Paper ARC10/BAN03/G03/B3: Human Evolution and Palaeolithic Archaeology

Course Co-ordinator
Professor RA Foley
(for queries please email raf10@cam.ac.uk)

Lecturers
Robert Foley (RAF), Marta Mirazón Lahr (MML), Preston Miracle (PTM)

Course Teaching Assistant
Emily Hallinan (esh27@cam.ac.uk)

Please note:
The content of courses and timetables are always subject to change. We will endeavour to inform you of any changes as they occur but please always refer to the on-line version of this syllabus for the most up-to-date information.

Course documents are available on the Part II Moodle site.

Timetables are available on the University Online Timetabling system

Structure
Lectures: 2 hours each week (Michaelmas and Lent)
Supervisions: At least 3 supervisions per term (Michaelmas and Lent)
Practicals: 4 practicals per term (Michaelmas and Lent)

Mode of examination
For Part II:
Final written paper: 80% of the final mark
Practical exam: 20% of the final mark (9th May 2018)

For MPhil:
This paper is part of the MPhil paper G03. Please refer to the graduate handbook for details on the mode of examination.
Aims of the course

This course provides a foundation in Human Evolution and Palaeolithic Archaeology. The paper looks at human evolution from ca. 10 million years ago to 10,000 years ago. We will be exploring the origins of the hominins and their relationship to the apes, the emergence of bipedalism in an ecological framework, and the adaptive radiation of hominins between 4 and 2 million years ago. We examine the first tool use of hominins more than 2.5 Mio years ago, and the factors shaping the evolution of early Homo and their technology within Africa. From shortly after 2 million years ago, hominins dispersed beyond Africa, and we will look at the fossil and archaeological record for these dispersals and adaptations, and the world of the iconic hand-axes and their makers. We examine in detail the emergence and dispersal of anatomically modern humans, giving particular focus on the diversity of their technology and adaptations in different parts of the world, and their relationship to both the climate in which they evolved and the archaic competitors such as Neanderthals whom they out-survived. We will explore the modern human dispersal(s) into nearly all parts of the world during the Late Pleistocene. How did modern humans respond to the environmental changes that occurred during the last glacial maximum about 22,000 years ago? We will finish with exploring the variability and diversity of human adaptations and responses to the climatic changes towards the end of the last ice age around 11,500 years ago.

Students will be expected to acquire a good foundation in Palaeolithic archaeology and human evolution, including theoretical approaches to the subject, methods of analysis, material culture, and the different hominin species that created this record. Students will be expected to equip themselves with the experience of reconciling conflicting works of synthesis as presented in standard textbooks, of developing bibliographic skills to facilitate reference to primary materials, including citations in periodicals, and of using their developing expertise of the methods and techniques of archaeology to evaluate such materials according to their own developing standards and criteria. They should be able to give an account in writing not only in the form of a narrative of human evolution and the Palaeolithic, but more analytically, to relate this to ongoing debates over general theoretical approaches and developing methodologies.

The practical component of this course is also important. There will be 8 practical sessions (4 Michaelmas and 4 Lent). The practicals will provide an overview of the fossil and material culture remains.

Objectives

By the end of the first two terms students should display familiarity with some of the principal themes in the study human evolution and Palaeolithic archaeology. They should have a grasp of current debates surrounding the basic outline of human evolution from ca. 2.5 – 0.1 mya. They should have produced high quality written work displaying such grasp and appropriate skill in deploying and assessing the arguments. In their practical work they should have learned how to identify basic lithic technologies and fossil hominins, and understand the principles for analysing them.
ARC10/BAN03 Timetable 2017-2018

Module 1 - The pattern and process of human evolution

Lecturers - Professor Robert Foley and Professor Marta Mirazón Lahr
Michaelmas – Lectures and Practicals. All held in LCHES Seminar Room (Fitz St)

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Practicals - Tuesdays: 3 - 5 pm</th>
<th>Lectures - Fridays: 12 - 1 pm</th>
<th>Lectures - Fridays: 1 - 2 pm</th>
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<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Topic</td>
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<tr>
<td>17 Oct</td>
<td>The human skeletal phenotype in comparative perspective</td>
<td>6 Oct</td>
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<tr>
<td>24 Oct</td>
<td>Early hominins</td>
<td>13 Oct</td>
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<td>27 Oct</td>
<td>The evolution and diversity of early African hominins 2</td>
<td>20 Oct</td>
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<td>3 Nov</td>
<td>The evolution, ecology and dispersals of Homo 1</td>
<td>27 Oct</td>
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<td>10 Nov</td>
<td>The evolution, ecology and dispersals of Homo 3</td>
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<td>17 Nov</td>
<td>The evolution of modern humans 2</td>
<td>10 Nov</td>
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<tr>
<td>24 Nov</td>
<td>The evolution of human diversity 1</td>
<td>17 Nov</td>
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<td>28 Nov</td>
<td>Modern humans and human diversity</td>
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## ARC10/BAN03 Timetable 2017-2018

**Lent – Lectures and Practicals. All held in LCHES Seminar Room (Fitz St)**

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<tr>
<th>Practicals - Tuesdays: 3 - 5 pm</th>
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<td><strong>Date</strong></td>
<td><strong>Topic</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>23 Jan</td>
<td>Introduction to lithics and lithic drawing</td>
<td>PTM/LM</td>
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<td>30 Jan</td>
<td>Early Stone Age/ Lower Palaeolithic</td>
<td>PTM/EH</td>
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<td>6 Feb</td>
<td>Middle Stone Age/ Middle Palaeolithic</td>
<td>PTM/EH</td>
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<td>20 Feb</td>
<td>Upper Palaeolithic</td>
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Michaelmas Term 2017
Module 1 - The pattern and process of human evolution

Lectures (Professor Robert Foley and Professor Marta Mirazón Lahr)

1. Human evolution in comparative perspective 1
2. Human evolution in comparative perspective 2
3. Hominin origins 1
4. Hominin origins 2
5. The evolution and diversity of early African hominins 1
6. The evolution and diversity of early African hominins 2
7. The evolution and diversity of early African hominins 3
8. The evolution, ecology and dispersals of Homo 1
9. The evolution, ecology and dispersals of Homo 2
10. The evolution, ecology and dispersals of Homo 3
11. The evolution of modern humans 1
12. The evolution of modern humans 2
13. The evolution of modern humans 3
14. The evolution of human diversity 1
15. The evolution of human diversity 2

Suggested readings (More useful items in bold)
Note that these readings are arranged thematically although the most relevant lectures are indicated.

Integrated palaeoanthropology (Lectures 1–2)

Patterns of hominin evolution (Lectures 1–2)


**Hominin origins and hominoid relationships (Lectures 1–4)**


**Australopithecines and early hominins (Lectures 5–7)**


**Early Homo (Lectures 8–10)**


**African erectus/ergaster (Lectures 8–10)**


**Anomalous hominins (Lectures 8–15)**


**Lower and Middle Pleistocene Hominins/Dispersals out of Africa/Homo erectus (Lectures 8–10)**


Neanderthals and evolution of modern humans (Lectures 11–13)


**Palaeogenomics (Lectures 11–15)**


**African Middle Stone Age and Evolution of Modern Humans and Human Behaviour ( Lectures 11–13)**


**Bipedalism (Lectures 3–7)**


**Body Size and Encephalisation (Lectures 1–15)**


**Life history (Lectures 1–15)**


**Environments, climate change and evolution (Lectures 1–15)**


Early hominin behaviour, foraging and ecology (Lectures 5–10)


Early technology (Lectures 5–10)


Lent Term 2018
Module 2 – Palaeolithic Archaeology

Lectures (Dr Preston Miracle)

1. The world at 135,000 BP
2. Neanderthal behaviour – Middle Palaeolithic 1
3. Neanderthal behaviour – Middle Palaeolithic 2
4. Current debates around modern human out of Africa dispersals
5. The Levant: Middle and Early Upper Palaeolithic
6. Early Upper Palaeolithic of western Eurasia
7. Middle Upper Palaeolithic of western Eurasia
8. Late Upper Palaeolithic of Europe 1
9. Late Upper Palaeolithic of Europe 2
10. Later Stone Age of Africa
11. Upper Palaeolithic of Southeast Asia
12. Upper Palaeolithic of Siberia and Eastern Asia
13. Peopling of the Americas
14. Pleistocene hunter-gatherer mobility
15. Palaeolithic food and diets
16. Palaeolithic ‘art’