
SCIENCE, SOCIETY AND HUMAN ORIGINS in Spring 2021 (HI1099FB1)

Course Code	HI1099FB1	Professor(s)	Linda Martz
Prerequisites	None	Office Number	G109
Class Schedule	M: 12:10-13:30 in C-505 R: 15:20-16:40 in C-505	Office Hours	By appointment via Libcal https://aup.libcal.com/appointments/linda_martz
Credits	4	Email	lmartz@aup.edu
Semester	Spring 2021	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

COURSE SCHEDULE:

An asterisk (*) indicates which texts are to be the basis of journal entries.

January

Week 1 – 18th – 22nd

Monday: Intro to Science, Society and Human Origins. First journal.*

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

Week II – 25th – 29th

January 24th – last day to drop/add courses online

Monday: *Sapiens* chapters 3 and 4*, discussion of individual research project

Thursday: *Sapiens* chapters 5 and 6*

February

Week III – 1st – 5th

Monday: *Tangled Bank*, chapter 14*, three ideas for the individual research project due.

Thursday: *Race, Monogamy and Other Lies*, introduction and chapter 4.*

Week IV – 8th – 12th

February 8th – 10th, Mini break 1, (no classes)

Thursday: review

Week V – 15th – 19th

Monday: Test One (on line)

RS Wednesday: Evolution Toolbox and Big Numbers

Thursday *Becoming Evil*, intro and chapter 1.*

Week VI – 22nd – 26th

February 24th – 28th, Mini break 2, (no classes)

Monday *Becoming Evil*, chapter 6*; working bibliography due

March

Week VII – 1st – 5th

Monday: *Becoming Evil*, chapters 7*

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

Thursday: *Becoming Evil*

Week VIII – 8th – 12th

TUESDAY 12h10 (time slot for CL1099) : *Stamped from the Beginning*, Introduction.*

RS Wednesday: library research skills

Thursday: *Tangled Bank* 2*

Week IX – 15th – 19th

Monday: Darwin, monogenism, and 19th century science (lecture)); choose groups for VHA project

RS Wednesday: Check in and advising)

Thursday: **Test Two (online)**

March 17th, Mid-semester

March 19th, Mid-semester grades due

Week X – 22nd – 26th

Monday: Study and prep session: no class but time to work on your projects; Teams access to the professor in case of need.

Wednesday: Makeup session online: 12h10-15h05: Individual Research Presentations - Powerpoint uploaded by midnight Tuesday

Thursday: **Origins of Othering: the Enslaveable African (flipped lecture)**

Week XI–29th – 2nd

Monday: Origins of Othering: anti-Semitism (flipped lecture); name of VHA witness to be posted on Blackboard

RS Wednesday: Intro: Exhibition Catalog

Thursday: origins of Othering – conclusion and review

April 2nd, last day to withdraw from a course.

Last day to choose the CR/NC grading option.

April

Week XII – 5th – 9th

April 5th, Easter Monday (no classes)

April 6th, Faculty retreat (no classes)

Thursday: Legal History of the Color Line: the Rise and Triumph of the One-Drop Rule, intro and skim chapter 9.*

Week XIII – 12th – 16th

*Monday: “A Brief Journey Through French Jewish History.” **

RS Wednesday: film La Rafle (The Round-Up).

Thursday: Nazi Race Laws, T4, and the Einsatzgruppen (HW Lebensborn: The Nazi Nurseries (video 52 minutes) and Hitler’s Forgotten Children (video 10 minutes), links on Blackboard)

Week XIV – 19th – 23rd

Monday: work on VHA presentations with faculty check-ins

Thursday: VHA presentation

RS Wednesday: work on Exhibition Catalog with faculty check-ins

Week XV – 26th – 30th

Monday: work on Exhibition Catalog with faculty check-ins

RS Wednesday: Exhibition Catalog presentations

April 28th, Last day of classes,

April 29th, – May 2nd, Reading days (May 1st, holiday)

May 10th, Final Exam/Test Three (online)

Textbooks

Title	Author	Publisher	ISBN	Required
Sapiens	Yuval Harari	Vintage	9780099590088	Yes
The Journal of Helene Berr	Helene Berr	Weinstein Books	9781906694197	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.

AUP ATTENDANCE POLICY:

Students studying at The American University of Paris are expected to attend ALL scheduled classes, and in case of absence, should contact their professors to explain the situation. It is

the student's responsibility to be aware of any specific attendance policy that a faculty member might have set in the course syllabus. The French Department, for example, has its own attendance policy, and students are responsible for compliance. Academic Affairs will excuse an absence for students' participation in study trips related to their courses.

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Attendance at all exams and graded activities 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 be allowed to make up the activity.

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:

Exhibition Catalog: 15%

Other

HYBRID COURSE ETTIQUETTE

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.