

**Anthropology 101**  
**Human Biological Evolution**

(Section 0265, 9:35-11:00 am, Tuesdays & Thursdays, Room SC-101)

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**Office Hours:** Thursdays, 11:05 – 12:00 pm in LRC, main floor, and by appointment

Welcome. This course offers an introduction to biological anthropology, emphasizing evolutionary theory. The following topics will be explored: heredity; mechanisms of evolutionary change; the evolution of human biological universals; the construction of human evolutionary lineages, using available data from genetics, the fossil record, and living nonhuman primates; human biological variation and adaptation; anthropological perspectives on race and racism; and the effects of human bio-cultural success on biodiversity.

**Course Goals**

- To learn how to interpret and assess theories, hypotheses, and data in biological anthropology
- To recognize and appreciate human biological universals and variations
- To bolster critical thinking skills
- To improve written and oral communication skills

**Course Student Learning Outcomes**

1. differentiate anthropology from other disciplines
2. explain how the scientific method is the foundation for anthropological understanding
3. explain evolution and the process of natural selection
4. illustrate the process of natural selection
5. express the applications and limitations of natural selection
6. explain how hereditary traits are transferred between generations
7. discuss the development and function of DNA from micro and macro levels
8. list characteristics shared by all primates
9. identify human's place in the order Primates
10. model primate behavior and apply to the fossil record
11. appreciate how humans vary biologically in various environments
12. realize the significance of the gaps in the fossil record
13. identify hominoid and hominid characteristics
14. identify primitive and derived characteristics
15. explain observed change and adaptation
16. explain both physical and cultural evolution of hominids
17. understand the data used to interpret relationships of fossil hominids to modern humans
18. interpret fossil material in relationship to human evolution
19. illustrate human adaptation to local environments
20. use the concept of race as a social construct
21. apply anthropological concepts to modern human populations

The course will focus on the following *Institutional Student Learning Outcomes*:

- A. Critical Thinking:** Analyze problems by differentiating fact from opinions, using evidence, and using sound reasoning to specify multiple solutions and their consequences.
  
- G. Cultural Diversity:** Respectfully engage with other cultures in an effort to understand them.

**Keys to Building Our Learning Community**

- Respect and honesty are vital.
- Attendance is important. Please be punctual if you can, and always mute cell phones and beepers while class is in session. If at all possible, turn your phone off while class is in session.
- Academic Integrity is essential. Please cite any outside sources you consult to prepare written and oral work. I will assign zero points to plagiarized work, and/or exams involving any other form of cheating, and report instances to College administrators.
- Please adhere to the WLAC Standards of Student Conduct (published in the college catalogue).

**Participation**

In each class, I invite students to participate in discussions and activities. Thoughtful participation hinges on active, attentive listening as well as speaking. Please join me in working on striking a balance between listening and speaking to ensure that all are afforded equal and ample opportunities to participate.

**Course Requirements and Point Distribution**

- Periodic in-class exercises  
(No make ups; your lowest score is dropped).....135
- Seven major homework assignments (correct your work in class).....175
- Seven Exams (multiple choice, true/false, short answer).....200
  
- Total.....510

Earn up to 25 Extra Credit points for report on visit to the California Science Center’s Ecosystems Exhibit (<http://www.californiasciencecenter.org/Exhibits/WorldOfEcology/WorldOfEcology.php>)

To determine your final grade, I will divide your total number of points by 510: 90-100% = A; 80-89% = B; 70-79% = C; 60-69 = D; 59% and below = F.

You cannot make up in-class exercises for points. If you turn in homework late and miss the homework review classes, you will lose points. All six exams must be taken on the date listed on the course outline. I give make-ups for documented illnesses and/or other emergencies only. In these rare instances, you should contact me before or immediately after you miss an exam to arrange a make-up.

## **Required Text**

Jurmain, Robert, Lynn Kilgore, and Wenda Trevethan. (2013/2012). *Essentials of Physical Anthropology. Ninth or Eighth Edition.* Belmont, CA: Wadsworth, Cengage.

The textbook is available for rent or purchase at WLAC's bookstore and on 2-hour reserve at WLAC's library. You may also order all or part of the text at [ichapters.com](http://ichapters.com). On-line vendors may be selling the text at discounted prices. Just be sure they have the book in stock and will ship it to you right away if you choose to go that route. Copies of the ninth, eighth, and seventh editions of the text are on two-hour reserve at the Library.

I will also distribute supplemental required readings during the course.

## **Notice from the Office of Special Programs and Services**

Students with disabilities who believe they may need accommodations in this class are encouraged to contact the Disabled Students Programs and Services located in HRLC-1. For information, contact DSP&S at (310) 287-4450 as soon as possible to better ensure such accommodations are implemented in a timely fashion.

**Anthro 101, Fall 2013, General Course Outline.** A rough course outline keyed to our text and exam dates follows. Even if you are absent, you are responsible for knowing of any changes announced in class. You are also responsible for managing your class enrollment.

**Week 1 (8/26-9/1)**

8/27 Introductions

8/29 Course Overview  
Introduction to Anthropology's Four Subfields

*Last day to add in person, drop w/o fee, file pass/no pass: Fri, 9/6*

**Week 2 (9/2-9/8)**

9/3 Chapter 1: Introduction to Physical Anthropology

9/5 Chapter 2: The Development of Evolutionary Theory

**Week 3 (9/9-9/15)**

9/10 Chapter 3: The Biological Basis of Life  
*Homework #1 (Chapters 1 and 2) due at beginning of class*

9/12 Review of Homework #1

**Week 4 (9/16-9/22)**

9/17 **Test #1 (Chapters 1 and 2)**

9/19 Chapter 4: Heredity and Evolution

**Week 5 (9/23-9/29)**

9/24 *Homework #2 (chapters 3 & 4) due at beginning of class*

9/26 Review of Homework #2

**Week 6 (9/30-10/6)**

10/1 **Test #2: (Chapters 3 and 4)**

10/3 Chapter 5: Processes of Macroevolution

**Week 7 (10/7-10/13)**

10/8 Chapter 12: Human Variation and Adaptation

10/10 *Homework #3 (Chapters 5 and 12) due at the beginning of class/Review of Homework #3*

**Week 8 (10/14-10/20)**

10/15 **Test #3 (Chapters 5 and 12)**

10/17 Chapter 14: The Human Disconnect

**Week 9 (10/21-10/27)**

10/22 ***Homework #4 (Chapter 14) due at the beginning of class/Review of Homework #4***

10/24 **Test #4 (Chapter 14)**

**Week 10 (10/28-11/3)**

10/29 Chapter 6: An Overview of Primates

10/31 Chapter 7: Primate Behavior

**Week 11 (11/4-11/10)**

11/5 ***Homework #5 (Chapters 6 and 7) due at the beginning of class/Review of Homework #5***

11/7 **Test #5 (Chapters 6 & 7)**

**Week 12 (11/11-11/17)**

11/12 Chapter 8: Primate and Hominin Origins

11/14 Chapter 9: The First Dispersal of Modern Humans

**Week 13 (11/18-11/24)**

11/19 **Homework #6 (Chapter 8 & 9) due at beginning of class/Review of Homework #6**

11/21 **Test #6 (Chapters 8 and 9)**

**Week 14 (11/25-12/1)**

11/26 Chapter 10: Premodern Humans

11/28 – Thanksgiving (no class)

**Week 15 (12/2-12/8)**

12/3 Chapter 11: The Origin and Dispersal of Modern Humans

12/5 **Homework #7 (Primarily Ch. 10 & 11) due at beginning of class/Review of Homework #7**

**Week 16 (12/9-12/15)**

12/10 – **Final (Test 7: Primarily Chapters 10 and 11): 10:15 am-12:15 pm**