

Anthropology 111: Lab in Human Biological Evolution (0276)
West Los Angeles College, Fall 2015

Instructor: Dr. Jeff Snyder
Email address: Snyderjk@wlaac.edu
Office hours: Thursday 2:30 – 3:00; in the courtyard outside SC101

Course Description

From the catalog: This laboratory class offers students an exploration in selected topics in biologic anthropology including genetics, human variation, the living primates, human osteology and paleoanthropology.

Physical anthropology seeks to understand humans and how we evolved. This laboratory class offers an exploration of selected topics in physical anthropology including genetics, biological classification, human variation, the living primates, and human paleontology. Through the laboratory exercises students will appreciate human biological makeup, how humans can and do evolve, and how humans relate to our closest living relatives, the monkeys and apes.

Student Learning Outcomes: This course will help students achieve the following institutional Student Learning Outcomes as listed in the Schedule of Classes:

Critical thinking: Analyze problems by differentiating fact from opinions, using evidence, and using sound reasoning to specify multiple solutions and their consequences. Students will apply critical thinking to investigate and interpret the influences of heredity and environment upon human beings.

Cultural Diversity: Respectfully engage with other cultures in an effort to understand them. Students will participate in activities designed to elicit discussion and understanding of the biological variation among Homo sapiens.

Course Level: Identify the major bones of the human skeleton.

Materials

Required Textbook (Lab Manual): Susan E. Walker-Pacheco (2010). *Exploring Physical Anthropology: A Lab Manual & Workbook*, 2nd edition. Morton Publishing Company, Englewood.
ISBN-13: 9780895828118

What to Expect:

This course will consist of both lectures accompanied by a power-point presentation and in-class assignments. Slides are detailed and PDF copies of the lecture slides will be posted on the course website – this will make taking notes easier for you.

Assignments will consist of the lab exercises and the “self-tests” in your lab manual. Very rarely, there will be lab practice assignments to prepare as homework for the following class meeting. These assignments are tools intended to meet your needs and help you achieve the learning objectives. Your learning needs, as a class, will be assessed on a week-to-week basis and assignments will be planned accordingly.

ALWAYS READ THE ASSIGNED CHAPTER BEFORE LAB MEETS

Attendance Policy

Attendance is mandatory. Attendance is recorded every time we meet and contributes to your grade. Being late has the potential to impact your attendance grade. **You are responsible for all material presented in class, including announcements, whether or not you attend.**

District Attendance Policy

IMPORTANT: Any student who has unexcused absences equaling one week’s worth of class time may be excluded. Students may drop the class online, before the last day to drop. Students should never rely on the instructor to exclude them.

Course Grade

Grading: Weekly assignments, attendance, and the final exam will each be assigned a percentage grade (100% or lower)

Attendance: 10% of your course grade. You will not receive full attendance credit for the day if you are late or leave early without permission. At the end of the course, an average for your weekly attendance will be calculated and multiplied by .10 (10%)

Lab assignments: 60% of your course grade. On occasion, there will be weeks that have multiple assignments (both graded lab exercises with self-tests and lab assignments to prepare as homework). When there are multiple assignments for one lab meeting, I will average the grades for those assignments. At the end of the course, I will calculate an average of your weekly grades for the assignments and that number will be multiplied by .60 (60%).

Mid-term exam: The mid-term exam is worth 15% of your course grade.

Final exam: The final exam is worth 15% of your course grade.

Grades in Sum:

Attendance = 10%

In-class assignments = 60%

Mid-term Exam = 15%

Final Exam = 15%

Grading Scale:

"A" at least 90% on all graded work.

"B" 80-89% on all graded work

"C" 70-79% on all graded work

"D" 60-69% on all graded work

"F" below 60 %

ALL GRADES ARE FINAL UNLESS A CLERICAL ERROR WAS MADE. Grades are not assigned on the basis of need.

Make-up exams and assignments will only be given in the event of an emergency at my discretion when I have received some formal documentation of your hardship. In the event of an emergency, contact me by email as soon as possible. With an excused absence, assignments or exams must be made up no later than one week after the due date.

Academic Integrity

Students are expected to understand and abide by university policies regarding academic integrity. Cheating and plagiarism will not be tolerated. Know the WLAC policies regarding academic integrity and consequences of academic dishonesty. Students will receive a grade of a zero on the exam, quiz, or assignment that involved academic dishonesty. Further action may be taken.

Course Schedule and Exam Dates

NOTE: Lecture schedule and reading assignments are subject to minor changes.

Week 1 (September 3):

- Review of Course Policies and Introductions

Week 2 (September 10)

- Science, Natural Selection, and basics of biology
Chapter 1 & Chapter 2

Week 3 (September 17):

- Basics of biology, continued
Chapter 3 & Chapter 4

Week 4 (September 24)

- Mendelian Genetics
Chapter 5

Week 5 (October 1)

- The Hardy-Weinberg Equilibrium
- Chapter 6

Week 6 (October 8)

- Osteology (Part 1)
Chapter 7

Week 7 (October 15):

- Forensic Anthropology
Chapter 8

Week 8 (October 22):

- Osteology (Part 2)
Chapter 9

Week 9 (October 29)

- **MIDTERM EXAM**

Week 10 (November 5)

- Primate taxonomy and phylogeny
Chapter 10

Week 11 (November 12)

- Primate evolution
Chapter 12

Week 12 (November 19)

- Early human evolution
Chapter 13

Week 13 (November 26)

- **HOLIDAY**

Week 14 (December 3)

- Genus *Homo*
Chapter 14

Week 15 (December 10)

- Human variation
Chapter 15

Final Exam: Tuesday, December 15th; 12:30a.m.-2:30p.m.