Course Syllabus

**Department:** Social Sciences

**Date:** 02/15/13

I. **Course Prefix and Number:** ANT 110

**Course Name:** Human Prehistory

**Credit Hours and Contact Hours:** 3 credit hours and 3 contact hours

**Catalog Description including pre- and co-requisites:** None

This course is a survey of human prehistory—from the origin of humans up to the emergence of early civilizations. Our focus is on the introduction to early human biological and cultural variability emphasizing evolution, cultural adaptation and cultural change within different environments using the subfields of physical anthropology and archaeology. Attention will be given to the field of archaeology and human evolution as we focus our attention on pre-literate and pre-industrial civilizations from both the Old World and New World, including regions of Mesopotamia, Africa, China, India, Maya, Inca and Aztec, the Hopewell and Mississippian to name a few.

**Relationship to Academic Programs and Curriculum including SUNY Gen Ed designation if applicable:**

This course fulfills the SUNY Gen Ed requirements of 3 credits of Social Science coursework. Currently a Social Science Elective.

II. **Course Student Learning Outcomes:** The Student will:

- Apply anthropological research methods including measurement and data collection techniques used to study human prehistory and early human civilizations.
- Demonstrate knowledge of hypotheses development as applied in the study of human prehistory.
- Analyze quantitative data and interpret/evaluate anthropological research findings as they bear upon human prehistory.
- Demonstrate knowledge of the major concepts, models, and issues in the study of human prehistory.
- Perform the basic operations of personal computer use;
- Use basic research techniques to locate, evaluate and synthesize information from a variety of sources.
- Be able to identify, analyze and evaluate anthropological perspectives and theories by applying the core concepts of the field.
College Learning Outcomes Addressed by the Course: (check each College Learning Outcome addressed by the Student Learning Outcomes)

☐ writing  ☑ computer literacy
☐ oral communications  ☐ ethics/values
☐ reading  ☐ citizenship
☐ mathematics  ☐ global concerns
☑ critical thinking  ☑ information resources

III. Assessment Measures (Summarize how the college and student learning outcomes will be assessed): For each identified outcome checked, please provide the specific assessment measure.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>List identified College Learning Outcomes(s)</th>
<th>Specific assessment measure(s)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reading</td>
<td>Students will read various textbooks and materials throughout the semester; the student will then demonstrate critical knowledge of assigned reading via quizzes and written essay exams.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Critical Thinking</td>
<td>Students will be presented a number of questions in order to demonstrate critical thinking via written essay exams, multiple-choice questions, and during his or her research project.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Computer Literacy</td>
<td>Students will be required to utilize a computer for various projects (online quizzes, and research).</td>
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<tr>
<td>Information Resources</td>
<td>Student will also conduct research both in the library, and online; in addition, each student will take online quizzes to demonstrate his or her ability to utilize information-technology and resources.</td>
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IV. Instructional Materials and Methods

Types of Course Materials:

Textbooks, articles, videos, computer technology

Methods of Instruction (e.g. Lecture, Lab, Seminar …):

Lectures, videos, and possibly guess lectures.
V. General Outline of Topics Covered:

- Week 1: Introduction: What is anthropology and culture?
- Week 2: Archaeology: The Discovery of Our Past
- Week 3-4: Doing Archaeology (Playing Dead)
- Week 5: Human Evolution: Fossil and Modern Old World and New World Primates
- Week 6: Beginnings of Human Origins
- Week 7: Becoming Human: Australopithecines
- Week 8: Becoming Human: African Exodus
- Week 9: Diaspora: Upper Paleolithic: Hunter and Gathers Societies
- Week 10: Peopling of North America.
- Week 11: Africans and Australians
- Week 12: Cultivation and Domestication
- Week 13: Early Belief Systems and Art:
- Week 14: Origins of Food Production and the Roots of Civilization
- Week 15-16: Student Oral Presentations