ANTH1051
Human Evolution and Diversity
Session 3, Online-flexible 2023

Macquarie School of Social Sciences

Contents

General Information 2
Learning Outcomes 2
General Assessment Information 3
Assessment Tasks 3
Delivery and Resources 7
Policies and Procedures 7
Changes since First Published 9

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General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff
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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: Explain key anthropological concepts and theories in the study of human
evolution, including be familiar with the most important debates and new developments in the field.

**ULO2:** Explain how paleoanthropologists conduct research and draw conclusions about extinct species and ways of life from material evidence.

**ULO3:** Evaluate and employ evolution-based explanations for contemporary features of human life, anatomy, and behavior.

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

**ULO5:** Discuss and examine material related to human evolution (such as facsimile remains, site surveys, and material culture).

**ULO6:** Analyse and express judgement about significant debates in the study of human evolution.

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**General Assessment Information**

Unless a Special Consideration request has been submitted and approved, a 5% penalty (of the total possible mark) will be applied each day a written assessment is not submitted, up until the 7th day (including weekends). After the 7th day, a mark of ‘0’ (zero) will be awarded even if the assessment is submitted. Submission time for all written assessments is set at 11.55pm. A 1-hour grace period is provided to students who experience a technical issue. This late penalty will apply to non-timed sensitive assessment (incl essays, reports, posters, portfolios, journals, recordings etc). Late submission of time sensitive tasks (such as tests/exams, performance assessments/presentations, scheduled practical assessments/labs etc) will only be addressed by the unit convenor in a Special consideration application. Special Consideration outcome may result in a new question or topic.

**Assessment Tasks**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Weighting</th>
<th>Hurdle</th>
<th>Due</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Weekly online quizzes</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>start 18/12/2023</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final online exam</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>22-24/1/2024</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In-tutorial discussion questions</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Weekly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Literature review</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>5/1/2024</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Argument outline</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>21/1/2024</td>
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**Weekly online quizzes**

Assessment Type: Quiz/Test
Indicative Time on Task: 6 hours

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https://unitguides.mq.edu.au/unit_offerings/155794/unit_guide/print
Starting after the lecture in Week 2, students will be expected to take a weekly quiz online based on the readings, lecture and tutorial activity. The quiz will close prior to the lecture in the following week.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Explain key anthropological concepts and theories in the study of human evolution, including be familiar with the most important debates and new developments in the field.
- Explain how paleoanthropologists conduct research and draw conclusions about extinct species and ways of life from material evidence.
- Evaluate and employ evolution-based explanations for contemporary features of human life, anatomy, and behavior.
- Employ theoretical concepts, evidence, and analysis by specifically exercising these abilities on the materials covered in this unit.

Final online exam

Assessment Type: Quiz/Test
Indicative Time on Task: 2 hours
Due: 22-24/1/2024
Weighting: 25%

The final exam is cumulative and multiple choice, conducted online during the exam period.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Explain key anthropological concepts and theories in the study of human evolution, including be familiar with the most important debates and new developments in the field.
- Explain how paleoanthropologists conduct research and draw conclusions about extinct species and ways of life from material evidence.
- Evaluate and employ evolution-based explanations for contemporary features of human life, anatomy, and behavior.
- Employ theoretical concepts, evidence, and analysis by specifically exercising these abilities on the materials covered in this unit.
In-tutorial discussion questions

Assessment Type 1: Participatory task  
Indicative Time on Task 2: 6 hours  
Due: Weekly  
Weighting: 10%

Each week, the tutorial (online and on campus) sets the students a series of tasks, including a participatory task depending upon the material for that week.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Discuss and examine material related to human evolution (such as facsimile remains, site surveys, and material culture).
- Analyse and express judgement about significant debates in the study of human evolution.

Literature review

Assessment Type 1: Literature review  
Indicative Time on Task 2: 10 hours  
Due: 5/1/2024  
Weighting: 20%

The literature review is a library-based assignment that can be conducted online, especially using the Macquarie University Library’s extensive database and journal collection. Students find a recent article in a scientific journal, referred to as the ‘target article’ (peer reviewed and published in the last five years). They find five additional sources linked to this article, either because they are cited in the target article’s References or because they cite the target article (or in the References of one of the articles CITING the target article). Students write short (<200 word descriptions of each articles).

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Explain key anthropological concepts and theories in the study of human evolution, including be familiar with the most important debates and new developments in the field.
- Explain how paleoanthropologists conduct research and draw conclusions about extinct species and ways of life from material evidence.
- Employ theoretical concepts, evidence, and analysis by specifically exercising these
abilities on the materials covered in this unit.

- Analyse and express judgement about significant debates in the study of human evolution.

**Argument outline**

**Assessment Type** 1: Essay  
**Indicative Time on Task** 2: 12 hours 
**Due:** 21/1/2024  
**Weighting:** 25%

The argument outline consists of an introduction (approximately one page), an outline of evidence and how the argument would be structured (citing the sources), conclusion which discusses the implications, reservations and importance of the argument and a 'references cited' list (only articles cited in the outline). The whole document should be less than four pages.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Explain key anthropological concepts and theories in the study of human evolution, including being familiar with the most important debates and new developments in the field.
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- Employ theoretical concepts, evidence, and analysis by specifically exercising these abilities on the materials covered in this unit.
- Analyse and express judgement about significant debates in the study of human evolution.

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

All readings are available through Leganto.

All course materials are available through the iLearn unit for the course. Please see iLearn for all the important information.

Policies and Procedures

Macquarie University policies and procedures are accessible from Policy Central (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). 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) 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 an
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 Advocacy provides independent advice on MQ policies, procedures, and processes

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.
Changes since First Published

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>27/11/2023</td>
<td>Just a change to the submission date for argument assessment: changed to 2024 to avoid students needing to go back in time to submit the assessment task.</td>
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Unit information based on version 2023.03 of the Handbook