

PHONE: 970-351-1745

W 1:30-2:30pm, and by appointment

CLASS TIME AND LOCATION: MWF 9:05-10:55am Candelaria 190

REQUIRED TEXT: The Wisdom of the Bones: In Search of Human Origins by Alan Walker and Pat Shipman. Vintage Books. ISBN: 978-0-7974-7833-3

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

This course examines the biomechanics, anatomy, and physiology of human activities. We will use evolutionary theory to investigate critical evolutionary changes in the human form, and why our body's structure allows it to function the way that it does. We will study the human musculoskeletal system, and draw from the research of paleoanthropologists, engineers, and anatomists to investigate our capacity for skilled behavior. At the end of this course, students should recognize the distinctive features that make us uniquely human, as well as the many features we share with other members of the animal kingdom.

**COURSE LEARNING OBJECTIVES:**

- Students will recognize the distinctive features that make *Homo sapiens* uniquely human
- Students will be able to explain the selective pressures behind major physiological changes in the human body
- Students will produce a research paper and give a presentation about a biomechanical adaptation in human populations

**DEPARTMENTAL LEARNING OUTCOMES:**

This course addresses several of our department learning goals: building knowledge of advancements in biological anthropology's understanding of human biological evolution, skill at using the scientific method in addressing problems of human evolution, and skill at critical thinking about issues in human evolution.

Cheating, plagiarism, forgery, and all other forms of academic misconduct are unacceptable in this course, and at UNC. UNC's policies and recommendations for academic misconduct are followed. For additional information, please see the Dean of Student's website, Student Handbook link <http://www.unco.edu/dos/handbook/index.html> Lack of knowledge of these requirements ~~is not~~ be viewed as an excuse for noncompliance. Cheating, plagiarism, and forgery will result in a zero for that

the absence is unexcused. If you need to leave a lecture early, it is essential that you discuss this with the instructor BEFORE class begins. Attendance may be taken at the beginning or end of each lecture.

One of the best ways to retain information is by articulating your thoughts on new or complex material



Week		Topics Covered	Readings
	M 3/20	The Neandertals	Monnier, 2012

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