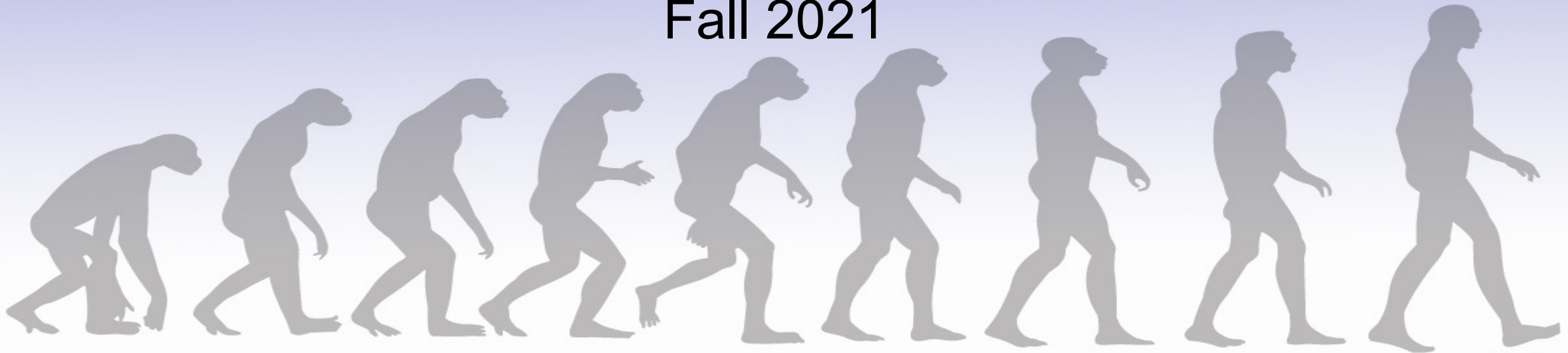


Cultivating Human:
How Evolution, Diversity, and Communication
Uniquely Shaped Human Beings

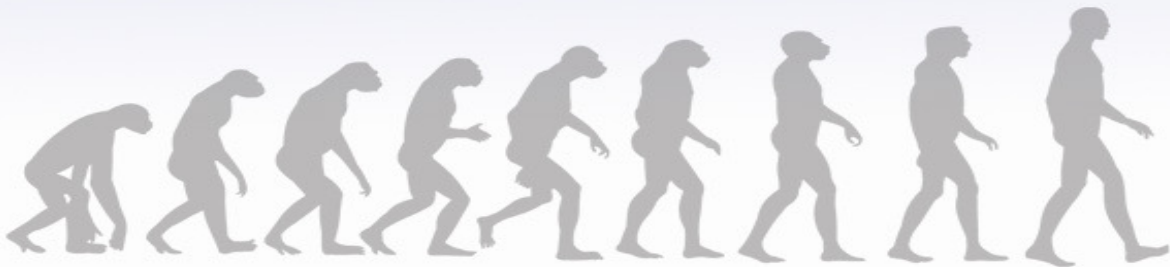
University of California at Berkeley
Osher Life-Long Learning Institute
Fall 2021



The “Big Ideas” for the Series

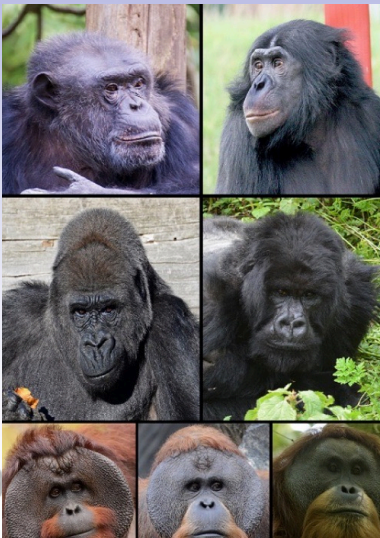
1. Communication is the medium of biological evolution, and the primary driver of cognitive evolution; cross-cultural communication is the primary driver of advancement and progress in human society.
2. In a world rent by chaotic forces both social and environmental, communication has always provided the means to reestablish order and concord, the natural arbiter of societal change and recomposition. Conversely, miscommunication, or a lack of access to truth-in-knowledge, is primarily responsible for enduring and destructive myths leading to violence, chaos, and desolation.
3. Ethnocentrism, anthropocentrism, and androcentrism are three persistent discriminatory framings that will be deconstructed in this class.

I will be seeking your thoughts and feedback!



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Class One – “Our Biocommunication Legacy” & “A Bipedal Animal Arises”

- How is human communication similar to animal communication? What communication legacies do we share with life on earth? **For the first half of class “Our Biocommunication Legacy,”** we will review the biological evolutionary milestones that lead to human communication (beginning with cellular organisms) and connects human communication deeply to ways in which animals communicate, and to our common ancestral communication pathways.
- Reassessing what we know, how is great ape communication similar to human communication? How does it differ? **For the Second Half of the Class, “A Bipedal Animal Arises”** we will review research of primate communication of the last fifty years and brings up to date what primatologists have revealed about the communication abilities of our closest living relatives.

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Class Two – “The Inscription of Consciousness”

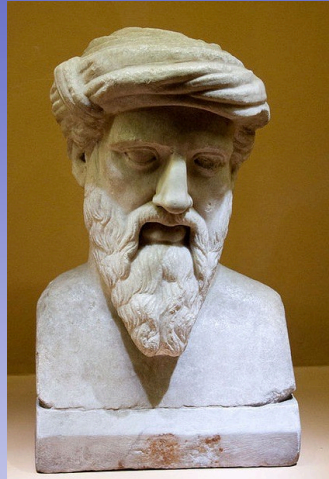
- What kinds of messages can be inferred from the early human cave painting? What are the earliest stories of human beings? **The First Half of Class**, we will focus on the origins of cave art circa 73k BCE in the Blombos Cave of South Africa, paleolithic art (circa 30k BCE, to the end of the Pleistocene 9.6k BCE).
- How do we know oral language use must have been prevalent for tens of thousands of years before written language? And why did it take so long for human beings to create a written language? **The Second Half of Class**, we will begin at the formation of written language in pictographs from ancient Egypt, Mesopotamia, and China. We'll also review some of the research in Maya glyphs that were part of my dissertation, and the transition of early pictographs into alphabetic forms of writing and communication.

Writing systems



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Class Three – “Coexistence & the Essence of Being Human”

- What are some of the major currents of thought during the Axial Age, and how has this time continued to shape the consciousness of a modern world? In **The First Half of Class**, we will review some of the early Classic period texts and the formative discussions embedded in the world religions
- How did communication change during the rise of Nation-States in the Classical World time period? In **The Second Half of Class**, we will define the communication of the large-scale Republics and Empires (circa 1500 BCE – 660 CE) and describe the layered societal status and mobility inherent in texts to inform social relations, the language of logistics in empire and birth of bureaucratic orders.



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Saint Augustine

Class Four – “An Age of Darkness Enlightens”

- In **The First Half of the Class**, we will begin with an examination of Augustine’s *Confessions*, and the ramifications for the sacred Judeo-Christian framing of life that accompanied the Dark and Middle Ages of Europe.
- In **The Second Half of Class**, we will discuss the enlightenment of the world during the Middle Ages when there is a growth of intercontinental trade networks; cross-cultural communication opens up in Asia, the Middle East, Northern Africa, Central American, and Spain. Diversity of expression in Europe begins under the rule of Abd al-Raḥmān III (circa 920 CE) of Granada and Alfonso X of Spain (circa 1280). Woodblock printing begins in the Tang Dynasty China and culminating in the golden age of classical Chinese culture (circa 618 to 907 CE).

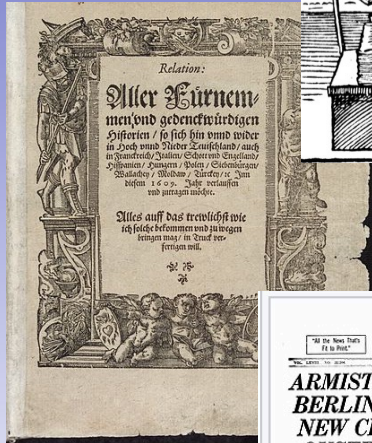


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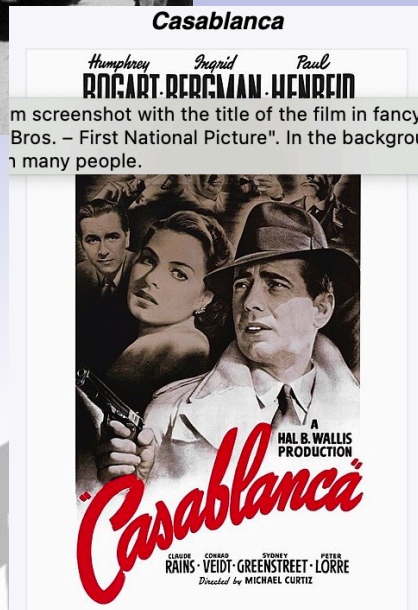
Class Five – “The Democracy of Communication”

- What contributed to unequal development in the world? When and where did the freedom of expression originate? In **The Second Half of Class**, we will discuss the democratization of human communication through widespread literacy and the new accessibility of print materials upon European citizens after the fall of Constantinople and the migration of
- What are some of the pitfalls and potentials inherent in a free press? How does it alter the form and function of textual communication? How does new media technology change self-expression and information dissemination? In **The Second Half of Class**, we will highlight the growth of Manifestos and news print beginning with the French and American Revolutions and the rise of the public sphere.



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Class Six – “A Mirror onto Ourselves”

- How does visual technology change self-expression and information dissemination? How does the development of visual communication transform human behavior and psychology? In **The First Half of Class, Silent** we will profile the technical revolution in visual communication and how technology changes the perception of time and the inner dialogues of human beings. Photography comes of age, and Alexander Gardner’s photography of Antietam and Gettysburg is profiled along with the interpersonal communication that followed the viewing of these photos in New York..
- In the **The Second Half of Class**, we will discover how the *language of film* develops in the global cinema-scapes of Sweden, Japan, France, and Hollywood, how visual communication becomes encoded into our senses and understanding in deeply psychological ways and means by filmmakers. We’ll also look at film clips associated with the journey of visual anthropology like *Nanook of the North & Forest of Bliss*.



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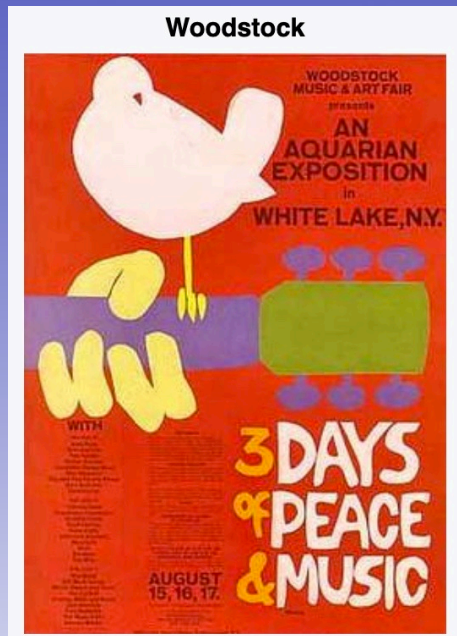
Class Seven – “The Communication of the Now”

- What are the ramifications of broadcast media, and where does it begin? How does broadcast communication contribute to social mobilization, nationalism, persuasion, and time-space compression? In **The First Half of the Class**, we will outline how human communication is altered into the instantaneous transmission from the one-to-the-many in recorded and simultaneous time in radio; the marketplace of transmission is infused with news and information and enters the domestic spheres. Communication milestones in the U.S. and world up to WWII.
- In the **Second Half of the Class**, we will look at broadcast as a medium of political messaging, particularly at the disjuncture in the messaging between mainstream portrayals of the U.S. and the countercurrents that were emerging from U.S. political actions overseas.



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Class Eight – “The Intercommunication Revolution”

- How and why is the global cultural revolution of 1968 a sea change in global consciousness and communication? What are the ramifications of the information age on the social fabric of modern society? **The First Half of the Class** we will look at the sea changes in diversity and communication that accompany the 1960s, the shifting and questioning of messaging of the younger population with what has gone before, paradigmatic shifts in the perception of war, power, sexuality, feminism, etc.
- In the **Second Half of the Class** we will look at communication and diversity in the “net” world, social media and the paradigmatic shifts in the perception gender, identity, race, continue and open up into postmodern possibilities and queer culture. The first netwar begins in Chiapas, Mexico, net-activism, and the paradox of “sense isolation” as people are simultaneously more connected than ever, and more siloed than ever as well.

