University of Nicosia, Cyprus

Course Code	**Course Title**	**ECTS Credits**
BIOL-207	Human Evolution	6
Department	**Semester**	**Prerequisites**
Life and Health Sciences	Fall	None
Type of Course	**Field**	**Language of Instruction**
Required	Biology, Anthropology	English
Level of Course	**Year of Study**	**Lecturer**
1st Cycle	2nd or 3rd	Dr. Iris Charalambidou
Mode of Delivery	**Work Placement**	**Co-requisites**
face-to-face	N/A	None

Objectives of the Course:

This course will be an exploration of the various evolutionary perspectives to help students understand how the social and physical environments have together shaped human evolution and the social behavior of modern man. The objectives of the course are to:

- Explore the history of human evolution by discussing the available evidence today.
- Explain how Darwinian selection operates on human biology and culture (including behavior) and review the factors that can account for long term changes using examples of early and modern human societies.
- Discuss the adaptive anatomical and biological changes that allowed human to walk upright, enlarge their brains and develop tool making skills and language by using as a basis the models proposed from anthropological research.
- Utilize case study scenarios from the literature to discuss the factors which contribute to the creation of social worlds and the biological impact of civilization.
- Enable students to develop writing skills on related topics using the available literature.

Learning Outcomes:

After completion of the course students are expected to be able to:

1. Differentiate and report on the general models of human evolution through time using evolutionary theory and evidence derived from paleoanthropoligical data.
2. Identify and explain the contribution of geography to human evolution.
3. Discuss hominoid behavior.
4. Distinguish the relationships between human behavior and human morphology and between human adaptation and ecology.
5. Associate and interpret the evolution of human social behaviour and discuss the

biological impact of civilization.
6. Review scientific literature and write reports on issues related to human evolution.

Course Contents:

1. Historical perspectives in evolutionary biology;
2. Human Genetics and Cell Biology: A Review
3. Dating methods in paleoanthropology
4. Evolutionary Theory and driving forces; Natural Selection, Sexual Selection, Adaptation
5. The Primates; models for hominid behavior
6. The Human Species
7. Primate Origins and Evolution; Cooperation and conflict
8. Human Origins, The Australopithecines
9. The Evolution of the Genus Homo
10. The Origin of Modern Humans; The ice man.
11. Human Microevolution
12. The Human Life Cycle; Growth and Adaptability; cultural change
13. The biological impact of Civilization; the baby boom, the aging population

Learning Activities and Teaching Methods:

Lectures; Cooperative learning activities, discussions.

Assessment Methods:

Assignments, Tests and Mid-term Exam; Final Exam

Required Textbooks/Reading:

Authors	Title	Publisher	Year	ISBN
John Relethford	THE HUMAN SPECIES: An Introduction to Biological Anthropology	McGraw-Hill	2003, 5th ed.	ISBN-0767430220

Recommended Textbooks/Reading:

Authors	Title	Publisher	Year	ISBN
N.T. Boaz, A.J.Almquist	Biological Anthropology: A Synthetic Approach to Human Evolution	Prentice Hall;	2002, 2nd ed.	ISBN - 0130908193