Anthropology 1300  
Human Evolution  
Distance Learning, Winter Session  
3 week session, 3 credits

Instructor: Meredith Small  
Email: ms32@cornell.edu

Course Description: The evolution of humankind is explored through the fossil record, studies of the biological differences among current human populations, and a comparison with our closest relatives, the primates. This course investigates the roots of human biology and behavior with an evolutionary framework.

Most Important Requirement: You must have computer access at all times for this course. If you are traveling, or in a place with no wifi, make sure you have a plan B for looking at the material and sending in prelims and discussion questions. I do no accept late prelims or discussion questions.

Requirements:

1) There are three exams for this course. Each is worth 30 points (90 points total) The prelims will be available to you online at the end of each week (Thursday) and are due by noon on Sunday.

2) You will also be required to answer ONE discussion question for each third of the course. The discussion questions are based on readings (which are online) for each week. There is a list of discussion questions for each week and these are online as well. You choose ONE from the list. The answers should not exceed one double spaced page, and each is worth 10 points (30 points total, so an overall class point total of $90 + 30 = 120$ points). Each question is due the date of the corresponding prelim, that is, on Sunday.

Grades for the weekly Discussion Questions will be based on the following: 1. A clear and concise statement of the idea, argument, thesis or point to which the discussion question refers (4 points). 2. Support your answer with evidence from the specific reading (4 points) 3. Writing style including organization, grammar, and clear style (2). Please note that in this type of academic or scientific writing your opinion is not appropriate. You are answering a specific question about the work of others.
Lectures: Each week you will be required to view lectures in which you will view PPT slides and listen to my voice explaining various concepts. The lectures are on Blackboard by week and I unlock each week on Sunday.

Readings: All required readings are on Blackboard. They are both chapters in books and articles, and are listed by week.

External Links: You are also required to view external links each week. They are short films, or websites, that enhance the lectures.

Lecture Schedule:

Week 1:

What is a human and how has our species evolved. What is unique or not unique about humans? What is the place of humans among other primates?

Our Bodies, Ourselves. A look at the human skeleton, our genetic make-up, and how we adapted to various climates across the globe.

**PRELIM #1 AND DISCUSSION QUESTION DUE AT END OF WEEK ON SUNDAY**

Week 2:

Our fossil heritage including ancient primates, the Australopithecines, and the beginning of our genus. What makes humans human? Big brains and walking on two feet. The beginning of culture. We populate the world

**PRELIM #2, DISCUSSION QUESTION DUE AT END OF WEEK ON SUNDAY**

Week 3:

The anthropology of nonhuman primates and why monkeys and apes matter when thinking about human behavior. Mating and socializing among primates. What do these animal have to tell us about being human?

**PRELIM #3, DISCUSSION QUESTION DUE AT END OF WEEK ON SUNDAY**