

COURSE TITLE:

HUMAN EVOLUTION: THEORIES OF HUMAN ORIGIN AND HUMAN ADAPTATION

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Mechanisms of human adaptation, primate, hominid, hominin characteristics of biological evolution, aspects of cultural evolution in human evolution

Paleoanthropological researches, human ontogeny and phylogeny, introduction to phylogenetics

Hominida and Pongida evolution in the Miocene era of Africa, the ecological influences on the early hominids' biodiversity.

The origin of human bipedalism, the consequences of bipedalism, the Rubicon limit of brain capacity, the origin of stone tool cultures

The biodiversity of early Hominida and Australopithecus groups, the morphological definition of Homo genus, the early Homo fossils, Homo ergaster and its contemporaries

Homo erectus: its body dimensions, Homos from the late-middle Pleistocene era, the Neanderthal man and his contemporaries

The origin of modern Homos, Hominid phylogeny

Archaeology: paleo-ecological reconstruction, chronometry in paleoanthropology, geological characteristics of Hominid habitats in Africa, paleo-climate, Primate and Hominin migration pattern, diversification patterns

Paleo-diet of Hominins, population genetics, paleoanthropology, ancient DNA, paleodemography of extinct Hominin populations

The modelling of the past: primatological, ethnological, linguistic aspects, evolutionary morphology, computer aided reconstructions

Morphology and paleo-ecology: Primate evolution morphological evidences, molecular evidences, Primate fossils from the Paleocene, Oligocene and Miocene eras, biotic environment of Hominoid groups from the late Miocene era

Adaptation: Hominoida postcranial and motor adaptation, Hominoid cranial diversity and adaptation, dental adaptation of Primates from Africa, the evolution of Primate brain

The biology and evolution of Pongid nutrition, social systems of Anthropoid cultures, Primate intelligence, hunting behavioural pattern of chimpanzees, cooperation, coalitions, associations

Paleo-population genetics: population biology and population genetics of Hominins from the Pleistocene era, specialisation, facts and theories; the environmental influences of human groups in the Paleolithic and Neolithic era, the dentition of Amerindians: the evolutionary and demographic consequences of their migration from Siberia

LITERATURE:

Henke, W., Tattersall, I. (2007) Handbook of Paleoanthropology I-III. Springer, Heidelberg

TEACHER:

Bodzsár Éva

professor