

# ANTH 394

## GREAT DEBATES IN HUMAN EVOLUTION

*-online course-*

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*INSTRUCTOR:* Dr. Melanie Chang

### **COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES**

The story of our evolution and prevailing theories explaining how and why it proceeded are famously contentious. This three-field-oriented course (encompassing archaeological, cultural, and biological anthropological perspectives) is organized as a series of “capsules” investigating specific contemporary and historical controversies in human evolution, and using these capsules to introduce and elaborate upon basic anthropological principles. Capsule topics may include Evolutionary Diets, Women and Children in Human Evolution, Origins of Human Childbirth, The Cave Bear Cult, and Violence in the Paleolithic. By the end of the term students will understand the history of these debates and their relevance to our current understanding of human evolutionary history. Through this process we will master the critical evaluation of scientific arguments, the data they rely upon, and the societal contexts in which they are made – fundamental skills for general science literacy.