due the last day of class (Friday December 7 <sup>th</sup> ) and late projects <b>will not be accepted</b> unless already discussed with instructor.

## Your Rights, Responsibilities, and Accommodations

### 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.

### Use of Generative AI

It is expected that all final work submitted by students has been completed and produced by the individual themselves. Minimal use of AI is deemed acceptable for this course. Students may use AI tools in the following ways:

Basic word processing and formatting functions:

- Grammar and spell checking (e.g., Grammarly, Microsoft Word Editor)
- Basic formatting and design suggestions (e.g., Microsoft Word's formatting tools, PowerPoint Design editor)

Content Generation with Attribution:

- Brainstorming ideas (e.g., generating essay topics with ChatGPT, using Microsoft Word's Smart Lookup to find inspiration and related topics) – AI use MUST BE IDENTIFIED
- Creating outlines (e.g., using AI to structure an essay or presentation flow, using Microsoft Word's Outline View with AI suggestions) - AI use MUST BE IDENTIFIED

### **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://carleton.ca/curriculum/regulations-reorganization/>.

### **Academic Accommodations**

Carleton is committed to providing academic accessibility for all individuals and you may need special arrangements to meet your academic obligations during the term. Every effort will be made to provide accommodations; however the student will be required to contact the instructor to discuss any accommodations prior to their implementation. The accommodation request processes, including information about the Academic Consideration Policy for Students in Medical and Other Extenuating Circumstances, are outlined on the Academic Accommodations website: [students.carleton.ca/course-outline](https://students.carleton.ca/course-outline)

### **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.

**For a complete list of Carleton University's Policies please visit:** <https://carleton.ca/secretariat/policies/>

### **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 (including websites) to reproduce or distribute lecture notes and course materials publicly without my express written consent.

## Course Outline (Subject to slight change)

Week Of	Topics to Cover	Due Dates
8/09/2024	Introduction to EARTH3113 UnEssay Project Topic 1. Development of Evolutionary Theory	
15/09/2024	Topic 2. Mechanisms of Evolution Topic 3. Fossilization and Geological Time Scientific Nomenclature	Quiz 1 Opens (Friday)
22/09/2024	Topic 4. What are Primates Topic 5. Reconstructing Behaviour and Paleoecology Referencing/Plagiarism/Using AI	Written Assignment 1
29/09/2024	Topic 6. Early Ape Evolution Topic 7. Trends in Hominin Evolution Reading Scientific Papers	Quiz 2 Opens/1 Closes (Friday) UnEssay Topic Due
06/10/2024	Topic 8. Origins of Hominins Topic 9. Bipedalism Science and Society	
13/10/2024	<b>Holiday – University Closed – NO TUTORIAL</b>	Quiz 3 Opens/2 Closes (Friday) Written Assignment 2
20/10/2024	<b>Fall Break—NO TUTORIAL</b>	
27/10/2024	Topic 10. The Australopithecines	UnEssay Annotated Bibliography Due
03/11/2024	Topic 11. Origins of the Genus Homo Topic 12. Homo Erectus/Ergaster	Quiz 4 Opens/3 Closes (Friday)
10/11/2024	Topic 13. Pre-Modern Homo Topic 14. Homo Neanderthalensis	Written Assignment 3
17/11/2024	Topic 15. Modern Humans	Quiz 5 Opens/4 Closes (Friday) UnEssay Draft/Outline Due
24/11/2024	Topic 16. Cultural Evolution Topic 17. What Makes Us Human	BONUS Quiz Opens (Friday)
01/12/2024	UnEssay Presentations ( <b>last class is on the Friday-06/12/2024</b> )	UnEssay Due Quiz 5 Closes / Bonus Quiz Closes (Friday)

