OLD SYLLABUS

Paleolithic Archaeology

Fall 2009, V14-0213, 4 credits
Monday & Wednesday 12:30-1:45 PM, Silver Center Room 512

Instructor: Dr. Christian Tryon
Office Location: Anthropology Building (Smith Hall), Room 709
Office Hours: Monday and Wednesday 2-3 PM or by appointment
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General Course Description: A survey of the Paleolithic archaeological record, tracing the origins of cultural behavior of ancestral hominids from its eastern African roots some 2.5 million years ago to approximately 10,000 years ago. The focus of the course will be not only on the material evidence and its interpretation, but also an understanding of the major questions confronting archaeologists, methods of inquiry, and problem solving.

Course Format: The course will consist of twice weekly classes that include lectures as well as in-class discussion based in part on assigned readings, in which all members of the class are expected to participate. The aim is to achieve a better understanding through an open forum for the exchange of information and to think critically about the evidence.

Required Textbook and Readings:


Additional required readings will be posted on the Blackboard system as .pdf files. There will typically be from two to three required readings, and some of these are listed below. All readings are to be completed prior to the assigned date. These readings are subject to change as the semester progresses; announcements will be made in class and via the Blackboard system. Also listed are suggestions for further reading. Note that these are not required, but provide avenues for further investigation should a particular topic interest you.

Grading: There will be two examinations as well as a number of graded written assignments. These assignments include one short (2-3 page) response paper to a provided group of readings. This paper will be revised after in-class discussion and peer review. The major focus of the course is a single 15-20-page research paper on an approved topic of your choosing. For this project, you will be graded on your topic proposal, rough draft, final draft, and presentation. You will also be expected to guide in-class discussion of assigned readings during one class session. The value of each assignment is listed below.

First Exam: 15%
Second Exam: 15%
Guided In-class Discussion: 5%
Response Paper: 15%
Research proposal and annotated bibliography: 10%
Rough draft of research paper: 10%
Final paper: 20%
Final presentation: 10%

Attendance: Regular class attendance is required, and you remain responsible for any information you missed during classes. Excused absences should be discussed with me beforehand. Any student who
feels that she or he may need an accommodation based on the impact of a disability should contact the Henry and Lucy Moses Center for Students with Disabilities (719 Broadway, 2nd Floor, 212-998-4980) to establish eligibility and to coordinate reasonable accommodations. For additional information please refer to http://www.nyu.edu/csd/.

**Exams:** There will be two (non-cumulative) exams in this course. It is expected that you will be present for the exams. Failure to be present for an exam without proof of serious medical and/or family emergency and prior notification of the instructor will result in a failing grade. Exams will focus on major topics covered in readings and class lecture/discussion. Class lectures will regularly consist of new information not covered in the readings.

**Paper and Presentation:**
You will be writing a research paper for this course on a topic relevant to Paleolithic archaeology of your choosing. Topics must be approved, and you will turn in a well-developed research proposal with annotated bibliography by Wednesday, October 21st. A substantially completed rough draft is due on Monday, November 23rd. The final draft of the paper is due the day of the University-scheduled final examination.

The final paper will be a 15-20-page (double-spaced, times-roman or equivalent proportionally faced, 12 point font, 1 inch margins) research paper with bibliography (citations should follow the format of the Journal of Human Evolution). You are encouraged to consult with your instructor during all stages of the research, writing and presentation process. Excellent advice on critical thinking and the process of writing an academic paper may be found at the following website: http://www.dartmouth.edu/~writing/materials/student/toc.shtml. You are strongly advised to read and follow these guidelines.

**Academic Integrity:** All students are expected to know and adhere to New York University's policies on academic integrity and academic dishonesty, the latter defined as cheating of any kind, including misrepresentation of one’s own work, taking credit for the work of others without crediting them and without appropriate authorization, and the fabrication of information. Further information may be found at http://www.nyu.edu/cas/map/about/academicintegrity.html.

**COURSE SCHEDULE**
Please note that this schedule is an approximation and actual timing may vary.

**September 9.** Introduction

**September 14 and 16.** Definition and History of Paleolithic Archaeology

*Required readings*
Gosden textbook. PLEASE READ THE ENTIRE BOOK FOR THIS WEEK.


**September 21 and 23.** The earliest archaeological sites and the creatures that made them.

*Required readings*
Klein, Chapters 1 and 4.

**September 28 and 30.** How do we study these early sites? Experimentation and analogy in the historical sciences.

**October 5 and 7.** Yes, but how old is it? Stratigraphy, chronology, and paleoenvironmental context

**October 12 and 14.** The fundamentals: Stones and bones, and what do we mean by ‘human cultural beginnings’?

***First draft of essay due October 14***
October 19: No Class, ***BUT TURN IN REVISED ESSAY TO TA***.

October 21: ***First Exam***.

October 26 and 28. The Acheulian and the earliest human dispersals out of Africa.  
*Required readings*  
Klein, Chapter 5

November 2 and 4. Regional variation in the Old World: Neanderthals and Modern Humans.  
*Required readings*  
Klein, Chapter 6

***Research proposal due Nov. 4***

November 9 and 11. Middle and Late Pleistocene modern human dispersal and diversification: Africa and the Levant  
*Required readings*  
Klein, Chapter 6

November 16 and 18. Late Pleistocene modern human dispersal and diversification: Europe and the demise of the Neanderthals.  
*Required readings*  
Klein, Chapter 7

***First draft of research paper due November 18***.

November 23 and 25. Late Pleistocene modern human dispersal and diversification: Australia, Asia, and the New World  
*Required readings*  
Klein, Chapter 7

November 30. Holocene forager adaptations.  
*Required readings*  
Klein, Chapter 7 and 8

December 2: ***Second Exam***

December 7 and 9. Student Presentations.


***Final draft of research paper due in class on December 14***.