


**Introduction to
Biological Anthropology**
Anth 130-01, Autumn 2009



Instructor: Dr. Tracy Betsinger
Office: 330D Fitzelle
Office Phone: 436-3394
Email: betsink@oneonta.edu
Office Hours: Monday, Wednesday, Friday 12:00-1:00 and by appointment

Class Time and Location: Monday, Wednesday, Friday 10:00-10:50am, HIRC room 2

Required Text:

- Larsen CS. 2008. *Our Origins*. 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).

Course Objectives:

- (1) To understand the major theories, principles, and methods of physical anthropology.
- (2) To understand the basic genetic principles underlying our knowledge of human evolution.
- (3) To know the major historical and modern figures who have contributed to evolutionary theory and physical anthropology.
- (4) To understand the relationship between humans and non-human primates.
- (5) To recognize the key events in human evolutionary history.
- (6) To appreciate the range of variation and adaptation in modern humans.
- (7) To know the ways in which the study of physical anthropology impacts the lives of modern humans.

Course Requirements:

1. **Three Midterms and One Final Exam:** *Exams are not comprehensive. The lowest exam grade will be dropped.* 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. 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.
3. **In Class Questions:** Most days there will be a question posed at the beginning of class. The answer is to be written in the provided exam booklet and submitted when requested. The booklets will be returned and the answer will be given at the beginning of the subsequent class period.

Grading:

Three of Four Exams – 80 points each	240
Quizzes – 13 quizzes @ 5 points each	65
In Class Questions – 1 point each	25
TOTAL POINTS	330

Course Guidelines:

Grading:

Final grades are based on a standardized scale using the total number of points available for the course: (A: 302-330, A-: 296-301, B+: 289-295, B: 269-288, B-: 263-268, C+: 256-262, C: 236-255, C-: 230-235, D+: 223-229, D: 203-222, D-: 197-202, E: 0-196).

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. Missed in-class questions cannot be made up; however, for an excused absence (documented illness, death of close relative, etc.) the missed question will not count against you. You **MUST** provide documentation for an absence to be excused. If you miss class for any other reason, you do not need to contact me.

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, it will become the dropped exam for the semester. 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, taking part in group exercises, contributing to class discussions, and completing film responses. 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. Part of class time will be devoted to discussion of readings. I expect you to prepare questions so that you can lead the discussion on occasion.

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 and Pagers:

Out of courtesy to the instructor and your fellow students, *please turn off your pagers and cell phones prior to coming to 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

August 26 (W) Introduction to Biological Anthropology

28 (F) Introduction to Biological Anthropology Chapter 1

WEEK 2

31 (M) Development of Evolutionary Theory Chapter 2
***Chapter 1 Quiz due*

Sept. 2 (W) Biological Basis of Life Chapter 3

4 (F) Biological Basis of Life
***Chapter 2 Quiz due*

WEEK 3

7 (M) Heredity and Evolution Chapter 4
***Chapter 3 Quiz due*

9 (W) Heredity and Evolution

11 (F) Heredity and Evolution

WEEK 4

- 14 (M) Population Genetics
***Chapter 4 Quiz due*
- 16 (W) Macroevolution
- 18 (F) Macroevolution / Review Session

WEEK 5

- 21 (M) **Exam One**
- 23 (W) Living Primates Chapter 6
- 25 (F) Living Primates

WEEK 6

- 28 (M) NO CLASSES
- 30 (W) Living Primates
***Chapter 6 Quiz due*
- Oct. 2 (F) Living Primates

WEEK 7

- 5 (M) Primate Behavior
- 7 (W) Primate Behavior
- 9 (F) Human Osteology

WEEK 8

- 12 (M) Fossils Chapter 7
- 14 (W) Primate Evolution Chapter 8
***Chapter 7 Quiz due*
- 16 (F) Primate Evolution / Review Session
***Chapter 8 Quiz due*

WEEK 9

- 19 (M) **Exam Two**
- 21 (W) Early Hominids Chapter 9
- 23 (F) Australopithecines

WEEK 10

26 (M) Australopithecines
**Chapter 9 Quiz due

28 (W) *Homo habilis*

Chapter 10

30 (F) *Homo erectus*

WEEK 11

Nov. 2 (M) Archaic *Homo sapiens*
**Chapter 10 Quiz due

Chapter 11

4 (W) Neandertals

6 (F) Modern Humans

WEEK 12

9 (M) Modern Humans
**Chapter 11 Quiz due

11(W) Review Session

13 (F) **Exam Three**

WEEK 13

16 (M) Human's Place in the Animal Kingdom

18 (W) Human's Place in the Animal Kingdom

20 (F) Modern Human Variation

Chapter 5

WEEK 14 NO CLASSES: Nov. 23-27

WEEK 15

30 (M) Modern Human Adaptation
**Chapter 5 Quiz due

Dec. 2 (W) Disease and Demography

4 (F) Agricultural Revolution

Chapter 12

WEEK 16

7 (M) Agricultural Revolution
***Chapter 12 Quiz due*

9 (W) Future of Humans

Chapter 13

11 (F) Review Session
***Chapter 13 Quiz due*

**** Final Exam: Monday, December 14, 8:00am – 10:30am**