Anthropology 112
Paleolithic Archaeology

UCLA Spring Quarter 2004

Instructor

- Dr. Jeff Brantingham
  - Office Hours: Wednesdays 10:00 AM – 12:30 PM; or by appointment
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Electronic Resources

- Course URL
  - http://www.sscnet.ucla.edu/04S/anthro112-1/

- Electronic Discussion Board
  - Please email Dr. Brantingham any specific questions you have about the course or course material
  - The discussion Board is for the class community. It WILL NOT be monitored for questions

Required Texts


Additional Papers

- available on web
- assigned as needed
Exams, Paper and Grades

- Midterm Exam
  - 100 points; 50% of final grade
- Research Paper
  - 100 points; 50% of final grade

- OPTIONAL FINAL EXAM
  - May be used to improve grade by ONE FULL LETTER GRADE
  - Final exam will not hurt you...

Important Policies

- LECTURES AND READINGS ARE COMPLIMENTARY!
- THIS IS A READING-INTENSIVE COURSE!
- NO LATE PAPERS ACCEPTED!
- INCOMPLETES WILL NOT BE GRANTED!
- NO MAKEUP EXAMS!
- CHEATING AND PLAGARISM WILL NOT BE TOLLERATED!

Important Dates

- May 12, 2004: Midterm Exam
- June 4, 2004: Paper Due
- June 15, 2004: Optional Final

Major Themes

- What is culture in the broadest sense and what does it accomplish in human evolution?
  - Culture = transmission system for non-genetic (learned) information that is advantageous in reproduction and survival.

- How does archaeological evidence allow us to infer adaptation? And how does human behavior impact evolution?
  - A model of reproductive success that places emphasis on behavior.
Theory, Methods & Data

- Emphasis on the HOW and WHY questions of surrounding the evolution of human behavior.

- Dates, places, fossils and specific archaeological data are important for supporting our theories.
  - You have a major responsibility to organize and understand these EMPIRICAL DATA above and beyond what we discuss directly in class!

Schedule of Topics

- Week 1–3
  - theory and method
- Week 3
  - primate skeleton, behavior; Australopithicines & early Homo
- Week 4
  - the origins of "culture" & Oldowan ecology
- Weeks 5 & 6
  - Homo erectus biology, behavior, ecology & evolution

Readings for Week 1

- TODAY
  - Klein Chapter 8 (an overview)
- Wednesday
  - Klein Chapter 1 (pp 1-18)
  - Shennan Chapter 3
- Friday
  - Kaplan et al.
  - Portions of Boyd & Silk Chapters 6 & 7