

Course name: Human evolution (USOS Code: B-BM.079Eng)

ECTS: 2

No. of hours: 30 (15 lectures + 15 classes)

Course coordinator: Dr hab. Marek Kucharczyk, prof. UMCS

Prerequisites: General knowledge of anatomy and genetics

Course description: Human origins studies: a historical perspective. Man as a biological species - systematic position. Specific features and diversity of primates. Size of body and brain, senses, diet, transport, interpersonal relations and communication in primates. Hominid evolution and the emergence of the genus Homo. Human family tree. Modern human origins and dispersal. Out-of-Africa versus the multiregional hypothesis. Genetic variation and human evolution. What makes us human: language, culture, ideology, spirituality, and morality.

Recommended literature: Tuttle R. H. (2014). Apes and Human Evolution. Cambridge, Massachusetts: Harvard University Press; Cela C., Camilo J; Ayala, F. J., 2007. Human Evolution : Trails From the Past. Series: Oxford Biology. Oxford: OUP Oxford; Tuttle, R.H. Apes and Human Evolution. Cambridge, Massachusetts: Harvard University Press.