

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 Campus

University of Bristol

Host Institution Faculty

Host Institution Degree

Host Institution Department

Department of Anthropology and Archaeology

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