
SCIENCE, SOCIETY AND HUMAN ORIGINS in Fall 2020 (HI1099FB8)

Course Code	HI1099FB8	Professor(s)	Linda Martz
Prerequisites	None	Office Number	G109
Class Schedule	M: 12:40-14:15 in G-002 R: 18:10-19:45 in G-002	Office Hours	Thursdays 11h to 12h and other times by prior agreement, by appointment via Libcal https://aup.libcal.com/appointments/lindamartz
Credits	4	Email	lmartz@aup.edu
Semester	Fall 2020	Office Tel. Ext.	

Course Description

The available evidence indicates that our species, *Homo sapiens*, emerged in Africa, and then migrated across the planet, where its DNA occasionally intermingled with that of other human species which then disappeared, leaving *Homo sapiens* as the only human species, the only human race, on the planet. Why then do we talk about 'race' as if something fundamental distinguished, for instance, people of one skin color from people of a different skin color? After starting with a brief overview of what science can say about human origins, we'll look at some aspects of the emergence of thinking about human difference. As you become more aware of your own connection to the very distant past, you'll learn how the more recent past has been impacted by how people have told that story, sometimes making honest mistakes influenced by their own cultural constraints and sometimes to achieve political objectives. Then you'll look at how "science" has been manipulated to create distinctions and hierarchies among different groups of people, to dehumanize and isolate them, and you'll look into the faces of witnesses to the ultimate dehumanization by classification, genocide.

This is primarily a history course, but you'll come in contact with a whole range of ways of approaching these questions, including paleontology, philosophy, psychology, and sociology.

Course Learning Outcomes

General Education

FIRSTBRIDGE LEARNING GOALS

- Students will enhance their information literacy, acquiring an understanding of how information is produced, and discovering how to evaluate, create and use it effectively and ethically. Students will develop an awareness of the conversational nature of scholarship and be able to identify appropriate secondary sources to conduct effective research.
- Students will develop public speaking and presentation skills in order to participate effectively and appropriately in academic discussion and as community leaders, in a professional and engaging manner that can convey complex information.
- Students will be able to appreciate place as a site of knowledge, to interrogate the multiple meanings of place and develop a more informed and sensitive understanding of interactions between people and their physical environment.
- Students will learn to formulate questions that can lead to greater learning and productive individual and group research projects.
- Students will strengthen the concrete skills and aptitudes to be successful at AUP and beyond, such as study skills and time management, the mindsets that lead to lifelong learning, and desired classroom behaviors and interpersonal skills.

CORE CURRICULUM – INTEGRATIVE INQUIRY LEARNING GOALS:

- Local and Global Perspectives: Students will enhance their intercultural understanding of languages, cultures, and histories of local societies and the global issues to which these relate.
- Exploring and Engaging Difference: Students will think critically about cultural and social difference; they will identify and understand power structures that determine hierarchies and inequalities that can relate to race, ethnicity, gender, nationhood, religion, or class

Course Outline

Tentative course schedule

September

Note: journal entries are due for readings marked *. Read prepare each day's reading and post the journal entry BEFORE class.

Week I – 23rd – 25th

RS Wednesday: Intro to FB*

Thursday: *Sapiens* chapters 1 and 2, discussion of new research.*

Week II – 28th – 2nd

Monday: *Sapiens* chapters 3 and 4.*

RS Wednesday: Evolution Toolbox; bring your technology

Thursday: *Sapiens* chapters 5 and 6*, discussion of individual research project

September 30th – last day to drop/add courses online

October

Week III – 5th – 9th

Monday: *Tangled Bank*, chapter 14*

RS Wednesday: visit to the Shoah Memorial (subject to Covid restrictions)

Thursday: *Race, Monogamy and Other Lies*, introduction and chapter 4*, three ideas for the individual research project due.

Week IV – 12th – 16th

Monday: review.

RS Wednesday: research skills in the library; your final, approved research question should be posted by now

Thursday: **Test One (on line)**

Week V – 19th – 23rd

Monday: Becoming Evil, intro and chapter 1

RS Wednesday: Check in and Joint Project discussion – object and then catalog

Thursday: Becoming Evil, chapter 6*; working bibliography due

Week VI – 26th – 30th

Monday: Becoming Evil, chapters 7*

RS Wednesday: Check in and advising

Thursday: Stamped from the Beginning, Introduction; choose groups for VHA project

November

Week VII – 2nd – 6th

Monday: Tangled Bank 2*

RS Wednesday: Present on Object and Its Curatorial Process (individual presentation; practice for Joint Project: Exhibition Catalog)

Thursday: Darwin, monogenism, and 19th century science (flipped lecture)

Week VIII – 9th- 13th

Monday: Test Two (online)

November 11th to 13th, fall break (no classes)

Week VIII – 16th- 20th

Monday: Individual Research Presentations – prerecorded as Voiceover Powerpoint or Teams lecture with shared screen and uploaded by midnight Sunday

RS Wednesday: introduction to the Visual History Archives

Thursday: Individual Research Presentations if needed

November 16th, Mid-semester grades due

Week IX – 23rd – 27th

Monday: Origins of Othering: anti-Semitism (flipped lecture)

RS Wednesday: work on VHA project with faculty check-ins

Thursday: Origins of Othering: slavery (flipped lecture); name of VHA witness

November 27th, last day to withdraw from a course

last day to choose credit/no credit option

Week X - 30th – 4th

Monday: Nazi Race Laws, T4, and the Einsatzgruppen (HW Les Pouponnières du IIIe Reich (film), link on Blackboard)

RS Wednesday: work on joint group project with faculty check-ins

Thursday: VHA presentation

December

Week XI – 7th – 11th

Monday: work on joint group project

RS Wednesday: Joint Project presentations

Thursday: La Rafle (film) online – long session!!

December 11th, last day of classes,

December 12th - 15th, reading days

Final Exam Monday, December 21, 17h30 – 19h30

Textbooks

Title	Author	Publisher	ISBN	Required
Sapiens	Yuval Harari	Vintage	9780099590088	Yes
Becoming Evil: How Ordinary People Commit Genocide and Mass Killing, 2nd edition	James E. Waller	Oxford - Available in Library	9780195314564	Yes

Attendance Policy

Covid-19 temporary amendments:

Students studying at The American University of Paris are STILL EXPECTED TO ATTEND ALL scheduled classes. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, students will have the option of attending classes remotely when special circumstances apply. For example when students are placed under quarantine by the French authorities or by their doctor, or when students present symptoms of Covid-19 and are directed, by their doctor or the AUP Health Office, to remain home. It is still the student's responsibility to be aware of any specific attendance policy that their professor might have set in the course syllabus. In particular, students attending remotely from distant Time Zones should check with their professors about the specific attendance policy for remote learners.

Attendance at all exams is mandatory. If you are not present on a day with a graded activity, you need to warn me in advance and provide a doctor's certificate if you wish to make up the activity.

In all cases of missed course meetings, the responsibility for communication with the professor, and for arranging to make up missed work, rests solely with the student. Whether an absence is excused or not is ALWAYS up to the discretion of the professor or the department. Unexcused absences can result in a low or failing participation grade. In the case of excessive absences, it is up to the professor or the department to decide if the student will receive an “F” for the course. An instructor may also recommend that a student withdraw, if absences have made it impossible to continue in the course at a satisfactory level. Students must be mindful of this policy when making their travel arrangements, and *especially during the Drop/Add and Exam Periods*.

Grading Policy

Journal entries: 20%

Class tests: 25%

Individual Research Presentation: 20%, including abstract and bibliography in MLA format

Group Project from the VHA: 15%

Participation: 5%

Joint projects with CL1099 (two parts):

Present an Object and Its Curatorial Process with CL1099CCIFB8: practice for Exhibition Catalog: 15%

Other

HYBRID COURSE ETIQUETTE

This course is intended to be delivered in a physical classroom context. In this very special semester, students will exceptionally be able to take AUP classes while not being physically present in Paris. In addition, students (or the instructor) may be required to quarantine because of contact with a diagnosed COVID case. This means that flexibility, patience, and focus are going to be required of all of us so that each member of our classroom community can be fully included: one of the basic tenets of seminar-style teaching is that students learn from each other as well as from the professor or other materials. If you are physically present in the

classroom, please have technology with you that will enable you to connect with students who are not physically present. If you are NOT physically present, please be prepared *to have your camera on at all times* during our class session. I will meet with each offsite student to determine with you the extent to which you will be 'present' via video conference because of time zone issues. Sessions that you are unable to attend will be recorded for you to view asynchronously. Because of our use of videoconferencing, each session will have a (different) student moderator who will follow the chat feature and relay any questions. Students are strongly encouraged to use the chat feature during class, but should be aware that the chat remains available to the entire class, including me. Please note that sessions will only be recorded if it has been established with me beforehand that a recording is necessary because a student has a legitimate reason for not being present.