

ASEM 2420  
**THE CULTURED APE**  
Winter 2020

**Research Paper Guidelines**

The research paper for this course should address a compelling “hot button” issue in the study of human behavior and society to which an evolutionary view is applicable. A list of topics is provided in another handout.

Alternatively, you may evaluate the relationship between your major field of study and the study of human biological and behavioral evolution. You can consider how your discipline might benefit if it engages more closely with the perspective of evolutionary studies, how your discipline challenges an evolutionary view of life, etc.

Your assigned readings are guides to identifying interesting issues. Others will be identified in class. **You would be wise to run your topic by me before proceeding too far with it.**

**Note:** a “**Research Paper Prospectus**”, due on February 28, is part of the requirement for this course. The Prospectus will outline the topic that you’re working on, why you find the topic interesting, and how you’re researching the topic. In other words, it should provide a “peek behind the curtain” of your thinking and research process. I will comment on your Prospectus and return it to you in a timely fashion.

I expect you to delve into the **primary literature** on your topic. You will need to cite a minimum of **six** relevant and up-to-date sources from traditional books, scholarly journals, or respectable popular magazines (e.g., *Scientific American*, *New Scientist*, *Discover*, etc.). Using websites is OK, but you shouldn’t overly depend on them.

You should frame your paper in a coherent and scholarly way. Be clear about its focus. In writing the paper use as many **subheadings** in the body of the paper as you need to break up the text and thereby make it easier to read. An “Introduction” should identify the topic and why it is worth researching. A “Conclusion” should summarize what has been learned and what still needs to be researched.

You should produce a **Title Page** containing the title of the paper and your name, and an **Abstract** page containing a one paragraph summary of what you did and what you learned.

An accurate and properly-formatted **bibliography** of references is expected and will be scrutinized for accuracy and format. **You should use the bibliographic style that is conventional in your major discipline.**

**Expected research paper length is 10-12 pages. Margins should be one inch on all sides, font size should be 12 point. Manuscript pages should be numbered.**

**The paper is due by Thursday, March 19 at 4:00. A hard copy should be delivered to my mailbox in the Anthropology Department, Sturm 146.**