

DEPARTMENT of HISTORY – KEAN UNIVERSITY, syllabus

HIST4876 Human Evolution and Modern Society
SPRING 2009

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Rm W205-K

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Office Hours: Tues & Thurs 12:30-2:30. Friday 11 – 3pm (also by appointment or drop in anytime).

Website: <http://www.kean.edu/~bregal>

Class webpage: <http://www.kean.edu/~bregal/HIST4876.htm>

Meeting Hours: 4:30 – 7:15, RM EC-214

Required Textbooks:

Bernard Wood. *Human Evolution: A Very Short Introduction* (Oxford University Press, 2005).

Brian Regal. *Human Evolution: A Guide to the Debates* (ABC-CLIO, 2005).

There is also a series of short handouts which *are required* to be read which are posted on the class webpage.

Pre-requisites: six (6) credits of history or permission of the instructor

Course Description:

An examination of the history of evolution studies, focusing on the controversial aspects of human evolution and how it impacts health care, religious culture, politics, and public education, from the 1600s to the present. The larger question of how evolution turned from science to contentious cultural issue.

Course Objectives:

Students will gain a familiarity with the concept of evolution and its relationship to science, society and religion. The lives of important scientists, researchers and philosophers of evolution as well as important discoveries and advances in the field. Social impact of evolution science upon religion, politics, the arts and culture will be studied. Students will apply methods of historical research and analysis to the topic, gain experience studying the hominid fossil record and show expertise through a series of examinations and written research projects. Basic methodologies and theories of

studying the past as well as gain an understanding of the mechanics of human evolution and the hominid fossil record.

Course Requirements:

- Class participation = 20% (includes class presentations)
- Mid-Term Exam = 20%
- Final Exam = 20%
- Short paper #1: 2-3 page paper comparing Young Earth Creationism to Intelligent Design = 10%
- Short paper #2: 2-3 page paper comparing the population replacement and multiregional theories of human evolution = 10%
- Research Paper: 8-10 page paper on any topic in the history of human evolution studies = 20% (see instructions below)

NOTE: No papers can be turned in electronically and no extensions at the end of the semester

Attendance Policy:

The following attendance policy has been approved by the Faculty Senate and the administration and replaces the attendance policy which appears in the current catalogs.

Attendance is expected in all courses. Attendance will be a component of the grade of any course if so stated in the syllabus. Students are responsible for informing the instructor in advance or in a timely manner of the reasons for their absence. Instructors in consultation with their department chairs are expected to respect university practices and policies regarding what counts as an excused absence. Typically excused absences include illness, bereavement, or religious observances. Serious tardiness may be dealt with at the discretion of the instructor

Students are responsible to become familiar with, and will be held accountable for, the information on the following Web sites:

1. Academic Integrity at www.kean.edu/forms/AcademicIntegrity.pdf or the Web site for *The Guide* at www.kean.edu/publications/TheGuide2007.pdf.
2. Student Code of Conduct at www.kean.edu/~conduct or the Web site for *The Guide* at www.kean.edu/publications/TheGuide2007.pdf.

Note: turn off all cell phones and other electronic gear!

Course Outline:

Week	Subject covered	Readings and assignments
1	Introduction: What is history and how is it studied and written about? What is science? What is religion and metaphysics?	Intros in Regal and Wood
2	Science and religion in western culture, Lamarck and other early evolution theorists, The life and work of Charles Darwin Discussion on how to prepare the papers.	Regal chap 1 TH Huxley excerpt p.315-316 Wood chaps 1 & 2
3	The tenets of 'Creation Science': Young Earth Creationism, Flood Geology, Day-Age and Gap Theory	E. Scott, <i>The Elusive Basis of Creation Science</i> and Miller, <i>Special Creation</i>
4	The age of the earth and the antiquity of man Short paper #1 is due.	R. Numbers, <i>The Most Important Biblical Discovery of Our Time</i> , webpage
5	The first human fossils are found: Neanderthal Man. Class Presentations on your research	Regal chap 2 and Hermann Schaaffhausen excerpt p. 318-320 and Eugene Dubois excerpt p.322 Wood chap 3
6	Where do we come from? Part 1: the Asia Hypothesis, Java Man, Peking Man Review for mid-term exam.	Regal chap 3 and Jia Lanpo excerpt p. 325-327 Wood chap 4
7	Midterm Exam	
8	The dark side of human evolution, Eugenics	Regal chap 8, Madison Grant excerpt p. 336
9	Where do we come from? Part 2: Africa, <i>Australopithecus</i> , <i>Homo erectus</i> , <i>Homo habilis</i> Lucy and her pals	Regal chap 4, 5 and Louis Leakey excerpt p. 327-328 Wood chap 5 & 6
10	What were our ancestors like?	Regal chap 7, 9 also <i>Bad Hair Days in the Paleolithic</i> , from webpage
11	The Monkey Trials part 1, Scopes	Regal chap 10 and Scopes Trial manuscript p. 344-346
12	The Monkey Trials part 2	<i>After Epperson</i> , and <i>Science as an Apologetic</i> , webpage
13	Latest discoveries in human evolution	Regal chap 9 and Johanson p. 341-344 Wood chaps 7 & 8
14	Human evolution, pop culture and politics Short paper #2 is due	Regal chap 10
15	Current creationist arguments: Intelligent Design	Regal chap 10 and Harun

		Yahya p. 346-348 <i>Behe</i> , webpage
16	Final Exam and final research paper is due.	

Quick Guide for writing the research Papers:

Note: Make sure you are present for the class (either second or third week) in which the writing assignments will be discussed in detail. Your grade depends upon it.

All papers are to be typed, double spaced and follow basic MLA or Chicago Manual of Style formatting for college term papers. Use 12 pt type and simple type face. No artwork is required except if you create an original chart or graph to illustrate your argument. No citations or bibliography is needed for the short papers. However, you **MUST** have a bibliography of at least five sources for longer research paper (internet sources can be used but do not count towards the five mandatory sources, see instructor for special exceptions).

No papers may be turned in electronically!

Plagiarism: a very serious offence, this is taking someone else’s work—like downloading something from Wikipedia, and claiming it as your own writing. If you do this, you fail the course. See the Kean homepage for details.

Supplemental Reading: not required but *strongly* recommended

Paul Conkin. *When all the Gods Trembled: Darwinism, Scopes, and American Intellectuals* (Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, 1998).

Ann Gibbons. *The First Human: the race to discover our earliest ancestors* (New York : Anchor Books, 2007).

Erik Trinkhaus. *The Emergence of Modern Humans: biocultural adaptations in the later Pleistocene* (Cambridge University Press, 1989).

A. Bowdoin Van Riper. *Men Among the Mammoths: Victorian science and the discovery of human prehistory* (University of Chicago Press, 1993).

All these titles are available in the Kean library.