CS 184 * Modeling the Evolution of Cognition * Spring 19

Guidelines for FINAL PROJECT

This project involves producing two documents
- A detailed Timeline
- A short Paper (~ 10 pages) that gives an account of why you chose to place which traits when

TIMELINE

- This chronology of hominid evolution should cover roughly the past 5 MillionYears
- It must include the 6 key species that we have discussed in class
  - *Ardipithecus ramidus, Autralopithecus afarensis, Homo habillis, H. erectus, H. neanderthalensis* & *H. sapiens*
  - These species must be placed in their appropriate places on the Timeline (see Lecture 2)
- In addition, all the traits (bones, stones, brains) for which we have archeological data, MUST be included
  - These too must be placed appropriately in the chronology
  - These data will be listed on the "**(Required) Archeological Data**" handout, available soon.
- It must also include a selection of the traits for which we have only indirect evidence
  - These will include the many behavioral, anatomical, technological and cognitive traits we have discussed
  - These data will be listed on the "**Indirect Data**" handout, available soon.
  - You will need to select at least 50% of the traits on that handout to include in your Timeline/Paper

PAPER

- A sequential, biologically-feasible, coherent account of how human cognition may have evolved.
- Will include roughly 1 page each on the proposed changes in each of the 6 key species, and a final ~1 page Discussion
  - Plus Bibliography citing all sources used (see below)
- Each essay will explain **why** you included the traits from the **Indirect Data** with that species on your Timeline
  - Note you can argue both for and against!
    - For example, if you do (not) think that the diameter of the thorasic spinal column should stand as evidence for/against language, you would include an argument for why (not)
  - Since each stage builds on the last, these essays need to form a coherent succession
- The final, brief Discussion provides the opportunity to comment on the process of "Modeling Cognitive Evolution"

- You will use arguments, across the paper as a whole, that integrate information from all the Class Resources. . .
  - The **(Required) Archeological Data** list
  - All eight **Lectures**
    - Biology, Cooperation, Bones & Stones, Brains, Mimesis, Speech, Ontogeny, Collab & Social Cognition
  - All six of this term's **Required Readings**
    - Suddendorf & Corvallis, Dunbar, Arbib, Donald, Falk, Laland et al
  - At least **4 Commentaries** from the BBS readings
  - Info from the **Bioanthropology Site Visit**
  - **One new** piece of information, from a legitimate source, not included in class materials - CITE your source!
  - Your own imagination!

SCORING = Timeline + Paper 125 points
- 20 pts -Chronological accuracy of Archeological Data
- 50 pts - Coherence of Indirect Data arguments
  - Not aiming for correct (who knows?!), but for most **coherent, cogent, concise**!
- 50 pts - Comprehensive use of Class Resources
- 5 pts - Citing your sources:
  - Within Text: "As Arbib (2002) argues,…" "As proposed in Lecture 7,…"
  - In final Bibliography, for Papers and Commentaries, choose a consistent format:
    e.g. Wynn, T. (2002). Archaeology and cognitive evolution. *Behavioral and Brain Sciences, 25*:389-438.
    For APA formatting see http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/07/

DUE at FINAL, Thursday, June 13 (Extra Credit if Early!)