



Introduction to Biological Anthropology Anth 130-02, Spring 2012



Instructor: Dr. Tracy Betsinger
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Office Hours: Monday 3:00-4:00pm
Wednesday 10:00-11:00am & 3:00-4:00pm
Friday 12:00-1:00pm and by appointment

Class Time and Location: Monday, Wednesday, Friday 1:00-1:50pm, HIRC 4

Required Text:

- Larsen CS. 2010. Our Origins, 2nd edition. WW Norton Publishing.

Course Catalog Listing: An introduction to the study of human biological variation and evolution. Topics include principles of human genetics, evolutionary theory, human genetic diversity, human adaptation, primate biology and behavior, primate evolution, and the fossil record of human evolution. (LA,N2)

Course Overview: This course covers topics on human evolution and modern human diversity, focusing on humanity's biological roots and modern appearance. This class will provide students with a solid foundation in physical anthropology, enabling them to understand our present physical and social condition through learning about our evolutionary past. This is a science course based on evolutionary biology. By the end of the quarter, students should have a better understanding of where humans fit into the animal kingdom, as well as how characteristics unique to humans may have evolved.

The following topics are covered in this course: human's place in the animal kingdom, evolutionary theory, human population genetics, primate biology and behavior, human evolution, and modern human diversity. Three major branches of physical anthropology will be the focus of this course: primatology (study of non-human primates), paleoanthropology (study of human origins and evolution), and human biology (study of modern human biological variation).

SUNY Learning Outcome Objectives and Course Objectives:

- (1) To understand the major theories, principles, and methods of physical anthropology.
- (2) To understand the methods scientists use to explore natural phenomena, including observation, hypothesis development, measurement and data collection, experimentation, evaluation of evidence, and employment of mathematical analysis.
- (3) To apply scientific data, concepts, and models.
- (4) To understand the basic genetic principles underlying our knowledge of human evolution.
- (5) To know the major historical and modern figures who have contributed to evolutionary theory and physical anthropology.
- (6) To understand the relationship between humans and non-human primates.
- (7) To recognize the key events in human evolutionary history.
- (8) To appreciate the range of variation and adaptation in modern humans.
- (9) To know the ways in which the study of physical anthropology impacts the lives of modern humans.

Course Requirements:

1. **Three Midterms Exams:** *Midterm exams are not comprehensive.* The exams will consist of multiple choice, fill-in-the-blank, matching, short answer, essay and/or other appropriate types of questions. Details of the exam format will be provided prior to each exam. Exams are based on course lectures, textbooks, handouts, and any additional readings or films.
2. **Chapter Quizzes:** Online quizzes (available on Angel) for each chapter will consist of 10 multiple choice questions, worth 0.5 point each. *The questions will directly reflect the textbook.* See the course outline for due dates of quizzes. Note: the quizzes must be completed by midnight on the day they are due. If you miss the deadline, you will NOT be permitted to take the quiz. The lowest two quiz grades will be dropped.
3. **Optional Cumulative Final Exam:** A comprehensive final exam will be offered during the scheduled final exam period. This is an optional exam. If a student chooses to take the exam, it can be used to replace the lowest midterm exam grade. If a student misses an exam during the semester, he/she can opt to take the final exam to make up for the missed exam.

Grading:

Three Exams - 100 points each	300
Quizzes – 12 quizzes @ 5 points each (lowest dropped)	60
TOTAL POINTS	360

Course Guidelines:

Grading:

Final grades are based on a standardized scale using the total number of points available for the course: (A: 330-360, A-: 323-329, B+: 315-322, B: 294-314, B-: 287-293, C+: 279-286, C: 258-278, C-: 251-257, D+: 247-250, D: 222-246, D-: 215-221, E: 0-214).

Attendance:

Attendance is expected. If you miss a lecture, lecture notes will not be provided. The class begins promptly; as a courtesy to the instructor and your fellow students, please be on time. You are responsible for any material missed due to tardiness. Remember that the course outline is only a guideline and is subject to change at the instructor's discretion. If you miss class for any reason, you do not need to contact me, unless it is an exam day.

Missed Exam Policy: If you have to miss an exam, you must notify the instructor within 24 hours AND provide appropriate documentation in order to take a make-up exam. If you miss an exam for any other reason, you will need to take the optional cumulative final to make up for it. The instructor reserves the right to give an essay exam in place of the missed exam.

Participation:

In this class, it is essential that you not only attend class, but that you participate as well. Participation includes active listening, preparation for class by reading materials and completing assignments, and contributing to class discussions. I also expect you to be adequately prepared for class by completing the assigned readings *prior* to class. While a certain amount of class time will be devoted to lecture, I expect you to participate by asking questions about materials or topics you do not understand. Furthermore, I expect you to respect others' opinions, so that everyone may feel comfortable participating in class.

Office Hours:

My office hours are a minimum; please feel free to stop by my office, email me, or call my office number if you have questions outside of class time. I am here to assist you; please make use of me! These hours are set aside for you to address problems, clear up misunderstandings, or to receive extra help with course material. These hours are not substitutes for lectures. I strongly urge you to make use of this time. If you cannot come during these hours, I will be happy to make an appointment convenient to both of us. Alternate office hours will

be announced in class, posted on my office door, and/or emailed on Angel should I have to miss my scheduled hours.

Academic Honesty

Plagiarism and cheating WILL NOT BE TOLERATED IN ANY FORMAT. The work you do in this course should be your own. Please see the university's Code of Student Conduct (<http://www.oneonta.edu/development/judicial/code.asp#conduct>) to familiarize yourself with the university's rules and policies. Ignorance of the rules will NOT be accepted as an excuse.

Cell Phones:

Out of courtesy to the instructor and your fellow students, *please turn off your cell phones prior to coming to class. NO TEXTING IN CLASS!*

Emergency Evacuation/Shelter-in-Place Procedures

In the event of an emergency evacuation (i.e., fire or other emergency), classes meeting in this building are directed to reassemble at **Fine Arts Theater** so that all persons can be accounted for. Complete details of the College's emergency evacuation, shelter-in-place and other emergency procedures can be found at <http://www.oneonta.edu/security/>.

Course Outline:

READING ASSIGNMENT

WEEK 1

Jan. 25 (W) Introduction to Biological Anthropology

27 (F) Introduction to Biological Anthropology

Chapter 1

WEEK 2

30 (M) Development of Evolutionary Theory

Chapter 2

Feb. 1 (W) Biological Basis of Life

Chapter 3

3 (F) Biological Basis of Life

WEEK 3

6 (M) Heredity and Evolution

Chapter 4

8 (W) Heredity and Evolution

10 (F) Heredity and Evolution

WEEK 4

13 (M) Population Genetics

15 (W) Population Genetics

17 (F) Modern Human Variation

Chapter 5

WEEK 5

20 (M) Modern Human Variation

22 (W) Modern Human Adaptation

24 (F) Modern Human Adaptation / Review Session

WEEK 6

27 (M) **EXAM ONE**
**Chapters 1 – 5 Quizzes Due

29 (W) Living Primates Chapter 6

Mar. 2 (F) Living Primates

WEEK 7

5 (M) Living Primates

7 (W) Living Primates

9 (F) Living Primates

WEEK 8

12 (M) Primate Behavior Chapter 7

14 (W) Primate Behavior

16 (F) Primate Behavior

WEEK 9 NO CLASSES: March 17-25, 2012

WEEK 10

26 (M) Primate Behavior and Human Osteology

28 (W) Fossils Chapter 8

30 (F) Primate Evolution Chapter 9

WEEK 11

Apr. 2 (M) **EXAM TWO**
**Chapters 6 – 9 Quizzes Due

4 (W) Early Hominids Chapter 10

6 (F) Australopithecines

WEEK 12

9 (M) Australopithecines

11 (W) *Homo habilis* Chapter 11

13 (F) *Homo erectus*

WEEK 13

16 (M) Archaic *Homo sapiens* & Neandertals Chapter 12

18 (W) Neandertals & Modern Humans

20 (F) Neandertals & Modern Humans

WEEK 14

23 (M) Classification

25 (W) Growth, Disease, & Demography

27 (F) Growth, Disease, & Demography

WEEK 15

30 (M) Agricultural Revolution

Chapter 13

May 2 (W) Future of Humans

Chapter 14

4 (F) **EXAM THREE**

***Chapters 10-14 Quizzes Due*

WEEK 16

7 (M) Finishing Up!

****FINAL EXAM: Friday, May 11, 2:00 – 4:30pm****