Introduction to palaeoanthropology is a 5 ECTS course for Human Origins track RMA students and an elective for MA students. After attending the classes, students are required to submit a 3000 word scholarly piece on one of the research topics presented during the course, within one month after the final lecture.

Besides those following the course for ECTS, we invite other MA- (as well as BA3-) students and colleagues to sit in on the lectures without having the possibility to obtain ECTS for the course, provided there is room for such “non-ECTS”- participants. If you intend to participate, please email Andrew Sorensen (a.c.sorensen@arch.leidenuniv.nl), the TA for this course, and indicate whether you wish to acquire the ECTS.

**Day 1: (January 14, 15-17 hrs, Lipsius 028)**
- Outline of the course
- The skeletal material and its significance.
- New approaches to the fossil record (virtual paleoanthropology, microstructures, isotopic studies, paleogenetics).

**Day 2: (January 15, 10-12 hrs, 14-17 hrs, Lipsius 028)**
- Evolutionary theory.
- Classification and Nomenclature
- The emergence of the genus *Homo*
- The first Eurasian hominins

**Day 3: (January 16, 10-12 hrs, 14-17 hrs, Vrieshof 2/004)**
The Neandertals and their contemporaries 1:
- Historical background
- Anatomy, Paleogenetics
- Evolutionary history
- Growth and development 1 (Life history theory)

**Day 4: (January 17, 10-12 hrs, 14-17 hrs, Lipsius 028)**
Neandertals and their contemporaries 2:
- Growth and development 2 (brain development)
- Modern Origins
- Out of Africa
• Neandertal Extinction

**Required reading:**


**Suggested additional reading:**


