EMERGING HUMANITY (Anthropology 151A-1) Fall 2016 - DRAFT
MWF 12:30-1:20 in Saunders 244

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COURSE TOPICS: This course explores the emergence of humanity from an anthropological perspective. Beginning with the earliest hominins millions of years ago, our ancestors have responded biologically, socially, and culturally to the constraints of natural and social environments to make us what we are today. Students will be introduced to various theories and explanations of human emergence on earth through the methods and ideas of anthropology, with a focus on archaeology and related scientific disciplines. They will go on to examine transitions from foraging lifestyles to plant and animal domestication and the subsequent rise of sedentary, large-scale state societies commonly called ‘civilizations’. Through time, humans have increasingly impacted the natural environment out of which they emerged to the point of threatening the very elements that sustain them. This is the story of emerging humanity that has nearly come around full-circle, to the point that humans now consider their own origins through scientific methods. It is the complex story of ‘us’.

FORMAT: As participants in a smaller honors class, students will take turns speaking (in round-table fashion) in discussions of reading assignments for at least one class per week, with the instructor as discussant. Lecture slides, video clips, and documentary videos will round out classes on other days. Lecture slides will be available online after they have been presented in class. Students will also be visiting the Honolulu Zoo to look at primates and will participate in three in-class labs on primates, including hominin fossils, as well as stone tools. These activities will give students a direct connection with the ideas and concepts of the course. Students will read one comprehensive textbook, possibly supplemented with relevant articles provided by the instructor. Attendance will be taken as part of participation and responses to videos will be in the form of online quizzes or hand written essays. There will be three exams, featuring a mixture of objective-style questions, identification of terms, maps, and photos, and short essays.

REQUIREMENTS: Familiarity with the syllabus (including the schedule); regular attendance and participation; reading one comprehensive textbook and occasional supplemental articles; video responses/online quizzes; presentation in class; three exams.

TEXTS: People of the Earth by Fagan (14th Ed.); short supplementary articles on recent developments in related topics may be assigned.

OUTCOMES: For a grade of “C” or better, students must be able to fulfill the following learning outcomes for this course.

1) (Critical Thinking) Demonstrate an understanding of the concepts presented by participation in class discussions, taking online quizzes, and taking three exams.
2) (Effective Written Communication) Write short essays on exams, reports on fieldtrips, and hand-written note-taking in the classroom.

3) (Effective/Active Reading Skills) Demonstrate an ability to effectively read and understand the content of the course materials as measured in discussions, written responses, and exams.

**ASSESSMENT:**
- In-class participation (including attendance) 10%
- Online video quizzes 10%
- Lab worksheets (5% each) 15%
- Three exams 65%
- Zoo Fieldtrip report (extra credit) 5%

**GRADES:** 96 & above (A+) 92-95 (A) 89-91 (A-) 86-88 (B+) 82-85 (B) 79-81(B-) 76-78 (C+) 72-75 (C) 69-71 (C-) 66-68 (D+) 62-65 (D) 60-61 (D-) 59 & below (F)

**SCHEDULE OF TOPICS AND ASSIGNMENTS**

**WEEK** | **TOPICS** | **READING ASSIGNMENTS**
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**BIOLOGICAL ORIGINS AND THE PEOPLING OF THE WORLD (Chapts. 1-6)**

**ONE:** August
- How to succeed in this course; the text; Laulima; the syllabus
- What is Anthropology, Archaeology, and World Prehistory?
- **First Quiz on Laulima on the Syllabus (to be posted on Friday afternoon)**

**TWO:**
- Primates, including hominids/hominins
- Early hominins, *Australopithecines & Homo habilis*
- **Paleoanthropology Lab#1,**

**THREE:**
- The Great Ice Age and human origins
- *Homo ergaster, erectus, & heidelbergensis*
- **Paleoanthropology Lab#2,**

**FOUR:**
- *Homo sapiens; Competing theories and their implications*
- Africans, Australians, and *Homo floresiensis*
- **Paleoanthropology Lab#3,**

**FIVE:**
- Early people in Europe and Upper Paleolithic Art
- Eurasia, Siberia, and the ‘stepping-off’ point for the first Americans
SIX:
- Who were the first Americans and when did they arrive? Chapt 6
- Three possible scenarios and routes
- Review of first six chapters before exam (Oct. 5)

THE STUDY OF EARLY FARMING & RELATED LIFESTYLES (Chaps 7–12)

SEVEN: Chapt 7
- The Holocene and Mesolithic lifestyles
- Foraging intensification and social complexity in Europe & Southwest Asia

EIGHT: Chapt 8
- Cultivation and the domestication of plants and animals
- Theories about the origins of farming

NINE: Chapt 9
- Early food production in Southwest Asia
- First Farmers in Southwest Asia

TEN: Chapt 10
- Early European Farmers
- The spread of farming in Europe; the plow; megaliths

ELEVEN: Chapt 11
- Farming along the Nile, the Sahara, & Sub-Saharan regions
- Review of five chapters before exam (7-11)

THE PACIFIC, THE AMERICAS, & THE RISE OF STATES
(Chapters 12 – 15 + Chapters of your choice)

TWELVE: Chapt 12
- Early farming in East and Southeast Asia
- Settling the Pacific Islands

THIRTEEN: Chapt 13
- The story of Maize in the Americas
- Early farming societies in North America

FOURTEEN: Chapt 14
- The emergence of state organized societies
- Six Classic Theories
FIFTEEN:  
- Early states in Southwest Asia  
- Begin presentations on additional early states

SIXTEEN:  
- presentations on additional early states

FINAL EXAM:  
You must take the final exam in order to pass the course.

PRACTICAL THINGS

No computers, phones, or any electronic devices are allowed during Lectures.

The course website is on Laulima. If this course does not appear as one of your listed courses as a tab or under the ‘More Sites’ tab, please contact your professor immediately to manually enter your name. Click on ‘Assignments, Tests, & Surveys’ to take quizzes posted on Fridays after 12:30. Do not access Laulima through MyUH when taking quizzes. Access the site by searching for it or using the URL to go to it directly: https://laulima.hawaii.edu/portal Lecture slides, syllabus, and supplementary materials will be posted under the ‘Resources’ link of the website.

Exams will ONLY be given at the designated times. Check your schedule on the first day of class to be sure that you do not have a conflict. Exceptions will not be made for conflicting travel or other plans. Drop the course if you have already made conflicting plans that cannot be changed. There will be no incompletes given.

Zoo Fieldtrip Option: A time will be arranged for a group trip to the Honolulu Zoo after the chapter on primates has been covered in class (student or resident discount rate should be $8). Save your receipt as proof that you actually went to the zoo; this is required for credit. The group will visit the primate exhibits. Make your own observations and take ‘field’ notes on three different primate species, comparing differences among the three species. A file on the course website (Laulima) will give some guidelines as to what to look for and what form the completed exercise will take (it may be completing a form and/or writing an essay). This exercise will be given up to 5 points only if you follow the instructions, your official receipt is attached, and the exercise is turned in on time.