

**ANTH 2: Human Origins**  
**MWF 1:00-1:50PM, Zoom Lectures (link on Canvas)**  
**Professor: Linnea Wilder, PhD**  
**Email: [llwilder@ucsd.edu](mailto:llwilder@ucsd.edu)**  
**Office Hours: By appointment**

**Course overview:** Human Origins is an introduction to human evolution course, from the perspective of physical anthropology, including evolutionary theory and the evolution of the primates, hominids, and modern humans. This is a *science* course that will cover topics such as the scientific method, genetics, evolutionary theory, and evolution within the primate order and variation within modern humans.

**Textbook:** R. Boyd & J.B. Silk. *How Humans Evolved, 9th edition*. W. W. Norton & Company.

**Lectures and Discussion:** Lectures and discussion sections will be held over Zoom unless otherwise specified. These meetings will be recorded and made available on Canvas for students who are unable to attend the live sessions. Accommodations will be made for any student who cannot attend class due to illness.

**Grades:**

1. **Lab Assignments.** Science is a hands-on endeavor, and as such, there will be a lab component, including 8 assignments to complete and turn in for credit. This will be worth 30% of your grade (i.e., 3.75% per assignment). Late work will not be accepted unless accompanied by a plausible excuse with appropriate documentation.

2. **Exams.** There will be two midterms and a final exam for this course. Each midterm be worth 20% of your grade. The final will be comprehensive, but emphasize the latter half of the course, worth 30% of your grade. The exams will be largely short-answer questions. Exams will be given on Canvas over Zoom and you must be in the Zoom meeting to take the exam.

Accommodations for students with disabilities must be requested and verified by UCSD's Disability Support Services Office for Students with Disabilities (OSD).

3. **Extra credit.** There are two options for extra credit in this course.

1. Watch one episode of the Inner Fish series (Your Inner Fish, Your Inner Reptile, or Your Inner Monkey). Write a 2-page summary and critique of it (you can focus on one specific part), including at least one scholarly source not in the syllabus to support your argument.

2. Find a current article from the popular media that is relevant to the course topic and write a 2-page summary and critique of the article, including at least one scholarly source not in the syllabus to support your argument. Submit both the original news article and your summary.

Extra-credit will be graded on a 3-point scale (0% bump=incomplete; 0.5%=partially completed; 1%=fully completed). You can submit as many extra-credit assignments as you want, but the combined total final grade bump can't exceed 3%. Extra-credit assignments are due by Monday of Week 10.

**Grade Breakdown:**

A+	>100%	A	94-99.9%	A-	90-93.9%	B+	87-89.9%
B	84-86.9%	B-	80-83.9%	C+	77-79.9%	C	74-76.9%
C-	70-73.9%	D+	67-69.9%	D	60-66.9%	F	<60%

**Students with Disabilities:** Students with documented disabilities will be accommodated to the best of the University's abilities. For more information see <https://students.ucsd.edu/well-being/disability-services/>

**Academic Integrity:** The office of Academic Integrity provides guidance for students and faculty (<https://students.ucsd.edu/academics/academic-integrity/index.html>). To avoid lengthy sanctions with the office of Academic Integrity, please just hand in your own work from lab/discussion sections and use no aids during examinations (i.e. notes, your neighbor's exam, your cell phone, etc.).

### Tentative LECTURE Schedule

Week	Dates	Topic	Textbook Chapters
0	Sep 29	Course Introduction	
1	Oct 2	Science and Evolution	Soluri & Agarwal (online)
	Oct 4	Natural Selection	Chapter 1
	Oct 6	Genetics and Inheritance	Chapter 2
2	Oct 9	Genetics and Inheritance continued	Chapter 2
	Oct 11	Modern Synthesis	Chapter 3
	Oct 13	Speciation and Phylogeny	Chapter 4
3	Oct 16	Introduction to Primates	Ch 5 pgs. 108-118
	Oct 18	Primate Diversity 1	Ch 5 pgs. 118-141
	Oct 20	Midterm Review	
4	<b>Oct 23</b>	<b>Midterm 1</b>	
	Oct 25	Primate Diversity 2	Ch 5 pgs. 118-141
	Oct 27	Primate Diversity 3	Ch 5 pgs. 118-141
5	Oct 30	Primate Ecology	
	Nov 1	Primate Social Behavior	Chapter 7
	Nov 3	Primate Reproductive Strategies 1	Chapter 6
6	Nov 6	Primate Reproductive Strategies 2	Chapter 6
	Nov 8	Primate Development	Chapter 8
	Nov 10	No class, Veterans Day Holiday	
7	Nov 13	Midterm Review	
	<b>Nov 15</b>	<b>Midterm 2</b>	
	Nov 17	Primate Origins 1	Chapter 9
8	Nov 20	Bipedalism and Hominin Origins	Ch 10 pgs. 232-244
	Nov 22	Australopithecines and Paranthropines	Ch 10 pgs. 244-259
	Nov 24	No class, Thanksgiving Holiday	
9	Nov 27	Early Homo genus	Chapter 11
	Nov 29	Late Homo genus	Chapter 12
	Dec 1	Origin and Spread of <i>Homo sapiens</i>	Chapter 13
10	Dec 4	Modern Human Variation	Chapter 13
	Dec 6	Human Behavior and Continuing Evolution	Chapters 15, 16
	Dec 8	Final Review	
<b>Final</b>	<b>Monday December 11<sup>th</sup> 11:30am-2:29pm</b>		

### Tentative LAB Schedule

Week	Topic
1	Introduction, Anthropology and Science
2	Genetics and Forces of Evolution
3	Classification
4	Primate Overview
5/6	Primate Behavior
7	Bipedalism
8/9	Hominin classification
10	Modern Human Variation