

IDH2930 – The Making of Us

Class # 2047, Section # 2047

Fall 2022

Instructor: Ms. Henna D. Bhramdat, ABD

Email: bhramdath@ufl.edu

Office Hours: Tuesdays 1-4pm

Time: Tuesday, Period 4 (10:40am-11:30am)

Location: Little Hall, Rm# 117

Course Description:

This course reviews the book, *The Incredible Unlikelihood of Being: Evolution and the Making of Us*, by Alice Roberts. Together, we will discuss the biological evidence presented by the author to describe human development and evolution. We will evaluate historical scientific perspectives, and their contributions to modern scientific work.

Student Learning Objectives:

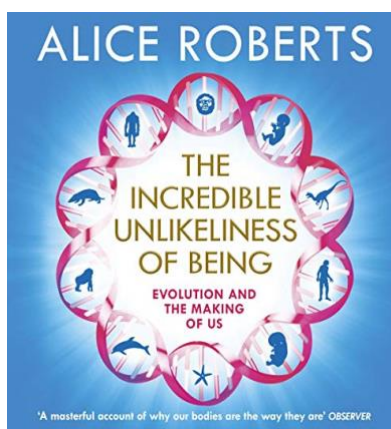
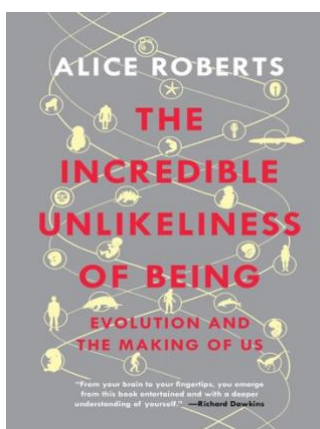
Upon successful completion of this course, students will:

1. Develop introductory background in discussions on evolutionary development.
2. Understand the contributions of historical scientific works.
3. Discuss and evaluate scientific arguments presented in scientific literature (books, journals, reviews, etc.)
4. Apply knowledge of embryology to describe the evolutionary history of us.

Required Texts:

Roberts, A (2015). *The Incredible Unlikelihood of Being: Evolution and the Making of Us*.

ISBN: 1623657989



* Additional materials readings will be posted to Canvas as they pertain to the course topics. The course website contains all relevant information, including the syllabus, handouts, etc.

Graded Work:

Course work will include assigned readings from the book and relevant excerpts from notable works it references. Related assignments include:

Percent of Total Grade	Assignment
5%	Opening paper
15%	Attendance and Participation
10%	Discussion Leader
50%	Weekly Journal
20%	Final Paper

Opening paper (5%)

Students will write on their initial perspectives, background knowledge, and personal philosophies relating to human development and evolutionary theory. The assignment will also be used later in the semester as a journal prompt to help with your reflection.

Attendance and Participation (15%)

Students are expected to attend class and contribute to the class discussion. **Attendance is required.** If you need to miss class for unforeseen circumstances, please notify the instructor as soon as possible.

Discussion Leader (10%)

Students will guide weekly discussion on the assigned readings. Discussion leaders are responsible for formulating discussion questions and sharing their insights and reflections. Your instructor will assist you during this process. Questions or discussion points should be shared with the instructor prior to class meetings.

Reading journal (50%)

Students will keep a virtual reading journal, which you are expected to submit weekly reflection. The journal will be kept private from your peers to further encourage you to share your reflections with your instructor and build upon in class discussions.

Final paper (20%)

Students will have the opportunity to propose a topic of interest related to the reading they would like to explore and further research independently. Your proposals will be due by 10/21 for instructor approval.

Policy on Late and Make-up Work

Graded requirements that are submitted late due to a documented illness or emergency may be rescheduled; however, 48 hours prior notice should be given to the instructor, and documentation must be supplied. In the case of unexpected emergencies, the instructor must be notified in advance, or as soon as possible thereafter, and the student should provide documentation immediately following the occurrence. For the health and safety of our classroom, if you are ill or withheld from campus, please stay home. The make-up assessment may be administered at the discretion of the instructor.

Grading:

Graded requirements for this course are listed above under “Graded Work.” Grading is based on a percentage earned of a total of points. Grading in this class is consistent with UF policies available at: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/grades-grading-policies/>.

Letter Grade	Range:	
A	100 %	to 93.0%
A-	< 93.0 %	to 90.0%
B+	< 90.0 %	to 87.0%
B	< 87.0 %	to 83.0%
B-	< 83.0 %	to 80.0%
C+	< 80.0 %	to 77.0%
C	< 77.0 %	to 73.0%
C-	< 73.0 %	to 70.0%
D+	< 70.0 %	to 67.0%
D	< 67.0 %	to 63.0%
D-	< 63.0 %	to 60.0%
F	< 60.0 %	to 0.0%

Course Policies:

- **Honor Pledge:** UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge which states, “We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honor and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code. On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: “On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment.” The Honor Code (sccr.dso.ufl.edu/process/student-conduct-code/) specifies several behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. Furthermore, you are obligated to report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct to appropriate personnel. If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor or TAs in this class.
- **Contact Hours:** "Contact Hours" refers to the hours per week in which students are in contact with the instructor, excluding office hours or other voluntary contact. The number of contact hours in this course equals the number of credits the course offers.
- **Workload:** As a Carnegie I, research-intensive university, UF is required by federal law to assign at least 2 hours of work outside of class for every contact hour. Work done in these hours may include reading/viewing assigned material and doing explicitly assigned individual or group work, as well as reviewing notes from class, synthesizing information in advance of exams or papers, and other self-determined study tasks.

- Accommodation for Student with Disabilities: Students with disabilities who experience learning barriers and would like to request academic accommodations should connect with the disability Resource Center by visiting <https://disability.ufl.edu/students/get-started/>. This class supports the needs of different learners; it is important for students to share their accommodation letter with their instructor and discuss their access needs as early as possible in the semester.
- Course Evaluations: Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. Guidance on how to give feedback in a professional and respectful manner is available from [the GatorEvals website](#). Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens, and can complete evaluations through the email they receive from GatorEvals, in their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals, or via [the evaluation system](#). Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at the [public results website](#).

UF Resources

- University Police: The UF police are together for a safe campus. 392-1111 (or 9-1-1 for emergencies); <http://www.police.ufl.edu/>.
- Career Connections Center: (352-392-1601 | CareerCenterMarketing@ufsa.ufl.edu) Connects job seekers with employers and offers guidance to enrich your collegiate experience and prepare you for life after graduation.
- Counseling and Wellness Center: (352-392-1575) Provides counseling and support as well as crisis and wellness services including a variety of workshops throughout the semester (e.g., Yappy Hour, Relaxation and Resilience).
- Disability Resource Center: (DRCaccessUF@ufsa.ufl.edu | 352-392-8565) Helps to provide an accessible learning environment for all by providing support services and facilitating accommodations, which may vary from course to course. Once registered with DRC, students will receive an accommodation letter that must be presented to the instructor when requesting accommodations. Students should follow this procedure as early as possible in the semester.
- Multicultural and Diversity Affairs: (352-294-7850) Celebrates and empowers diverse communities and advocates for an inclusive campus.
- Office of Student Veteran Services: (352-294-2948 | vacounselor@ufl.edu) assists student military veterans with access to benefits.

Course Schedule

Reading	Assignment	Due Date
Week 1 (8/23): NO MEETING, NO READING	Opening Paper Due	Sunday, 8/27
Week 2 (8/30): Chapter 1 (p. 1 – 25) <i>Beginnings – The mystery of conception and the history written in your body.</i>	Journal Entry #1	Friday, 9/02
Week 3 (9/06): Chapter 2 (p. 27 – 74) <i>Heads and Brains – From the origin of the vertebrate head to the phenomenal growth of the human brain</i>	Journal Entry #2	Friday, 9/09
Week 4 (9/13): Chapter 3 (p. 75 – 116) <i>Skulls and Senses – Laying the foundations for building a skull, and growing organs to sense the world around us</i>	Journal Entry #3	Friday, 9/16
Week 5 (9/20): Chapter 4 (p. 117 – 152) <i>Speech and Gills – The watery origins of the voice box</i>	Journal Entry #4	Friday, 9/23
Week 6 (9/27): Chapter 5 (p. 153 – 180) <i>Spines and Segments – A pattern for life and the evolution of the S-shaped spine</i>	Journal Entry #5	Friday, 9/30
Week 7 (10/04): Chapter 6 (p. 181 – 208) <i>Ribs, Lungs, and Hearts – The ribs of our ancestors and the heart and lungs of a fish</i>	Journal Entry #6	Friday, 10/07
Week 8 (10/11): Chapter 7 (p. 209 – 226) <i>Guts and Yolk Sacs – Links with egg-laying ancestors and fruit-eating apes</i>	Journal Entry #7	Friday, 10/14
Week 9 (10/18): Chapter 8 (p. 227 – 262) <i>Gonads, Genitals, and Gestation – The anatomy of reproduction and the helplessness of human babies</i>	Journal Entry #8 Final project proposal	Friday, 10/21
Week 10 (10/25): Alternate reading (see Canvas)		Friday, 10/28
Week 11 (11/01): Chapter 9 (p. 263 – 280) <i>On the Nature of Limbs – Fins, limbs, and ancestors</i>	Journal Entry #9	Friday, 11/04
Week 12 (11/08): Chapter 10 (p. 281 – 316) <i>Hip to Toe – Learning to walk before you run</i>	Journal Entry #10	Friday, 11/11
Week 13 (11/15): Chapter 11 (p. 317 – 336) <i>Shoulders and Thumbs – Climbing ancestors and Unique human hands</i>	Journal Entry #11	Friday, 11/18
Week 14 (11/22): Chapter 12 (p. 337 – 356) <i>The Making of Us – Finding our twig and unique human hands</i>	Journal Entry #12	Friday, 11/25
Week 15 (11/29): Alternate Readings TBA (see Canvas)	Journal Entry #13	Friday, 12/02
Week 16 (12/06): Alternate Readings TBA (see Canvas)		
FINAL EXAM 12/14 @ 5:30-7:30pm	Final Paper Due	Wednesday, 12/14

Please note that the syllabus and schedule are subject to change to accommodate any changes to university policies.