



ANTX1051

Human Evolution and Diversity

Session 1, Online-flexible 2022

Department of Anthropology

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General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff

Timothy Lynch

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Credit points

10

Prerequisites

Corequisites

Co-badged status

Unit description

This unit explores the evolution of our species, what makes humans distinct, and how we have developed the biological, cultural and technological diversity we now see around us. The unit examines new research, highlighting the most recent discoveries and theoretical breakthroughs, encouraging students to learn more about the major debates, key discoveries, and important theories in the study of human evolution. Specifically, the unit provides students with a background in evolutionary theory, genetics, anthropology, paleoarchaeology, and comparative primatology in order to address a number of topics: the development of the human brain; bipedalism; language; families; social life; sexuality; reproduction; hunting; diet; art; stone tools and technology; language; domesticated plants and animals; cities; and the first civilisations. The unit also demonstrates how an evolutionary perspective offers new insights into modern human diversity, including both cultural and biological differences among us. The unit does not require a background in the biological or evolutionary sciences. It provides an excellent foundation for understanding and evaluating important contemporary issues.

Important Academic Dates

Information about important academic dates including deadlines for withdrawing from units are available at <https://www.mq.edu.au/study/calendar-of-dates>

Learning Outcomes

On successful completion of this unit, you will be able to:

ULO1: understand certain key concepts and theories in the study of human evolution including the most important debates and new developments in the field.

ULO2: have a clear sense of how paleoanthropologists conduct research and draw

conclusions about extinct species and ways of life from material evidence.

ULO3: understand, evaluate, and employ evolution-based explanations for contemporary features of human life, anatomy, and behaviour, including the limits on those explanations.

ULO4: employ theoretical concepts, evidence, and analysis in general by specifically exercising these abilities on the materials covered in this unit.

ULO5: actively participate in discussions and examinations of material related to human evolution (such as facsimile remains, site surveys, and material culture)

ULO6: analyse and express judgments about significant debates in the study of human evolution.

Assessment Tasks

Name	Weighting	Hurdle	Due
Week 3 Quiz	5%	No	Week 3
Literature Review	20%	No	Week 7
Mid-term Exam	20%	No	Week 8
Outline essay	35%	No	Week 12
Final Exam	20%	No	'Week 14'

Week 3 Quiz

Assessment Type ¹: Quiz/Test

Indicative Time on Task ²: 1 hours

Due: **Week 3**

Weighting: **5%**

A multiple choice quiz of 10 questions. These will be based on the topics of Weeks 1-3.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- understand certain key concepts and theories in the study of human evolution including the most important debates and new developments in the field.
- have a clear sense of how paleoanthropologists conduct research and draw conclusions about extinct species and ways of life from material evidence.

- understand, evaluate, and employ evolution-based explanations for contemporary features of human life, anatomy, and behaviour, including the limits on those explanations.
- employ theoretical concepts, evidence, and analysis in general by specifically exercising these abilities on the materials covered in this unit.

Literature Review

Assessment Type ¹: Literature review

Indicative Time on Task ²: 15 hours

Due: **Week 7**

Weighting: **20%**

Students will use the Macquarie University Library's extensive database and journal collection to find a recent article in a scientific journal on a topic that relates to their chosen essay question. They will accurately record the citation, and write a summary of the crucial finding or research result, and the reason for its importance. Students will locate previous scientific, peer-reviewed journal articles on the same subject, especially works cited in the primary article, or that cite the primary article. Students must compile a minimum of five of these secondary sources that describe or analyse different findings, some of which may contradict the original primary article, and write the citation and summary for each. Students will complete the assignment with a 200-word description of the whole debate.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- understand certain key concepts and theories in the study of human evolution including the most important debates and new developments in the field.
- have a clear sense of how paleoanthropologists conduct research and draw conclusions about extinct species and ways of life from material evidence.
- understand, evaluate, and employ evolution-based explanations for contemporary features of human life, anatomy, and behaviour, including the limits on those explanations.
- employ theoretical concepts, evidence, and analysis in general by specifically exercising these abilities on the materials covered in this unit.
- actively participate in discussions and examinations of material related to human evolution (such as facsimile remains, site surveys, and material culture)
- analyse and express judgments about significant debates in the study of human evolution.

Mid-term Exam

Assessment Type ¹: Quiz/Test

Indicative Time on Task ²: 1 hours

Due: **Week 8**

Weighting: **20%**

A multiple choice exam of 25 questions. These will be based on the topics covered in Weeks 4-7.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- understand certain key concepts and theories in the study of human evolution including the most important debates and new developments in the field.
- have a clear sense of how paleoanthropologists conduct research and draw conclusions about extinct species and ways of life from material evidence.
- understand, evaluate, and employ evolution-based explanations for contemporary features of human life, anatomy, and behaviour, including the limits on those explanations.
- employ theoretical concepts, evidence, and analysis in general by specifically exercising these abilities on the materials covered in this unit.

Outline essay

Assessment Type ¹: Essay

Indicative Time on Task ²: 25 hours

Due: **Week 12**

Weighting: **35%**

Using skills practiced and data gathered in the Literature Review, the student will prepare an outline essay. This will consist of a prose introduction, an outline section that develops the argument and provides evidence, and a prose conclusion which discusses the implications, reservations and importance of the argument. A reference list must also be provided. Students are permitted to write their outline essay on a question other than that chosen for the literature review if they wish, or propose a relevant topic of their own devising to the coordinator.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- understand certain key concepts and theories in the study of human evolution including the most important debates and new developments in the field.

- have a clear sense of how paleoanthropologists conduct research and draw conclusions about extinct species and ways of life from material evidence.
- understand, evaluate, and employ evolution-based explanations for contemporary features of human life, anatomy, and behaviour, including the limits on those explanations.
- employ theoretical concepts, evidence, and analysis in general by specifically exercising these abilities on the materials covered in this unit.
- actively participate in discussions and examinations of material related to human evolution (such as facsimile remains, site surveys, and material culture)
- analyse and express judgments about significant debates in the study of human evolution.

Final Exam

Assessment Type ¹: Quiz/Test

Indicative Time on Task ²: 1 hours

Due: **'Week 14'**

Weighting: **20%**

A multiple choice test of 35 questions. These will be based on topics of the course covered in Weeks 8-13.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- understand certain key concepts and theories in the study of human evolution including the most important debates and new developments in the field.
- have a clear sense of how paleoanthropologists conduct research and draw conclusions about extinct species and ways of life from material evidence.
- understand, evaluate, and employ evolution-based explanations for contemporary features of human life, anatomy, and behaviour, including the limits on those explanations.
- employ theoretical concepts, evidence, and analysis in general by specifically exercising these abilities on the materials covered in this unit.

¹ If you need help with your assignment, please contact:

- the academic teaching staff in your unit for guidance in understanding or completing this type of assessment

- the [Writing Centre](#) for academic skills support.

² Indicative time-on-task is an estimate of the time required for completion of the assessment task and is subject to individual variation

Delivery and Resources

Recorded lectures will be available on 'Echo' on the unit iLearn page. All required readings are available on Leganto, also on the iLearn page. Other readings can be accessed online through the Macquarie University Library.

Policies and Procedures

Macquarie University policies and procedures are accessible from [Policy Central \(https://policies.mq.edu.au\)](https://policies.mq.edu.au). Students should be aware of the following policies in particular with regard to Learning and Teaching:

- [Academic Appeals Policy](#)
- [Academic Integrity Policy](#)
- [Academic Progression Policy](#)
- [Assessment Policy](#)
- [Fitness to Practice Procedure](#)
- [Assessment Procedure](#)
- [Complaints Resolution Procedure for Students and Members of the Public](#)
- [Special Consideration Policy](#)

Students seeking more policy resources can visit [Student Policies \(https://students.mq.edu.au/support/study/policies\)](https://students.mq.edu.au/support/study/policies). It is your one-stop-shop for the key policies you need to know about throughout your undergraduate student journey.

To find other policies relating to Teaching and Learning, visit [Policy Central \(https://policies.mq.edu.au\)](https://policies.mq.edu.au) and use the [search tool](#).

Student Code of Conduct

Macquarie University students have a responsibility to be familiar with the Student Code of Conduct: <https://students.mq.edu.au/admin/other-resources/student-conduct>

Results

Results published on platform other than [eStudent](#), (eg. iLearn, Coursera etc.) or released directly by your Unit Convenor, are not confirmed as they are subject to final approval by the University. Once approved, final results will be sent to your student email address and will be made available in [eStudent](#). For more information visit ask.mq.edu.au or if you are a Global MBA student contact globalmba.support@mq.edu.au

Academic Integrity

At Macquarie, we believe [academic integrity](#) – honesty, respect, trust, responsibility, fairness and

courage – is at the core of learning, teaching and research. We recognise that meeting the expectations required to complete your assessments can be challenging. So, we offer you a range of resources and services to help you reach your potential, including free [online writing and maths support](#), [academic skills development](#) and [wellbeing consultations](#).

Student Support

Macquarie University provides a range of support services for students. For details, visit <http://students.mq.edu.au/support/>

The Writing Centre

[The Writing Centre](#) provides resources to develop your English language proficiency, academic writing, and communication skills.

- [Workshops](#)
- [Chat with a WriteWISE peer writing leader](#)
- [Access StudyWISE](#)
- [Upload an assignment to Studiosity](#)
- [Complete the Academic Integrity Module](#)

The Library provides online and face to face support to help you find and use relevant information resources.

- [Subject and Research Guides](#)
- [Ask a Librarian](#)

Student Services and Support

Macquarie University offers a range of [Student Support Services](#) including:

- [IT Support](#)
- [Accessibility and disability support](#) with study
- Mental health [support](#)
- [Safety support](#) to respond to bullying, harassment, sexual harassment and sexual assault
- [Social support including information about finances, tenancy and legal issues](#)

Student Enquiries

Got a question? Ask us via [AskMQ](#), or contact [Service Connect](#).

IT Help

For help with University computer systems and technology, visit http://www.mq.edu.au/about_us/offices_and_units/information_technology/help/.

When using the University's IT, you must adhere to the [Acceptable Use of IT Resources Policy](#).

The policy applies to all who connect to the MQ network including students.