COURSE DETAIL

HOW SOCIETIES EVOLVE
Country United Kingdom - England
Host Institution University of Bristol
Program(s) English Universities,University of Bristol
UCEAP Course Level Upper Division
UCEAP Subject Area(s) Anthropology
UCEAP Course Number 149
UCEAP Course Suffix
UCEAP Official Title HOW SOCIETIES EVOLVE
UCEAP Transcript Title HOW SOCIETIES EVOLV
UCEAP Quarter Units 8.00
UCEAP Semester Units 5.30

Course Description
A simple reading of Darwinian natural selection suggests that evolution only takes place between competing individuals. However, societies are based in large part on cooperation. How then did those societies evolve? This course explores the mechanisms by which cooperation can evolve through natural selection and the resulting societies, in primates, hominins and modern humans. Group living has major implications for behavior, reproduction and cognition, where the balance of costs and benefits can result in unexpected outcomes, which can be seen across primate species. We then turn to social evolution in hominins and how this shaped early modern human society. Finally, we assess a number of hypotheses for the evolution of large-scale human societies over the last 5,000 years. The common features of the evolution of societies can give us insights into contemporary human social life and help us identify future trends in social change.

Language(s) of Instruction
English

Host Institution Course Number
ARCH20064

Host Institution Course Title
HOW SOCIETIES EVOLVE

Host Institution Course Details

Host Institution Campus
University of Bristol

Host Institution Faculty

Host Institution Degree

Host Institution Department
Department of Anthropology and Archaeology

Course Last Reviewed

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