Like all other living things on this planet, humans are the products of evolution. Our ancestors included small terrestrial insectivores, arboreal monkey-like creatures, and, most recently, bipedal ape-like creatures. Over a span of more than 100 million years, processes such as recombination, mutation, and natural and sexual selection shaped and reshaped these species. In this course, we will explore how these transformations occurred. We will examine how evolution works, and how this understanding sheds light on the forms and behaviors of our closest living relatives, the apes and monkeys. We will discuss how knowledge of living primates can be combined with archaeological and paleontological evidence in order to reconstruct the history of the human lineage. Lastly, we will consider how evolution has shaped the bodies, minds and behaviors of modern humans.

Like any epic saga, the emerging account of human evolution is composed of innumerable details, from the shape of a tooth in a mandible to the number of offspring born in a year. However, while these facts are important, they are meaningless without an understanding of the processes that produce change. Accordingly, the mechanisms of evolution will form the foundational fabric upon which, over the next sixteen weeks, we will weave the tapestry of our species’ unique history.

Student Learning Outcomes:
1. Identify the theoretical contributions of the Early Naturalists to the development of science.
2. Explain and apply the theoretical principles of natural selection and evolution to a specific case study.
3. Explain and correctly apply the terminology and theories of human paleontology.

Prerequisite: None


Grading: The course grade will be determined by the student’s performance on the basis of attendance and participation in classroom discussions, four in-class quizzes, one written paper project, one one-hour midterm exam, and a final cumulative exam. The weights used for the final grade are:

- Attendance and Participation: 45 Points (3 points per week)
- Quizzes (4 total): 80 Points (20 points each)
- Written Project: 100 Points
- Midterm Exam: 125 Points
- Final Exam: 150 Points
- TOTAL: 500 Points

Total Points Grade
450 to 500 A
400 to 459 B
350 to 399 C
300 to 349 D
Below 300 F
**Attendance and Participation:** Students are expected to attend every class, to arrive on time, and to participate until class is dismissed. Students are responsible for any material missed due to absence. At the instructor’s discretion, any student may be dropped if the first or first two scheduled class meetings are missed. Students will be awarded one point per class meeting for attendance and one point per week for participation for the first fifteen weeks of the semester. In the case of excused absences, the student will only lose the one attendance point for the missed class. In the case of unexcused absences, the student will lose both the attendance point for that day as well as the participation point for that week. Excessive tardiness, sleeping in class, or disruptive behavior such as talking in class will be treated the same as an unexcused absence.

**Special Note: Smart/Cell Phones:** Please turn off all phones and personal devices while in the classroom. If you disrupt the class with a phone, or if you are observed using your phone to send text messages while in class, you will lose your attendance and participation points for that entire week. You also may be asked to leave the classroom.

**Online lecture presentations:** All powerpoint lectures presented in class will be posted online in PDF format at the beginning of each week during the semester. They can be accessed by logging into the CANVAS website, selecting this course, and clicking on the “Modules” tab on the side of the page. These will serve as important review and study resources, as well as the opportunity to see what was covered in class if you are absent.

**Quizzes:** There will be four quizzes given during the semester. Each quiz will usually be given at the end of the second class meeting of the weeks indicated on the syllabus. The quizzes will cover material from both readings and lecture. Each quiz will include ten multiple-choice questions and will be worth 20 points, for a total of 80 points toward the final grade. You will be required to supply your own Scantron Form for each quiz.

**Written Project:** Students are required to complete one written project during the semester. This will be a relatively short (8-10 pages) primate observation study. The specific assignment will be presented in class during the third week of the semester. Additional details and information will be given on a separate handout distributed at that time. See the course outline for the due date of this assignment. The written project will be worth 100 points toward the final grade. Late assignments will result in a loss of ten points per week that the assignment is late.

**Midterm Exam:** There will be one midterm exam given during the eighth week of class. The format will include multiple choice and short essay questions. The exam will cover material presented in lecture, assigned readings and any other classroom material such as films or videos. The midterm exam will be worth 125 points towards the final grade. Make-up exams will be given at the discretion of the instructor and must be taken within 1 week of the test date. You will be required to supply your own Blue Book/Scantron Form for the exam.

**Final Exam:** The final exam will follow the same format as the midterm exam and will be cumulative. The exam will be weighted more toward the material from the second half of the class, but will be made up of at least 25% questions pertaining to material preceding the midterm exam. The final exam will be worth 150 points towards the final grade. There will be no make-ups for the Final Exam. You will be required to supply your own Blue Book/Scantron Form for the exam.

**Extra Credit:** A maximum total of ten extra credit points are possible throughout the semester (unless otherwise announced by the instructor). In order to receive these extra credit points, you must fulfill the requirements explained during the first class meeting of the semester. No additional extra credit assignments will be given.

**Academic Honesty:** There is a zero-tolerance policy on violations of academic honesty standards in this course. If you are caught cheating or plagiarizing you will automatically receive 0 points for the assignment, quiz or exam in question. For a description of academic honesty definitions and further consequences, please refer to the following page.

**Dropping This Class:** If you choose to withdraw from this course during the semester, it is your responsibility to drop the course by submitting a drop slip to Admissions and Records. If you fail to do so and your name appears on the final roster you will receive a grade for the class. Check the academic calendar for the last day to drop the class without penalties.

**Students with Disabilities:** West Valley College makes reasonable accommodations for persons with documented disabilities. The Disability and Educational Support Program (DESP) coordinates accommodations and services for all students who are eligible. If you have a disability for which you wish to request accommodations and have not already done so, please contact DESP as soon as possible. The DESP office is located in the LS building; their phone number is (408) 741-2010 (voice) or (408) 741-2658 (TTY). The instructor will only make accommodations for students with disabilities if the student has been formally documented by the DESP Program prior to or during the semester.

**WVMCCD District Non-Discrimination Statement:** The District, and each individual who represents the District, shall provide access to its services, classes, and programs without regard to national origin, religion, age, gender, gender identity, gender expression, sex, race or ethnicity, color, medical condition, genetic information, ancestry, sexual orientation, marital status, physical or mental disability, pregnancy, or military and veteran status, or because he/she is perceived to have one or more of the foregoing characteristics, or based on association with a person or group with one or more of these actual or perceived characteristics.

**Unlawful Discrimination/Sexual Harassment Policy:** If you have a complaint or if someone has shared information with you about unlawful discrimination or sexual harassment, contact the Associate Vice Chancellor of Human Resources at West Valley-Mission Community College District, Human Resources Department, (408-741-2060). If the Associate Vice Chancellor of Human Resources is not available, contact the College President at 408-741-2097.
• General: Students are responsible for completing the learning and performance objectives of the courses in which they are enrolled and giving evidence of such learning through examinations, essays, term papers, journals and such other requirements as the instructor may deem appropriate for demonstrating mastery of skills required in the course. When a student receives an incomplete grade (“I”), he or she shall not be permitted to repeat the course in a subsequent semester unless the student makes up the incomplete as specified by the instructor and is subsequently awarded a substandard grade (“D,” “F” or “NP”). Students are held fully responsible for following College procedures for adding, dropping or withdrawal, and for filing appropriate forms in the Admissions Office.

• Attendance: Students are expected to attend all sessions of each class. Instructors may drop students from the class if they fail to attend the first class meeting, or when accumulated unexcused hours of absences exceed ten percent of the total number of hours the class meets during the semester. Moreover, an instructor may drop from the class any student who fails to attend at least one class session during the first three weeks of instruction.

• Withdrawal from college: A student who must withdraw entirely from the College before the end of the semester should file a withdrawal notice in the Admissions Office. A student who withdraws from the College will receive those credits and grade symbols applicable on the date of withdrawal under the District’s grading system described earlier.

• Withdrawal from a class: It is the responsibility of the student to withdraw from a class prior to the published deadline in order to insure that a penalty grade will not be awarded for the course. A student who withdraws from a class prior to the first class meeting of short-term classes or through the end of the 2nd week for semester-length courses shall have no notation of enrollment in the class posted on the semester grade report or transcript. The schedule of classes lists exact drop dates. From that point through the three-quarter point of the term (through the end of the twelfth week for semester length courses), a “W” grade will be posted on the final grade report and the transcript. After that deadline, a grade symbol other than a “W” will be posted.

• Academic Dishonesty: Dishonesty includes but is not limited to in-class cheating, out-of-class cheating, plagiarism, knowingly assisting another student in cheating or plagiarism, or knowingly furnishing false information to College staff, faculty, administrators or other officials. Following are definitions of in-class cheating, out-of-class cheating, plagiarism, and furnishing false information. These are not all-inclusive and the list itself is not meant to limit definition of cheating to just those mentioned.
  
a. In-class cheating: during an examination or on any work for which the student will receive a grade or points, unauthorized looking at or procuring information from any unauthorized sources, or any other student’s work.
b. Out-of-class cheating: unauthorized acquisition, reading or knowledge of test questions prior to the testing date and time; changing any portion of a returned graded test or report and resubmitting as original work to be regraded; or presenting the work of another as one’s own for a grade or points.
c. Plagiarism: unauthorized use of expression of ideas from either published or unpublished work(s) as a student’s own work for a grade in a class. This also includes the violation of copyright laws, including copying of software packages.
d. Furnishing false information: forgery, falsification, alteration or misuse of College documents, records, or identification in class or in laboratory situations.

• Classroom-Related Disciplinary Sanctions: When a student is charged with plagiarism or cheating related to a class, and the instructor has reasonable proof or documentation or the student admits the violation, the instructor may select one or more of the following options:
  
a. Issue an oral or written notification and warn the student that further acts of this sort will result in additional disciplinary action.
b. Issue a NP or a failing grade (“F”) or “0” for the assignment in question.
c. Refer the student to the CSSO for disciplinary action.

Students have not only the right to an education, but to the rights of citizenship as well; therefore, no student shall be deprived of equal treatment and equal access to educational programs, due process, presumption of innocence prior to proof otherwise, free expression and association, or privacy of thought. Students bring to college various interests and values previously acquired and they develop new interests as members of an academic community. They shall be free to organize and join groups, in the pursuit of those interests, subject only to regulations and procedures which are intended to preserve the integrity of the District and which are consistent with constitutional guarantees. In keeping with the ideals of a democracy, students shall be granted the rights and responsibilities of self-government. In the activities of student groups and the conduct of student government, discrimination based on race, ethnic background, national origin, sex, age, sexual preference, or physical handicap shall be expressly prohibited. Students and recognized student organizations shall be free to examine and discuss questions of interest to them and to express their opinions publicly and privately without fear of reprisal. They shall be free to support legal causes by orderly means that do not disrupt the operation of the College. College documents are subject to the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (Public Law 93-980). Attendant upon the right guaranteed to each student are certain responsibilities, which are respect for the rights of others, acceptance of properly constituted authority, and compliance with the policies, regulations and procedures of the District. Each student bears full responsibility for his or her actions and is expected to abide by district policies on student conduct (policy 5.19).
General Course Schedule: This course schedule is subject to change. The assigned readings are indicated for each week. It is essential that all reading be completed before the first class meeting each week.

PART 1: HOW EVOLUTION WORKS

Week 1 (Aug. 28 & 30): Natural Selection & the Evolution of Complex Adaptations  
Reading: Prologue; Chapter 1

Week 2 (Sept. 4 & 6): Sexual Reproduction and Mendelian Genetics  
Reading: Chapter 2 (pp. 24-36 only)

Week 3 (Sept. 11 & 13): Population Genetics and the Modern Synthesis  
Reading: Chapter 3
Written Project handout

Week 4 (Sept. 18 & 20): How New Species Arise and How We Classify Them  
Reading: Chapter 4  
**Quiz #1**

PART 2: PRIMATE ECOLOGY AND BEHAVIOR

Week 5 (Sept. 25 & 27): Overview of Primate Ecology and Social Organization  
Reading: Chapter 5

Week 6 (Oct. 2 & 4): Primate Mating Systems and Social Behavior  
Reading: Chapters 6 & 7

Week 7 (Oct. 9 & 11): Primate Intelligence  
Reading: Chapter 8  
**Quiz #2**

Week 8 (Oct. 16): Midterm Review  
Reading: none

**MIDTERM EXAM, Thursday, October 18**

PART 3: THE HISTORY OF THE HUMAN LINEAGE

Week 9 (Oct. 23 & 25): Overview of Hominoid Evolution and The Early Hominins  
Reading: Chapters 9 & 10

Week 10 (Oct. 30 & Nov. 1): The Later Hominins  
Reading: Chapter 11

Week 11 (Nov. 6 & 8): Early Homo  
Reading: Chapter 12

Week 12 (Nov. 13 & 15): The Emergence of Modern Humans  
Reading: Chapter 13  
**Quiz #3**

PART 4: EVOLUTION AND MODERN HUMANS

Week 13 (Nov. 20* only one class meeting this week): Modern Human Genetic and Behavioral Diversity  
Reading: Chapters 14 & 15

**WRITTEN PROJECT DUE IN CLASS Tuesday, November 20**

Week 14 (Nov. 27 & 29): Human Mate Choice and Parenting  
Reading: Chapter 16

Week 15 (Dec. 4 & 6): Conclusion and Overview  
Reading: Epilogue  
**Quiz #4**

**FINAL EXAM: Thursday, December 13, 11:50 AM – 1:50 PM**