Lectures 1 - 2: Key Terms, Concepts and questions to ponder

You should become familiar with the following terms and concepts from the first two lectures and your readings in Campbell/Loy. You should also give some consideration to the problems and issues mooted in the "To Ponder" section.

Vocabulary

palaeoanthropology archaeology
palaeontology anthropology
principle of superposition (Steno’s law) parsimony (Occam’s Razor)
uniformitarianism (Charles Lyell) natural selection (Charles Darwin)

Geological Time Scale continental drift
relative dating chronometric dating
stratigraphy K-Ar dating
biostratigraphy (faunal correlation) palaeomagnetism

species binomial classification system (Carl Linnaeus)

Primates
Anthropoidea (anthropoids)
  Hominoidea (hominoids)
    Pongidae (pongids)
    Panidae (panids)
    Hylobatidae (hylobatids)
    Hominidae (hominids)

Parental investment
  K - selection - pattern of few offspring and extensive parental care
  r - selection - pattern of large number of offspring and little parental care

To Ponder

) What characteristics define “humanness”? 
) What are the characteristics which distinguish hominids from the remaining great apes?
) In general, what pattern of parental investment do Primates exhibit in comparison with other mammals and non-mammals?