



**ASM246x - Human Origins  
Fall A 2016**

**Course Overview**

In this introductory 8-week, three-credit lecture course, we will guide you through an exploration of the scientific evidence for the evolution of humans and our fossil relatives, and humankind's place in the natural world. This includes an introduction to evolutionary theory, an overview of the hominin fossil record and what that record teaches us about our place in nature. Dr. Donald Johanson, a world-renowned paleoanthropologist who found the skeleton known as Lucy will present an exciting in-depth exploration of paleoanthropological field research from his unique perspective.

**Course Learning Objectives and Topics**

By the end of this course you will be able to:

- Outline the nature of science and explain how scientific research is conducted.
- Identify humans' place in the natural world from taxonomic/phylogenetic perspectives.
- Define the role of paleoanthropologist in human origins research.
- Identify how paleoanthropologists use the scientific method to formulate hypotheses and strategically conduct research.
- Articulate differences between scientific evidence for human evolution and non-scientific, non-testable, explanations for human origins.

**Recommended Prior Knowledge**

To be successful in this course, we recommend English language fluency and computer literacy.

## Online Course Requirements

This is an online course. The content and learning activities will be found within the edX platform. All course interactions will utilize Internet technologies. It is your responsibility to complete the assigned reading, quizzes, Cerego memory practice exercises, watch the recorded lectures, and ask any questions you have in the discussion area.

## Computer Requirements

This course is best accessed by a reasonably modern browser on a laptop or desktop computer. Course videos can be accessed using the edX App for iPhone and Android. More information on mobile at the link that follows here: <https://www.edx.org/mobile>

Students who are interested in taking the course for credit will need additional computer requirements and skills located at:  
<http://clientportal.softwaresecure.com/support/index.php?/Knowledgebase/Article/View/252/0/system-requirements-remote-proctor-now>

**Students should take and successfully complete the practice proctored exam to confirm system compatibility. The questions in the practice proctored exam are related to this syllabus.**

## Reading Materials

All reading materials will be provided digitally.

## Course Communications

Communication will take place in discussion boards and announcements.

## Course Time Commitment

Class preparation means completing the assigned readings and reviewing all information required for that week. Attendance in an online course means logging into edX on a regular basis and participating in all of the activities that are posted.

This 8-week, three-credit course requires 135 hours of student work. Therefore, expect to spend approximately 18 hours per week (over 7 weeks) preparing for and actively participating in this course. Week 8 contains the final exam only.

## **Submitting Assignments**

All assignments, unless otherwise announced by the instructor, **MUST** be submitted via edX. Each assignment will have a designated place for submission.

## **Assignment Deadlines**

Late assignments will not be accepted at any point during the course. Establish your work schedule for this course during the first two days that the course is open to meet all course obligations.

Be sure to plan ahead for technical errors and submit assignments early. Extensions will not be granted for technical/computer issues except in the event of a system-wide issue.

## **Subject to Change Notice**

All material, assignments, and deadlines are subject to change. It is your responsibility to stay in touch with announcements, connect with your instructor through the discussion boards, review the course site regularly, and communicate with other students.

## **Academic Integrity**

Academic honesty is expected of all students in all examinations, academic transactions, and records. The possible sanctions include, but are not limited to, appropriate grade penalties, course failure (indicated on the transcript as a grade of E), course failure due to academic dishonesty (indicated on the transcript as a grade of XE), loss of registration privileges, disqualification, and dismissal. For more information, see <http://provost.asu.edu/academic-integrity> and <https://www.edx.org/edx-terms-service>.

## **Memory Practice: Powered by Cerego**

There are 7 interactive content review exercises for the course, one per content week. They will count as 25% of your grade.

## **Quizzes, Mid-term Exam, and Final Exam**

All Quizzes and Exams must be taken by you (please read the Academic Integrity section above this section to confirm details).

There are seven quizzes, one each week. The weekly quizzes count 30% toward your final grade. You may take a quiz at any time during the week, but you must complete the quiz prior to the start of the next week.

There is a proctored Mid-term Exam in Week 4 that covers all material you have learned from Weeks 1 through 3 inclusive. All students are invited to take the Mid-term. ID Verified students will be presented with an option to take the exam as a proctored student, or to decline this option. **If you wish to take this course for ASU credit, you must take the Mid-term Exam as a proctored student.** The Mid-term Exam is worth 20% of your grade.

The Final Exam covers all material you have learned from Weeks 4 through 7 inclusive. All students are invited to take the Final Exam. ID Verified students will be presented with an option to take the exam as a proctored student, or to decline this option. **If you wish to take this course for ASU credit, you must take the Final Exam as a proctored student.** The Final Exam is worth 25% of your grade.

You may take the Mid-term and Final Exams at any time over a four day period; however, once you start, you will have three hours to complete the exam. Proctoring information will be provided.

### Course Grading

Item (number)	Weight	Verified/Proctored
Weekly Quizzes - Weeks 1-7	30%	No
Mid-term (1)	20%	Yes Proctored (ID Verified) No for Auditing Students
Memory Practice (7)	25%	No
Final Exam (1)	25%	Yes Proctored (ID Verified) No for Auditing Students

Final grades are based on the number of points you earn on the Quizzes, the Mid-term Exam, completing the Memory Practice, and the Final Exam. There is no extra credit available. You can see your percentage of the total points to date on your edX progress page. Final scores will be absolute as follows: 90% or better will get an A, 80% or better a B, 70% or better a C, below 70% is a failing grade. There will be no + or - added to grades.

EdX does not supply a letter grade. **You must pass the course with a grade of C (70%) or higher in order to receive credit from ASU on your ASU transcript (should you choose this option). You must also pass the course with 70% or higher to receive an ID Verified Certificate.**

## **Student Support**

The link that follows here will take you to the edX Help Center. The edX Help Center includes a search feature along with a list of topics and Frequently Asked Questions associated with those topics: <https://support.edx.org/hc/en-us>