

Life in the Pleistocene

3 credit course

The changes in the material and physical dimensions of hominin life within the climatic and geographic constraints of the Pleistocene.

Course prerequisites

Either Introduction to Archaeology (01.070.105) or Introduction to Human Evolution (01.070.102).

Instructor

Hylke de Jong

Office hours Monday and Tuesday 12.30-2.30 PM or by appointment

Room: BIO 204B

Class meetings

Tuesday and Friday: 10.55-12.15 BIO-206 in the Biological Sciences Building Douglass Campus.

Materials

In addition to the resources available on Sakai, the following two books are **required**:

Gamble, Clive 2013 *Settling the Earth: The Archaeology of Deep Human History*, Cambridge University Press, Cambridge etc.

And recommended:

Corbey, Raymond 2005 *The Metaphysics of Apes: Negotiating the Animal-Human Boundary*, Cambridge University Press, Cambridge etc.

Learning goals

- Philosophical history of Palaeoanthropological and Archaeological research.
- Climatic and geographic constraints on hominin diet, sociality, and dispersal.
- Mode and tempo of human dispersal.
- The consequences and explanations behind increasing encephalization.
- Human history and life in the Pleistocene.
- Palaeolithic archaeology.

Grading

Grading will be based on participation in class discussion (20%), chapter and paper reviews (40%), a term paper (approx. 2000 words long, excluding references and captions-30%), and a presentation (10%).

Course Policies

Academic Integrity: Cheating lowers the value of a Rutgers degree and the learning experience for all students. No form of cheating, including plagiarism, will be tolerated. One commits plagiarism when one represents the text or ideas of others as one's own creation. Please visit the website of the Rutgers Office of Academic Integrity (<http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu>) for a fuller explanation of plagiarism and of the penalties for it. Convicted plagiarists may receive a disciplinary F in the course and possibly face expulsion from the University.

Student Absences: Students are expected to attend all classes; if you expect to miss one or two classes, please use the University absence reporting website <https://sims.rutgers.edu/ssra/> to indicate the date and reason for your absence. An email is automatically sent to me.

Schedule

1. Week 1: **16/19 Jan** Corbey *The Metaphysics of Apes: Ambiguous Apes*
2. Week 2: **23/26 Jan** Crafting the Primate Order
3. Week 3: **29 Jan/2 Feb** Up from the Ape
4. Week 4: **6/9 Feb** *Homo's* Humanness
5. Week 5: **13/16 Feb** "Symbolic Man" in Ethnology
6. Week 6: **20/23 Feb** Pan Sapiens?
7. Week 7: **27 Feb/2 Mar** Beyond Dualism
8. Week 8: **6/10 Mar** Gamble *Settling the Earth: The worlds of deep human history*
9. Week 9: **13/17 Mar** No Class-SPRING RECESS
10. Week 10: **20/23 Mar** The drivers of climate, environment and population
11. Week 11: **27/30 Mar** Walking an running down the tectonic trail
12. Week 12: **3/6 Apr** Three strides across the bio-tidal world
13. Week 13: **10/13 Apr** Going beyond, keeping in touch
14. Week 14: **17/20 Apr** The call of the North and Eyes on the Horizon
15. Week 15: **24/27 Apr** Presentations