

**ORIGINS OF HUMANITY AND CIVILIZATION:
A VIEW THROUGH THE ANTHROPOCENE LENS
ANTHROPOLOGY 4360**

Spring Semester 2021

Monday, Wednesday and Friday 9:05-10:00AM

Location: CAS 104

Office Hours: M-F 9-3PM

Instructor

Dr. Thomas Guderjan

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Course Description

This course deals with the origins of humanity and civilization in the broadest sense. Human origins are viewed chronologically from their Australopithecine beginnings, 4 million years ago, and traced through the beginnings of social complexity and civilization. We will examine the biological, behavioral and cultural evolution of humanity. At the same time, we will review explanatory models of causation for each of these topics. Additionally, our view will be through the lens of the Anthropocene, the geological period when humans became the prime driver of landscape change on our planet.

This will be accomplished through lectures by the instructor summarizing each topic and/or time period. These lectures will be followed by student presentations dealing with important sites that illustrate issues about each time period and/or topic.

Objectives

To introduce students to:

- The breadth of the human and pre-human experience.
- The basic concepts of human physical evolution
- The basic concepts of concurrent behavioral evolution
- The basic concepts of how and why humans developed complex societies
- The impact of humans on our planet and the challenges we present ourselves.
- The data that underpin each of the above
- To increase students' research and scholarly skills through preparation and presentation of information related to the subject.

Textbook: This course does not use a textbook. Related publications will be posted on CANVAS.

Grading

The course grade will be based on *6 presentations and posters and one research paper of no less than 15 pages*. Each presentation will weigh 15% and the research paper will weigh 25% of the final grade. Each student will research, organize and present information dealing with four archaeological sites. Assignment of topics will be done in the first week of the course and the first presentations will be in the second or third week. Additionally, each student will distribute, at the time of the presentation, a bibliography of sources used in the presentation to the instructor and other students. All presentations must be made on schedule unless prior arrangements are made with the instructor. If a student fails to make a presentation on schedule, the grade for that presentation is 0 (zero).

Grading of presentations will be done by students and the instructor. The pooled average of grades assigned by the students will weigh 50% of the grade assigned. The other 50% will be assigned by the instructor.

The research paper will be a more in depth report on one of the student's presentation topics.

A comprehensive final exam will include objective questions and essay-type responses to questions dealing with major issues.

Grading Rubric for Paper

Criterion	Good (90-100%)	Fair (75-90%)	Poor (<75%)
Content and Development ____/50 points	Content is comprehensive, addresses itself to the issues raised by the prompt and the major points are clearly stated and well supported.	Content is not comprehensive or persuasive. Major points are identified but not well addressed. Content is inconsistent with regard to purpose and clarity of thought.	Content is incomplete. Paper demonstrates little or no understanding of the issues raised by the prompt. The content is confused or confusing and without apparent purpose.
Organization and Structure ____/20 points	The <i>structure</i> of the paper is clear. The <i>Introduction/Thesis paragraph</i> demonstrates sufficient understanding of the issues and previews major points. <i>Paragraph transitions</i> are present, logical, and maintain the flow of thought throughout the paper. <i>The conclusion</i> is logical and flows from the body of the paper.	Structure of the paper is not easy to follow. The Introduction/Thesis is missing or, if provided, does not demonstrate an understanding of the issues or preview major points. Paragraph transitions need improvement. The conclusion is missing or, if provided, does not flow from the body of the paper. You should not use crutch phrases like “In conclusion...”	Poor or missing organization and structure detract from the writer’s discussion. The Introduction/Thesis is missing. Paragraphs are disjointed and lack transition of thought—or they are merely missing.
Format ____/10 points	Paper follows these guidelines and is of the appropriate length.	Paper follows most guidelines or is too long or too short.	Paper lacks many elements of proper formatting. Writer does not follow directions.
Grammar, Spelling, and Punctuation ____/20 points	Rules of grammar, usage, and punctuation are followed. Spelling is correct. Language is clear and precise. Sentences display consistently strong, varied structure.	Paper contains few grammatical, punctuation, and spelling errors. Language lacks clarity or includes the use of some jargon or conversational tone.	Paper contains numerous grammatical, punctuation, and spelling errors. Language uses jargon or is too conversational in tone.

Class

The textbook readings will be supplemented by lectures, films and discussion. **The lectures will complement but not duplicate the readings.** In general, I will explain methods in class that are also covered in the text then use case studies to illustrate the utility of the particular methods. **You are expected to have read appropriate assignments prior to coming to class.** It is the student’s responsibility to be aware of all deadlines and material discussed in class.

Attendance & Deadlines You chose to spend your time and money to take this class. So, I assume you desire to spend them well. Consequently, I will not take attendance. Deadlines for all tests and assignments are absolute unless you have conferred with me in advance or have an excuse from the Dean or University. Otherwise, there will be no make-up exams and a grade of zero will be assigned.

Classroom distractions: Cell phones, text messages and any other contact with persons outside of the classroom are considered to be distractions and will not be tolerated. Likewise, inappropriate activity inside the classroom will also not be tolerated.

Statement Regarding Academic Dishonesty

Academic dishonesty is a violation of University policy and professional standards. Academic dishonesty is defined as cheating, plagiarism, or otherwise obtaining grades under false pretenses. The penalty for academic dishonesty in

this class will be no less than immediate failure of the course and a permanent student record of the reason therefore. In most cases, a written record of academic dishonesty or an instructor's report of same to an agency investigator during a background check will bar an individual from employment by a criminal justice agency as it is considered indicative of subsequent corrupt acts.

Many students have an inadequate understanding of plagiarism. Any idea or verbiage from another source must be documented. Anytime the exact words from another author are used they must be enclosed with quotation marks and followed by a citation. However quotations should only be used on rare occasions. Student papers should be written in the student's own words.

PLAGARISM & CHEATING

- **It is your responsibility to know and understand the university policy on cheating and plagiarism.**
- **If you plagiarize or cheat, you WILL receive an F for this course.**
- **If you plagiarize, your case WILL be referred to the Judicial Affairs for further action. Penalties may include expulsion or academic probation.**

Please read carefully the following pages of this syllabus which contains university-wide policies on disability services, emergency procedures, etc.

UT Tyler Honor Code Every member of the UT Tyler community joins together to embrace: Honor and integrity that will not allow me to lie, cheat, or steal, nor to accept the actions of those who do. Students Rights and Responsibilities To know and understand the policies that affect your rights and responsibilities as a student at UT Tyler, please follow this link: <http://www.uttyler.edu/wellness/rightsresponsibilities.php>

Campus Carry We respect the right and privacy of students 21 and over who are duly licensed to carry concealed weapons in this class. License holders are expected to behave responsibly and keep a handgun secure and concealed. More information is available at <http://www.uttyler.edu/about/campus-carry/index.php>

UT Tyler a Tobacco-Free University All forms of tobacco will not be permitted on the UT Tyler main campus, branch campuses, and any property owned by UT Tyler. This applies to all members of the University community, including students, faculty, staff, University affiliates, contractors, and visitors. Forms of tobacco not permitted include cigarettes, cigars, pipes, water pipes (hookah), bidis, kreteks, electronic cigarettes, smokeless tobacco, snuff, chewing tobacco, and all other tobacco products. There are several cessation programs available to students looking to quit smoking, including counseling, quitlines, and group support. For more information on cessation programs please visit www.uttyler.edu/tobacco-free

Grade Replacement/Forgiveness and Census Date Policies Students repeating a course for grade forgiveness (grade replacement) must file a Grade Replacement Contract with the Enrollment Services Center (ADM 230) on or before the Census Date of the semester in which the course will be repeated. Grade Replacement Contracts are available in the Enrollment Services Center or at <http://www.uttyler.edu/registrar>. Each semester's Census Date can be found on the Contract itself, on the Academic Calendar, or in the information pamphlets published each semester by the Office of the Registrar. Failure to file a Grade Replacement Contract will result in both the original and repeated grade being used to calculate your overall grade point average. Undergraduates are eligible to exercise grade replacement for only three course repeats during their career at UT Tyler; graduates are eligible for two grade replacements. Full policy details are printed on each Grade Replacement Contract. The Census Date is the deadline for many forms and enrollment actions of which students need to be aware. These include: • Submitting Grade Replacement Contracts, Transient Forms, requests to withhold directory information, approvals for taking courses as Audit, Pass/Fail or Credit/No Credit. • Receiving 100% refunds for partial withdrawals. (There is no refund for these after the Census Date) • Schedule adjustments (section changes, adding a new class, dropping without a "W" grade) • Being reinstated or re-enrolled in classes after being dropped for non-payment • Completing the process for tuition exemptions or waivers through Financial Aid State-Mandated Course Drop Policy Texas law prohibits a student who began college for the first time in Fall 2007 or thereafter from dropping more than six courses during their entire undergraduate career. This includes courses dropped at another 2-year or 4-year Texas public college or university. For purposes of this rule, a dropped course is any course that is dropped after the census date (See Academic Calendar for the specific

date). Exceptions to the 6-drop rule may be found in the catalog. Petitions for exemptions must be submitted to the Enrollment Services Center and must be accompanied by documentation of the extenuating circumstance. Please contact the Enrollment Services Center if you have any questions. Disability/Accessibility Services In accordance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and the ADA Amendments Act (ADAAA) the University of Texas at Tyler offers accommodations to students with learning, physical and/or psychological disabilities. If you have a disability, including a non-visible diagnosis such as a learning disorder, chronic illness, TBI, PTSD, ADHD, or you have a history of modifications or accommodations in a previous educational environment, you are encouraged to visit <https://hood.accessiblelearning.com/UTTyler> and fill out the New Student application. The Student Accessibility and Resources (SAR) office will contact you when your application has been submitted and an appointment with Cynthia Lowery, Assistant Director of Student Services/ADA Coordinator. For more information, including filling out an application for services, please visit the SAR webpage at <http://www.uttyler.edu/disabilityservices> , the SAR office located in the University Center, # 3150 or call 903.566.7079.

Student Absence due to Religious Observance Students who anticipate being absent from class due to a religious observance are requested to inform the instructor of such absences by the second class meeting of the semester.

Student Absence for University-Sponsored Events and Activities Revised 05/19 If you intend to be absent for a university-sponsored event or activity, you (or the event sponsor) must notify the instructor at least two weeks prior to the date of the planned absence. At that time the instructor will set a date and time when make-up assignments will be completed.

Social Security and FERPA Statement It is the policy of The University of Texas at Tyler to protect the confidential nature of social security numbers. The University has changed its computer programming so that all students have an identification number. The electronic transmission of grades (e.g., via e-mail) risks violation of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act; grades will not be transmitted electronically.

Emergency Exits and Evacuation Everyone is required to exit the building when a fire alarm goes off. Follow your instructor's directions regarding the appropriate exit. If you require assistance during an evacuation, inform your instructor in the first week of class. Do not re-enter the building unless given permission by University Police, Fire department, or Fire Prevention Services.

Student Standards of Academic Conduct Disciplinary proceedings may be initiated against any student who engages in scholastic dishonesty, including, but not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, collusion, the submission for credit of any work or materials that are attributable in whole or in part to another person, taking an examination for another person, any act designed to give unfair advantage to a student or the attempt to commit such acts. i. "Cheating" includes, but is not limited to: • copying from another student's test paper; • using, during a test, materials not authorized by the person giving the test; • failure to comply with instructions given by the person administering the test; • possession during a test of materials which are not authorized by the person giving the test, such as class notes or specifically designed "crib notes". The presence of textbooks constitutes a violation if they have been specifically prohibited by the person administering the test; • using, buying, stealing, transporting, or soliciting in whole or part the contents of an unadministered test, test key, homework solution, or computer program; • collaborating with or seeking aid from another student during a test or other assignment without authority; • discussing the contents of an examination with another student who will take the examination; • divulging the contents of an examination, for the purpose of preserving questions for use by another, when the instructor has designated that the examination is not to be removed from the examination room or not to be returned or to be kept by the student; • substituting for another person, or permitting another person to substitute for oneself to take a course, a test, or any course-related assignment; • paying or offering money or other valuable thing to, or coercing another person to obtain an unadministered test, test key, homework solution, or computer program or information about an unadministered test, test key, home solution or computer program; • falsifying research data, laboratory reports, and/or other academic work offered for credit; • taking, keeping, misplacing, or damaging the property of The University of Texas at Tyler, or of another, if the student knows or reasonably should know that an unfair academic advantage would be gained by such conduct; and • misrepresenting facts, including providing false grades or resumes, for the purpose of obtaining an academic or financial benefit or injuring another student academically or financially. ii. "Plagiarism" includes, but is

not limited to, the appropriation, buying, receiving as a gift, or obtaining by any means another's work and the submission of it as one's own academic work offered for credit. iii. "Collusion" includes, but is not limited to, the unauthorized collaboration with another person in preparing academic assignments offered for credit or collaboration with another person to commit a violation of any section of the rules on scholastic dishonesty. iv. All written work that is submitted will be subject to review by plagiarism software.

UT Tyler Resources for Students • UT Tyler Writing Center (903.565.5995), writingcenter@uttyler.edu

UT Tyler Tutoring Center (903.565.5964), tutoring@uttyler.edu

The Mathematics Learning Center, RBN 4021, this is the open access computer lab for math students, with tutors on duty to assist students who are enrolled in early-career courses. • UT Tyler Counseling Center (903.566.7254)

ANTH 4360 Class Schedule*

Week of:	Topics
Jan 11-15	What is the Anthropocene?
Jan 17-21	What is the Anthropocene?
Jan 23-30	STUDENT PRESENTATIONS
Feb 1-5	Origins of Humanity: The Australopithecines
Feb 7-12	Origins of Humanity: Early genus Homo
Feb 14-19	STUDENT PRESENTATIONS
Feb 22-27	Origins of Humanity: Late genus Homo and the human diaspora
March 1-5	Theories about the Origin of Civilization
March 7-12	SPRING BREAK
March 15-19	STUDENT PRESENTATIONS
March 21-26	Origins of Civilization in Middle America
March 28-April 2	Origin of Civilization in the Near East
April 4-9	STUDENT PRESENTATIONS
April 11-16	Origins of Civilization in South America
April 18-23	Anthropocene Origins and Challenges
April 27- 30	FINAL EXAMS_RESEARCH PAPER DUE

**Class schedule subject to change*