

Anthropology 102
Biological Anthropology and Archaeology
 Section 001: Monday, Wednesday, and Friday 10:00–10:50am

Fall 2009
 Instructor: Dr. Elizabeth Ragan
 Room: DH 127

Course Objective:

This course will take you through humanity's past, showing how we became the people we are today—culturally as well as biologically. The past is often contentious, with people arguing passionately for their different versions of the story; by introducing you to the techniques and theoretical frameworks anthropologists use to uncover and understand our ancestors, you will become better equipped to decide for yourself how prehistory actually unfolded. That is far from irrelevant, since a knowledge of how humans adapted to the many environmental and climatic changes in the past—learning to thrive, rather than merely survive—can help us adapt to the ever-more-rapidly changing present.

Date	Lecture Topic	Readings
8/31	Introduction: puzzling out the past	
9/2–4	Why anthropology?: the science in social science	R&M Ch. 1–2
9/9	Biology in the past tense: a few bits of bone	
9/11–16	What is evolution, really?	R&M Ch. 3; T&S Chs. 1–2
9/18	Climbing the tree: a little paleontology	R&M Ch. 4
	First essay due	
9/21–28	Monkeying around: what's a primate?	R&M Chs. 5, 14
9/30	First exam	
10/2–5	On our own two feet: the australopithecines	R&M Ch. 6; T&S Chs. 3–4
10/7	Standing tall: genus <i>Homo</i>	R&M Ch. 7; T&S Chs. 5–6
10/9–12	The Neanderthal Problem	T&S Chs. 7–8; R&M Ch. 15
10/14–16	Digging the past: archaeological methods	R&M Ch. 8
10/19–21	The Old Stone Age: Paleolithic lifeways	R&M Ch. 9; F Chs. 1–2
10/23–28	Hunting up a meal or down on the farm?	R&M Ch. 10; F Chs. 4–6
10/30	Second exam	
11/2	Society gets complex: the Urban Revolution	R&M Ch. 11
11/4–9	The first civilizations: Mesopotamia and the Nile	F Chs. 7–8
11/6	Second essay due	
11/11–16	Looking east: the Indus and China	
11/18–20	What about Europe and Africa?	F Chs. 9–10
11/23	Coming to America	R&M Ch. 12; F Ch. 3
	THANKSGIVING	
11/30–12/2	Pueblos and mounds: North American complexity	F. Ch. 11
12/2	Third essay due	
12/4–7	Different kinds of pyramids: Mesoamerica	R&M Ch. 13; F. Ch. 12
12/9	High and dry: Andean civilizations	
12/11	What now?	R&M 16; F Epilogue

Final Exam: Tuesday, December 15th, 8:00–10:30am

This syllabus is subject to change.

Instructor's Office Hours: Room HH 380; Monday–Friday 11am–noon; or by appointment; phone 410-548-4502; e-mail earagan@salisbury.edu.

Texts

Rice, Patricia C.; and Norah Moloney (R&M)

2008 *Biological Anthropology and Prehistory: Exploring Our Human Ancestry*, 2nd ed. New York: Pearson/Allyn and Bacon.

Tattersall, Ian; and Jeffrey Schwartz (T&S)

2001 *Extinct Humans*. Boulder, CO: Westview Press.

Fagan, Brian (F)

2004 *The Long summer: How Climate Changed Civilization*. New York: Basic Books.

QUIZZES BASED ON THE READINGS WILL PROVIDE 20% OF YOUR GRADE.

Attendance

It is **VERY** important that you attend class. Lectures will not be a regurgitation of the texts, and missing the additional material will make it difficult for you to do well on exams. Those of you who have unusual circumstances affecting your attendance—serious illness, personal crises, etc.—should contact me as soon as possible, so consideration can be given if appropriate. Unless there are strongly extenuating circumstances, **if you miss 9 classes, you will receive an automatic F** for the course.

Electronics in the classroom

Please feel free to bring laptops or recording devices to lectures, but turn off your cellphone or set it to vibrate—and if you *must* text during class, don't let me see it. Electronic devices of any kind, unless specifically authorized by me beforehand, are **not** welcome during exams. **If I see you touch or look at an unauthorized electronic device—including a cellphone—during an exam, your exam will be confiscated and you will receive a grade of zero.**

Grading

Grading will follow SU policies for the 2009–2010 academic year. The final grade for the course will be based as follows:

Reading quizzes	20% of final grade
Essays (3, 10% each)	30% of final grade
First exam	10% of final grade
Second exam	15% of final grade
Final exam	25% of final grade

IF YOU DO NOT TURN IN AN ASSIGNMENT, YOU WILL RECEIVE AN F FOR THE COURSE.

Grade scale: A = 100–90; B = 89–80; C = 79–70; D = 69–60; F = 59–0

Late Assignments and Make-up policy

Life is full of deadlines; it is important to learn how to meet them. If circumstances will prevent you from turning in an assignment on time, you should discuss your situation with me **before** the due date. Assignments will lose a **letter grade (10%) for each day** (including weekends) they are late. **Assignments more than five days late will not be accepted and YOU WILL RECEIVE AN F FOR THE COURSE.**

If you are unable to take an exam on the scheduled day, you may make it up. Makeups will be given at **9:00am on the following Saturdays:** October 3rd, November 7th, and December 5th; or **during the regularly scheduled final exam session** (which means you will have to take two exams in two and a

half hours). These are the only options; there will be **NO EXCEPTIONS**. You should expect makeup exams to be more difficult than regularly scheduled exams, since you have had extra time to study the material.

Academic Integrity

The best learning environment is one based on mutual respect and trust. However, the desire to achieve a good grade without doing the necessary work or tight schedules tempt some students to cheat on exams or to represent the work of others as their own. **Plagiarism and cheating** are acts of academic dishonesty, and will be prosecuted as such. Instances of academic dishonesty include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Plagiarism: presenting as one's own work, whether literally or in paraphrase, the work of another author.
- Cheating on exams, tests, and quizzes; the wrongful giving or accepting of unauthorized exam material; and the use of illegitimate sources of information.
- Turning in the same paper for multiple courses.
- Unsanctioned collaboration with other individuals in the completion of course assignments.

There are **no** mitigating circumstances to justify academic dishonesty. If you are unclear about what exactly might be considered dishonest, please ask me before turning in your work: **ignorance is not an acceptable excuse**. All violations of the university's Policy on Student Academic Integrity will be reported to the Dean of Students. Those committing minor, "careless" ("running a red light") plagiarism will be given a chance to rewrite their paper and penalized 25% on the grade, **once**; substantial, flagrant, or repeated violations will earn a grade of zero for the assignment and possibly an F for the course. Students who have two or more reported academic integrity violations are automatically reviewed for possible suspension or expulsion from the university.

Writing Across the Curriculum

In conformity with Salisbury University policy aimed at developing writing skills in all courses, students will be required to write numerous short essays. These essays will be graded on the quality of writing (proper use of grammar, syntax, spelling, etc.) as well as on a grasp of the material presented in lectures and readings. These should provide a decent evaluation of each student's writing ability.

Reading quizzes

Every week, there will be a ten-question multiple choice/true-false quiz based on the assigned readings. You must take the quiz on the course's MyClasses site, using the lockdown browser. (This browser is pre-loaded in the computer labs, or you can follow the link provided with the quiz to download it onto your own computer.) Feel free to refer to your texts during the quizzes, but since they are timed (10 minutes), you should have already read the assigned material. You may take the quiz at any time between Monday at 8am and Friday at 3pm; grades will be calculated once the quiz has closed, at which point you can check to see how you did. So you can get a feel for how this works, for the first two quizzes **only**, you will be able to see your grade as soon as you have finished and retake the quiz, if you choose, to improve your grade.

Week 1 (8/31–9/4): R&M Chs. 1–2

Week 2 (9/7–11): R&M Ch. 3; T&S Chs. 1–2

Week 3 (9/14–18): R&M Ch. 4

Week 4 (9/21–25): R&M Chs. 5, 14

Week 5 (9/28–10/2): R&M Ch. 6; T&S Chs. 3–4

Week 6 (10/5–9): R&M Ch. 7; T&S Chs. 5–6

Week 7 (10/12–16): R&M Ch. 8, 15; T&S Chs. 7–8

Week 8 (10/19–23): R&M Ch. 9; F Chs. 1–2

Week 9 (10/26–30): R&M Ch. 10; F Chs. 4–6

Week 10 (11/2–6): R&M Ch. 11; F Ch. 7

Week 11 (11/9–11): F Ch. 8

Week 12 (11/16–20): F Chs. 9–10

Week 13 (11/23–27): R&M Ch. 12; F Ch. 3

Week 14 (11/30–12/4): R&M Ch. 13; F Chs. 11–12

Week 15 (12/7–11): R&M Ch. 16; F Epilogue

The Controversial Past essays:

If only we had a time machine! Since we don't, we are probably doomed to argue about the best way to put the jigsaw puzzle pieces of the past together. To give you practice weighing the validity of competing claims, you will write **three short (4-page) essays**. Using appropriate sources (we will discuss how to find good scholarly sources in class; you may **NOT** use Rice and Moloney's textbook as a source), you will choose from the following topics:

- **due 9/18:** reaction to Gould's "Nonoverlapping Magisteria"
- **due 11/6:** Bonobos—does all the sex make them more like us?
OR Stone Age Tech—how good are stone tools, anyway?
OR The Neanderthal Problem—were Neanderthals among the ancestors of Europeans?
- **due 12/2:** Complexity—did people work harder from necessity, or to keep up with the Jones?
OR Peopling the Americas—was Clovis first?
OR Where are the Mammoths?—what killed off the megafauna?

You are expected to provide a **balanced** discussion: name/describe the major positions or hypotheses relevant to the topic; present evidence for and against each; and, finally, state and **justify** your own views on the subject. Which do you agree with and why? Are they all wrong? Do you have a better idea?

Handwritten papers will not be accepted. Page margins must be 1 inch; text double-spaced, in 12pt Times New Roman and printed in black. A 4-page paper must be four **full** pages long, or you will be penalized. Formatting that unnecessarily decreases the number of words on a page will also be penalized—you should have about 300 words per page.

Your papers **must be submitted to SafeAssign**, which can be found on the MyClasses site: there is a DRAFT option where you can check your paper for plagiarism without penalty, but you must submit it to the FINAL option for my review. Lateness and failure to submit to SafeAssign will be penalized as described in the section on Late Assignments above. For tips on how to write your paper and the penalties applied for common errors, please take a look at "Writing Anthropology Papers" on your MyClasses page.