



Course Name: Introduction to Biological Anthropology

Course Number: ANTH 240

Credits: 3 Credits

Course Description

This course serves as a "gateway" course for upper division courses in biological (physical) anthropology – the study of human origins and variation from an evolutionary and comparative perspective.

Anthropology 240 is designed to acquaint students with basic concepts used in the study of biological anthropology. The course examines the evolutionary beginnings of the human species and its complex biological variation. We will investigate the role of genetics, principles of evolution, and population biology in understanding human evolution, primate behavior, and biological variability of the human species. Finally, we will examine the key directions of current research in biological anthropology, its relevance in addressing contemporary human issues (applied biological anthropology), and “professional careers” in biological anthropology.

Course Catalog Description: ANTH 240. INTRODUCTION TO BIOLOGICAL ANTHROPOLOGY (3).

An investigation of the origin of modern people (*Homo sapiens*) in a historical context; review of key discoveries and current research on the relationships between humans and other primates; exploration of contrasting views of humanity. (SS)

Baccalaureate Core Course Attributes: Liberal Arts Social Core

This course combines approximately 90 hours of instruction, online activities, and assignments for 3 credits.

Course Readings

There are two required texts for this course. It is important that you do the assigned readings in a timely manner so that you will have a basis for discussion on Course site. Plan ahead so that you will not fall behind.

- ❑ Robert Jurmain, Lynn Kilgore, and Wenda Trevathan (2012) Essentials of Physical Anthropology. Cengage Learning, 9th edition. (EPA)
- ❑ Mary K. Sandford (2009) Classic and Contemporary Readings in Physical Anthropology. Cengage Learning, 1st edition. (RPA)

Textbook Information: NOTE: For textbook accuracy, please always check the textbook list at the OSU Bookstore website (<http://osubeaverstore.com/>).

NOTE: For textbook accuracy, please always check the textbook list at the [OSU Bookstore website](#). Sample syllabi may not have the most up-to-date information.

Student Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

- 1) Identify key theoretical and methodological issues in biological anthropology.
- 2) Define and discuss issues in biological anthropology as a field of study and as a way of observing and understanding our evolutionary history and ourselves.
- 3) Define and explain modern theories of evolution and major developments in human evolution.
- 4) Apply key biological anthropology concepts to explain sources of human variability and their adaptive significances.

- 5) Identify and discuss directions in current research and career opportunities in biological anthropology.

Accessing the Course on Course Site

Please note that a web-based course is different from traditional classroom-based courses in many ways, especially in the way you will receive course content and communicate with the instructor. In order to fully participate in the course, consistent computer capabilities are essential. The Course site system will be our virtual classroom. It includes such features as: class announcements, e-mail, discussion board, lectures, links to additional readings, quizzes, exams, assignments, and grades. The course uses power point presentations to supplement your readings and to emphasize critical thinking related to the evolutionary beginnings of the human species and its complex biological variation.

Technology-related Instructions

While taking the online exams you will need to close all other browsers. Please **do not** click on “Refresh” or the “Back” button as this can cause the website and the exam to freeze up and kick you out of the system. Make sure you do not wait until the last minute to take the exam as technical difficulties will not be considered if it is within the last two hours allotted to complete the exam. For additional information on Ecampus testing procedures and rules, click on the following link:

<http://ecampus.oregonstate.edu/services/blackboard/blackboard-test-help.htm>.

Course Rules

- Consistent work is central to succeeding in this course. I want to caution you about how disastrous falling behind in your work can be. When you work by yourself it is easy to put off the class. In my experience, the vast majority of students that fall behind never get caught up. Please be aware of this and complete your weekly readings in a timely manner.
- Communication with the instructor is fundamental to the success in the course. Instructor/student communication will occur through your ONID webmail account in addition to Course site. Please check your email routinely as well as announcements on Course site and do not hesitate to communicate with me via email. PLEASE write **ANTH 240** in the SUBJECT line of your message.
- As a general rule, I do not give make-up exams, and no exam can be retaken. It is your responsibility to take the online exams during the days they are available. You do not need a proctor to take your exams online. **If you are unable to take the exam on assigned days, you must let me know at least a week before the exam or a week before you want to take it if you wish to take it early.** I will not give that approval after the exam and without valid documentation of your inability (e.g. medical problem, family emergency, etc.) to take the exam.
- Quizzes and exams are timed. If you go over the time allotted for a test I will deduct 10% of the possible points for every 15 minutes over on Quizzes and 30 minutes over on Exams. If you have accommodations through DAS this policy does not apply.
- Plagiarism and cheating show disrespect for yourself and others. Plagiarism is the use of another person’s work without citing the source. Cheating is the use of unauthorized materials or copying from another’s work during a quiz, test, or other assignment. OSU has strict policies on plagiarism and cheating. For more information, please refer to <http://osu.orst.edu/admin/stucon/plag.htm>. I will give an F for the course to any student who participates in cheating or plagiarism.
- Please save and retain copies of all assignments and submissions for one month after the course.

Evaluation Method

Weekly Discussion (10 responses @ 5 points per response): You will be engaging in a weekly online discussion forum with your classmates using the Discussion Board feature of Course site. The weekly discussion questions will be posted by the instructor, will relate to content material for the week, and

This course is offered through Oregon State University Ecampus. For more information visit: ecampus.oregonstate.edu.

will require critical thought and a strong understanding of the material at hand to succeed. The discussion posts have two components: First, you are required to post an initial post (3 points) of at least 250 words on the question for the week. Second, you are required to respond to one additional post from a fellow classmate with a response post (2 points) of at least 150 words. Your grade will reflect the quality of your post, i.e. your posts should demonstrate that you have read and thought about the assigned material as well as your classmates' responses. Simple responses such as "good post" or "I agree" are not acceptable, nor are posts that simply repeat information already posted (that means you must read your classmates posts each week to ensure you are not duplicating things that have already been stated). Feel free to make these discussions creative by adding additional relevant responses or bringing in outside materials or examples. Discussions are an excellent way to learn, retain and critically engage with the material. Please consider this a core component of the course! In addition to the above requirements and instructions, posts will be graded and assessed on the following: 1) Posts demonstrate critical thought and personal reflexivity; 2) Posts incorporate appropriate and applicable course terminology and key concepts from the assigned readings for the week; 3) **Posts are well-organized and polished with little to no errors in grammar, spelling, syntax, etc. (i.e. no text or chat speak). Posts that contain chat speak, text speak, or an overuse of abbreviations will not receive credit;** 4) Posts follow the specified instructions for length and quality; and 5) Posts answer all topic components and questions posed by the instructor.

The initial post is due by Wednesday at 5pm PST of each week. Your second response post is due by Saturday at 5pm PST of each week. **Late responses will not receive any credit.**

Two quizzes (@25 points each): Quizzes will include multiple-choice, true/false, and/or identification questions on selected topics. Please check the quiz/exam schedule for dates and other relevant information.

Midterm (@75 points): Exam will include multiple-choice, true/false, and/or identification questions.

Final exam (@75 points): Exam will include multiple-choice, true/false, and/or identification questions. **Note:** *The primary goals of these exams are to assess your understanding of the core concepts related to physical anthropology and to determine whether you can apply these concepts to situations in the real world. I encourage you to ask questions and request any clarification you need regarding class requirements or how you will be evaluated.*

Quiz/exam schedule*

| Quizzes/Exams | Dates | Chapters/Course topics |
|---------------|-------|------------------------|
| Quiz # 1 | | Week 1 through Week 3 |
| Midterm exam | | Week 1 though Week 5 |
| Quiz # 2 | | Week 6 through Week 8 |
| Final exam | | Week 1 through Week 10 |

*Please note that all posted times are PST (Pacific Standard Time).

Total Points = 250: The score for each assignment will be added to determine your final score. Your course grade will be assigned according to the following scale:

| | |
|----|----------------|
| A | 94% (235) |
| A- | 90-93% (225) |
| B+ | 87-89% (217.5) |
| B | 84-86% (210) |
| B- | 80-83% (200) |
| C+ | 77-79% (192.5) |

| | |
|----|----------------|
| C | 74-76% (185) |
| C- | 70-73% (175) |
| D+ | 67-69% (167.5) |
| D | 64-66% (160) |
| D- | 60-63% (150) |
| F | 59% and below |

Weekly Overview

Week 1

Topics: Introduction; tools and methods of physical anthropology; the scientific method;
 Readings: Chapter 1 (EPA); Articles 1, 2, 3 (RPA)

Week 2

Topics: History of evolutionary thought; Darwinism; natural selection in action
 Readings: Chapter 2 (EPA); Articles 4, 7 (RPA)

Week 3

Topics: Biological basis of life
 Readings: Chapter 3 (EPA)

Quiz # 1

Week 4

Topics: Mendalism; genetic and environmental factors
 Readings: Chapter 4 (EPA); Articles 8, 9 (RPA)

Week 5

Topics: Living primates; prosimians; anthropoids; endangered primates
 Readings: Chapters 6 (EPA); Articles 13, 14 (RPA)

Midterm

Week 6

Topics: Evolutionary principles; hominid origins
 Readings: Chapter 8 (EPA); Articles 15, 16 (RPA)

Week 7

Topics: The Genus *Homo*
Readings: Chapter 9 (EPA); Article 17 (RPA)

Week 8

Topics: "Pre-modern" humans
Readings: Chapter 10 (EPA)

Quiz # 2

Week 9

Topics: Origins and dispersal of "modern" humans
Readings: Chapter 11 (EPA); Article 18 (RPA)

Week 10

Topics: Human variation and adaptation
Readings: Chapter 12 (EPA); Articles 20, 21, 23 (RPA)

Finals Week

Final exam

Disability Access Services

Accommodations are collaborative efforts between students, faculty and [Disability and Access Services \(DAS\)](#). Students with accommodations approved through DAS are responsible for contacting the faculty member in charge of the course prior to or during the first week of the term to discuss accommodations. Students who believe they are eligible for accommodations but who have not yet obtained approval through DAS should contact DAS immediately at 541-737-4098.

Expectations for Student Conduct

Students are expected to maintain proper academic conduct in this class. This includes treating peers with respect and meeting the conduct expectations of Oregon State University regarding cheating or other behaviors. To review these expectations, please visit the following Web site:

<http://oregonstate.edu/studentconduct/regulations/index.php>

Technical Assistance

If you experience computer difficulties, need help downloading a browser or plug-in, assistance logging into the course, or if you experience any errors or problems while in your online course, contact the OSU Help Desk for assistance. You can call (541) 737-3474, email osuhelpdesk@oregonstate.edu or visit the [OSU Computer Helpdesk](#) online.

Tutoring

Effective fall term 2009 we went to a new Online Tutoring Service - [NetTutor](#) to meet the needs of Ecampus students.

NetTutor is a leading provider of online tutoring and learner support services fully staffed by experienced, trained and monitored tutors. Students connect to live tutors from any computer that has Internet access. NetTutor provides a virtual whiteboard that allows tutors and students to work on problems in a real time environment. They also have an online writing lab where tutors critique and return essays within 24 to 48 hours.

Course Evaluation and Feedback

Students will be given the opportunity to evaluate this course at the end of the term through the university-wide system of class evaluations. Throughout the term students may offer feedback via email. This course is offered through Oregon State University Ecampus. For more information visit: ecampus.oregonstate.edu.

Student Evaluation of Teaching

We encourage you to engage in the course evaluation process each term – online, of course. The evaluation form will be available toward the end of each term, and you will be sent instructions through ONID. You will login to “Student Online Services” to respond to the online questionnaire. The results on the form are anonymous and are not tabulated until after grades are posted.