

# ANTH 341

## PALEOLITHIC ARCHAEOLOGY

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*INSTRUCTOR:* Jeremy A. Beller

### **Course Description and Objectives:**

This course traces the cultural journey of our hominin ancestors and relatives—from their emergence in Africa in the Pliocene, to their dispersal throughout the rest of the Old World in the Late Pleistocene. The associated material remains characterize the Paleolithic period (Old Stone Age). Specific topics covered in this course include stone tool manufacture, resource procurement strategies, hominin-environment interaction, mobility, and diet. This course also highlights the origins of notable behaviors in our hominin lineage, such as scavenging, hunting, burial, language, art, ritual, and symbolism. It identifies how the behavior of hominin species is different or similar through an examination of their material culture. While most discussion focuses on the material culture or the archaeological record, this course also draws from research conducted in primatology, evolutionary psychology, and hunter-gatherer ethnography. Students are expected to develop an understanding of hominin behavior during the Paleolithic and a working knowledge of key sites, stone tool industries, fossils, researchers, methods, and issues that form the basis of Paleolithic archaeology.

### **SKILLS DEVELOPMENT**

- Evaluation of evidence
- Critical reading
- Data identification and description
- Academic writing
- Information synthesis and comparison