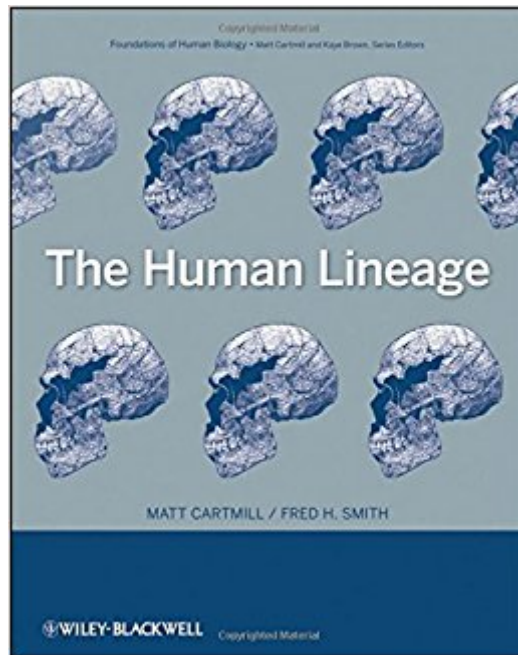




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# The Human Lineage



## Synopsis

"This textbook, aimed at advanced undergraduates and postgraduates in paleoanthropology courses, tackles a rather difficult task— that of presenting the substantial body of paleontological, genetic, geological and archaeological evidence regarding human evolution, and the associated scientific history, in a logical and readable way without sacrificing either clarity or detail... the sheer quality of the writing and explanatory synthesis in this book will undoubtedly make it a valuable resource for students for many years." —PaleoAnthropology, 2010

This book focuses on the last ten million years of human history, from the hominoid radiations to the emergence and diversification of modern humanity. It draws upon the fossil record to shed light on the key scientific issues, principles, methods, and history in paleoanthropology. The book proceeds through the fossil record of human evolution by historical stages representing the acquisition of major human features that explain the success and distinctive properties of modern *Homo sapiens*.

**Key features:** Provides thorough coverage of the fossil record and sites, with data on key variables such as cranial capacity and body size estimates Offers a balanced, critical assessment of the interpretative models explaining pattern in the fossil record Each chapter incorporates a "Blind Alley" box focusing on once prevalent ideas now rejected such as the arboreal theory, seed-eating, single-species hypothesis, and Piltdown man Promotes critical thinking by students while allowing instructors flexibility in structuring their teaching Densely illustrated with informative, well-labelled anatomical drawings and photographs Includes an annotated bibliography for advanced inquiry

Written by established leaders in the field, providing depth of expertise on evolutionary theory and anatomy through to functional morphology, this textbook is essential reading for all advanced undergraduate students and beginning graduate students in biological anthropology.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"The Human Lineage could be used as a sole text, supplemented with journal articles and library sources." [\(PaleoAnthropology, 2010\)](#) "Although paleoanthropology as a field moves rapidly the sheer quality of the writing and explanatory synthesis in this book will undoubtedly make it a valuable resource for students for many years." [\(PaleoAnthropology, July 2010\)](#)"The Human Lineage excels in providing rich detail and clear explanations for complex issues. This is true of the writing, but is particularly apparent in the 300 or so superb illustrations that detail dozens of fossils as well as anatomical structures and mechanics." [\(The Quarterly Review of Biology, March 2010\)](#) "Cartmill and Smith have produced a generally excellent work for advanced students." [\(CHOICE, October 2009\)](#)

An engaging, clearly written presentation of human evolution The Human Lineage focuses on the last ten million years of human history, from the hominoid radiations of the Miocene to the emergence and diversification of modern humanity. It draws upon the fossil record to shed light on the scientific issues, principles, methods, and history of paleoanthropology. Its chapters cover historical geology, evolutionary analysis, primate origins and evolution, and the functional morphology, relationships, and adaptations of the human lineage and its side branches through the Pliocene and Pleistocene. Balanced in its presentation of conflicting theories, and richly illustrated with informative, well-labeled anatomical drawings and graphics, The Human Lineage is not only an excellent text for advanced undergraduate and beginning graduate courses, but also a significant contribution to the literature of biological anthropology.

The problem about technical text Kindle Editions it's the figures. They are out off text. You need to go backward and forward (annotate in a notebook the abbreviations, etc.) to understand the text and to watch the figure; it's not good. The text is good and extensive. The approach in palaeobiology of our ancestors (begning with bacteria, fish, amphibians, etc.) is through; it is very good book.

This has a lot of good information but is not the best text book. Sometimes the paragraphs go on and on. I think it could be set up a better way to make it easier to read. The pictures are also strange. There are pictures of things where I wonder why are they just a drawing when they could

show the actual photograph of the skull etc.

My professor, Bill Kimbel, highly recommended this supplemental text for our Fossil Hominids class. I find the layout to be quite mindful, the organization to have solid flow, and the content to rise above expectations.

The Human Lineage (Foundation of Human Biology) begins by describing the first life forms and then traces development to the early apes to the various *Australopithecus* hominoids to the first *Homo* members to Neandertal Man and finishes at modern humans. The book thoughtfully considers opposing arguments of debated issues and intelligently recognizes that more discoveries and learning will continue in the future. The book strives to distinguish between primitive traits (plesiomorphies) and nonprimitive or derived traits (apomorphies) of organisms in order to determine shared derived traits or synapomorphies. On page 131, Figure 4.2 features drawings of the Taung skull and an infant chimpanzee (*Pan troglodytes*) skull at a similar stage of dental development (first permanent molar erupted) with the chimp skull showing significant brow ridges and jaws projection, both of which the Taung skull lacks. On page 225, Figure 4.83 features drawings of basal views of skull OH 24, which has a more central foramen magnum, and skull Sts 5, which is an *Australopithecus africanus* young male that has its foramen magnum positioned toward the back of the cranial base. Page 335 highlights G.P. Rightmire's widely-accepted view that *Homo heidelbergensis* was the last common ancestor of modern humans and Neandertals along with twelve diagnostic features of the species. Page 374 highlights Allen's Rule, which states that "warm-blooded animals living in cold places tend to have relatively short limbs in order to decrease the body's surface-to-volume ratio and thus reduce heat loss", as a way of explaining Neandertals' short limbs, but Allen's Rule is refuted by mammoths, short-faced bears, American lions, and *Homotherium* big cats, all of which evolved the largest body sizes for their respective forms in cold weather and presumably went extinct from the loss of previously-abundant food sources in a warming climate. On page 382, Figure 7.26 features drawings of the femoral cross-sectional contours at midshaft for: (1) *Habiline* (KNM-ER 1481); (2) *Erectine* (Zhoukoudian 1); (3) Neandertal (La Chapelle-aux-Saints), which has a relatively broad midshaft; (4) early modern human (Paviland 1), which has a distinct pilaster (p); (5) recent modern human (Pecos Pueblo), which also has a distinct pilaster (p) and reduced cortical thickness; page 382 also features drawings of (A) the right femur of a recent human, and (B) the Neandertal femur from Spy 1 (Belgium), which has larger articular surfaces and a broader shaft with a proximal lateral femoral flange (FF). On page 386,

Figure 7.28 shows in a graph pairwise comparisons of modern human-modern human, modern human-Neandertal, and Neandertal-chimpanzee (that is apparently mislabeled "human-chimpanzee" in the graph) mitochondrial DNA with "number of pairs" on the vertical axis and "number of differences" on the horizontal axis, indicating an average modern human-modern human difference of eight base pairs, an average modern human-Neandertal difference of twenty-seven base pairs, and an average Neandertal-chimpanzee difference of fifty-five base pairs.

I had to purchase this book for one of my classes; some things in the book are a little hard to understand and some things are easy to understand. I think the book would have been better if it had a glossary at the back.

it is what it is...a ridiculously high priced new textbook....

We have badly needed a readable book on this subject that incorporates the latest discoveries and can relate them to the major landmarks in paleoanthropology. I especially enjoyed the section on Saint Césaire, a crucial figure in the Late Neanderthal period. I do not agree with the authors' explanation of the single-species theory. Its modification is that it began after Lucy, specifically with the great example we have of Nariokotome Boy. It is highly possible that, from that point on, we have had a single species with high diversity. Nariokotome Boy straddles the bridge between present-day East African typologies and Lucy, but it is more of "us" than anything we have preceding it. This epic-in-a-nutshell book is too cautious with the Cro-Magnon remains, and not as informative as we would have liked about the period c 34,000-26,000 BC. It does not mention Chauvet Cave. But anything from Prof Fred Smith is most welcome. His tone is always balanced and he never goes to extremes. His paper on the Assimilation Theory remains a classic landmark in Modern Paleoanthropology. He has a good instinct to find the center in a wide spectrum of views, which in itself is a special talent. He helps to bring the extreme wings under pressure without any seeming effort. But for my preferences, I felt the authors dwelt too much on the non-sapiens and too little on the current cutting edge of the newest discoveries of sapiens fossils. But this is certainly a very helpful and readable update contribution to the field. Al Sundel

this is far the best textbook on human evolution currently available on the market. Matt Cartmill's insights into evolutionary mechanisms, mammalian & primate evolution, combined with Fred Smith's vast knowledge of human fossil record make this a very happy intellectual marriage. Further, both

are great teachers with years of experience working with students. Although the book is quite detailed and voluminous, don't be scared off by this. The way they use scientific data is to tell a story - it is not ( unlike some other books out there) just another too detailed overview of everything there is. These guys tell us a human story and make sure to guide us along the way. Easy to read and with extensive list of used references. If you're seriously getting into the field of paleoanthropology, treat yourself with this volume. You won't be sorry.

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