CE Prehistoric Cultures Week 9:

**Week 9 — "Early Homo . . ."**

and

**"Homo erectus and Contemporaries . . ."**

This week we continue to have a more formal look at archaeological methods and dating techniques. These will be with us on and off for the rest of the semester—that should be hard to forget by now. Continue to pay special attention to methods and techniques as we go along—from the field to the final film.

When we’re done with the introductory methods and dating slide materials, we’ll have a look at **“Early Homo”**—*Homo habilis* and *Homo rudolfensis*.

From there we’ll move on to “Java Man” and “Peking Man” and their “contemporaries” in Europe and Africa—all known as one or other form of *Homo erectus*.

We’ll first meet “The Turkana Boy” from Kenya, in the *Becoming Human* series.

We’ll continue having a look at *Becoming Human*—NOVA’s three-part series on Prehistoric Cultures. This week we take a look at **“Unearthing Our Earliest Ancestors . . . ‘Birth of Humanity.’”** We’ll watch the last of the series Week 11 when we look at “Last Man Standing.”

“In ‘Birth of Humanity,’ the second part of the three-part series ‘Becoming Human,’ NOVA investigates the first skeleton that really looks like us—‘Turkana Boy’—an astonishingly complete specimen of *Homo erectus* found by the famous Leakey team in
Kenya. These early humans are thought to have developed key innovations that helped them thrive, including hunting large prey, the use of fire, and extensive social bonds.

“The program examines an intriguing theory that long-distance running—our ability to jog—was crucial for the survival of these early hominids. Not only did running help them escape from vicious predators roaming the grasslands, but it also gave them a unique hunting strategy: chasing down prey animals such as deer and antelope to the point of exhaustion. ‘Birth of Humanity’ also probes how, why, and when humans’ uniquely long period of childhood and parenting began.”

In the moodle Forum this week we have a look at a Chinese challenge to Africa . . .

- Forum: "Chinese challenge to ‘out of Africa’ theory" (Due by Friday, 11 November 2011)

Your moodle Topics and Reading Assignments Listings for Week 9 will look something like the information at the end of this memo.

As usual, if you have any questions, please let me know: mailto:troufs@d.umn.edu. Or, better yet, post them on your Discussion and Project forum boards.

Try sharing your ideas with others in class. Discuss them on-line . . .

CE

CE class wiki: General Student Discussion Area Forum
CE project live chat: Live chat for Project Collaboration

Best Regards,

Tim Roufs

Your moodle Presentations and Readings Listings for Week 9 will look something like this:

Anth 1602 Prehistoric Cultures
Week 9 —
"Early Homo . . ." and "Homo erectus and Contemporaries . . ."

CE Week 9 Memo

"Early Homo"
Homo habilis

and
Homo rudolfensis
(slides 20) (.pptx)

"Homo Erectus"
Prehistoric Cultures, Week 9, p. 3

Java (Pithecanthropus erectus)
"Peking Man" / "Zoukoudian Homo erectus"
Turkana Boy

Week Day CEE Slides

09 17 Homo erectus: "Java Man" (slides 25) (.pptx)
Homo erectus in China: "Peking Man" (slides 26A) (.pptx)
European Homo erectus (slides 26B) (.pptx)
African Homo erectus (slides 26C) (.pptx)

09 18 Migrations Out of Africa (slides 26D) (.pptx)

"Hobbit" (slides) (.pptx)

from Dates and Times to Remember

<http://www.d.umn.edu/cla/faculty/troufs/anth1602/pctimes.html#homoerectus>
DAY 18 Thursday, 3 November 2011 till 12:45
CE Week 09 Monday, 7 November 2011 till tba

video:
Becoming Human:
Unearthing Our Earliest Ancestors, Part 2, "Birth of Humanity"
NOVA
(180/3 min., 2010, UMD ULTH Library Multimedia GN282 .B436 2010 DVD)
film Homepage
course viewing guide

Watch Becoming Human Part 2

readings from Understanding Humans, 10th Edition

Ch. 11, "Premodern Humans," pp. 255-282

The materials from Ch. 11 will be reviewed in the Week 10 presentations