

**ANTH 467: Paleoecology and Human Evolution**  
**Spring Term 2006**  
**University of Oregon**

Instructor: Dr. Stephen Frost  
Office: Condon 353  
Office Hours: R 12:00-2:00 p.m.  
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Lecture Room: 260 Condon  
Lecture Time: TR 2:00-3:50 p.m.

**Goals:** The goals of this course are to gain a familiarity with the methods of reconstructing past environments and what extinct organisms were like in their basic biology, as well as to become familiar with several of the major hypotheses, and some of the evidence for and against those hypotheses, about how past ecosystems and the biology of human ancestors have shaped the course of human evolution.

**Description:** This course explores how ecological principles have influenced human evolution. It is divided into two basic parts. The first part covers background information as well as the basic methods of paleoecology, including approaches to geochronology, taphonomy, reconstruction past environments, and the paleobiology of extinct organisms. The second part of the course examines several specific paleoecological hypotheses about human evolution that have played a significant role in the field, either historically or currently.

While this course focuses on several aspects of , background in several subjects is expected, including basic human anatomy, the human fossil record, primate diversity, biological classification, evolutionary theory, stratigraphy, taphonomy, and geochronology.

**Requirements:** Evaluation will consist primarily of three short papers, on subjects which will be presented to you early in the course. Each of these essays is worth 20% of your grade. Additionally, there will be group projects, which involve a presentation to the class (10% of your grade) and a group paper (20%). Finally there will be a few quizzes which will count for the remaining 10% of your grade.

Appropriate accommodations will be provided for students with documented disabilities. If you have a documented disability and anticipate needing accommodations in this course, please make arrangements to meet with me soon. Please bring a notification letter from Disability Services outlining your approved accommodations.

**Schedule:** Following, is a tentative schedule of lecture topics. Readings for each lecture topic will be posted on the blackboard page. These readings are intended to provide background for the lectures. Material in the lectures is often different from that given in the assigned reading. **This schedule is very tentative, expect changes!**

April	4	Lecture 1: Introduction to Paleoecology
	6	Lecture 2: Ecology
	11	Lecture 3: Geochronology
	13	Lecture 4: Taphonomy
	18	Lecture 5: Paleoenvironment I
	20	Lecture 6: Paleoenvironment II
	25	Lecture 7: Paleoclimatic History
	27	Lecture 8: Paleobiology I
May	2	Lecture 9: Paleobiology II
	4	Lecture 10: Savannah hypothesis
	9	Lecture 11: Savannah hypothesis
	11	Lecture 12: Turnover pulse
	16	Lecture 13: Turnover pulse
	18	Lecture 14: Variability selection
	25	Lecture 16: Toba and modern human origins
	30	Lecture 17: Broad spectrum revolution
June	1	Lecture 18: Artic Habitats and the Americas
	6	Lecture 19: Island Biology
	8	Lecture 20: <b>Presentations, Projects Due</b>
	13	<b>Final Essays due.</b>