

**UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI**  
**INSTITUTE OF ANTHROPOLOGY, GENDER & AFRICAN STUDIES**

**ACADEMIC YEAR** : 2014/2015  
**SEMESTER** : FIRST  
**DEGREE** : BA IN ANTHROPOLOGY  
**CLASS** : THIRD YEAR (2013 GROUP )  
**COURSE** : NAF 305: PALAEOANTHROPOLGY  
**LECTURER** : SIMIYU WANDIBBA

**OBJECTIVES**

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

- a) Explain origins of the human species and its biological and cultural evolution.
- b) Demonstrate their understanding of the central role of the African continent in the reconstruction of the biocultural developments of humankind.
- c) Explain the effects of the neolithic and urban revolutions.

**MODE OF DELIVERY**

Lectures, class discussions and student assignments.

**COURSE OUTLINE**

- 1) **Background to the Study of Palaeoanthropology:** Definition and scope of palaeoanthropology; background for studying the past.
- 2) **The Earliest Human Ancestors:** Background information; primitive hominins; archaic hominins; early hominin adaptations.
- 3) **Evolution of the Genus Homo:** Early *Homo*; *Homo erectus*; cultural adaptations; archaic *Homo sapiens*.
- 4) **Modern Humans:** Origins; cultural adaptations.
- 5) **The Neolithic and Urban Revolutions:** The Neolithic revolution and the beginning of settled life; the urban revolution; biological impact of agriculture.
- 6) **Recent changes.**

**BASIC TEXTS**

Boyd, R. and Silk, H.B. 2003. *How humans evolved*, 3<sup>rd</sup> ed. New York and London: W.W. Norton and Company.

Haviland, William A., A. Walrath, Harold E. Prins and Bunny McBride 2005. *Evolution and prehistory: The human challenge*. Belmont, CA: Wadsworth.

Relethford, J.H. 2003. *The human species*, 2<sup>nd</sup>ed. New York: McGraw-Hill.

Scarre, Chris (Ed.) 2009. *The human past*, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. London: Thames and Hudson.

Stein, Philip L. and Rowe, Bruce M. 2000. *Physical Anthropology*, 7<sup>th</sup>ed. New York: McGraw–Hill.

## **JOURNALS**

*American Journal of Physical Anthropology*

*American Scientist*

*Current Anthropology*

*Nature*

*Scientific America*

## **OTHER SOURCES**

The Internet

Items given during lectures

## **EVALUATION**

CATs	30%
Final Examination	70%
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TOTAL	100%

## **GRADING**

MARK (%)	GRADE
70 - 100	A
60 - 69	B
50 - 59	C
40 - 49	D
0 – 39	E (Fail)