ANTH 394-A02
THE NEANDERTALS - ONLINE COURSE-

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Melanie Chang

COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES

This undergraduate course, suitable for both majors and non-majors, will outline Neandertal biology, behavior, and current debates over the place of the Neandertals in human evolution. The main goal of the course is an up to date understanding about who the Neandertals were, and how they lived, through the examination of paleontological, archaeological, and molecular data. What did they look like? What did they eat? What sort of tools did they make? Were they our ancestors or not? What’s this I hear about a cave bear cult? As we evaluate the available evidence (and its limitations), we will also investigate the history of scientific and popular thought about Neandertals, and how it has reflected changes in broader societal attitudes over time. The course will include in-class, hands-on laboratory activities and open discussions. The reading list will range from selected journal articles to excerpts from popular literature like Clan of the Cave Bear.

* You may listen to the archived lectures at any time*

SKILLS DEVELOPMENT

Students who have learned successfully in this course will:

- be familiar with the available osteological, archaeological, and genetic data regarding Neandertal biology and behavior
- understand the phylogenetic significance of the Neandertals and their relationship to more ancient hominins as well as modern humans
- be able to critically evaluate paleoanthropological data and theories