

# ANTH 1H: HONORS INTRODUCTION TO PHYSICAL ANTHROPOLOGY

## Foothill College Course Outline of Record

Heading	Value
Effective Term:	Fall 2020
Units:	4
Hours:	4 lecture per week (48 total per quarter)
Advisory:	Not open to students with credit in ANTH 1.
Degree & Credit Status:	Degree-Applicable Credit Course
Foothill GE:	Area III: Natural Sciences
Transferable:	CSU/UC
Grade Type:	Letter Grade Only
Repeatability:	Not Repeatable

## Student Learning Outcomes

- Utilize a discipline-specific vocabulary to discuss the cornerstones of physical anthropology (genetics, primatology, the fossil record, and modern human variation).
- Adopt the framework of Evolutionary Theory to evaluate biological change over time.
- Evaluate the impact of human evolution on past, present, and future environments.
- Explain ancient and modern human variation in biocultural terms.
- Define scientific inquiry and its methods

## Description

Survey and investigation of the basic processes of evolution and their application to the development of modern humans. Impact of natural selection and genetics on development of new species. Evolutionary processes behind the physical and behavioral development of primates. History of the human lineage by reconstructing the fossil record, using investigations by paleoanthropologists, geologists, biologists, and archaeologists. Relationship between contemporary biology and behavior, facilitating an understanding of the effect of them upon future humankind. As an honors course, it is a full thematic seminar with advanced teaching methods focusing on major writing, reading, and research assignments, student class lectures, group discussions and interactions.

## Course Objectives

The student will be able to:

- Explain biological evolution by discussing the field of anthropology, the scientific method, and the history behind evolutionary theory.
- Compare Darwinian theory of biological evolution and Mendelian inheritance, including basic genetics, taxonomy, and speciation.
- Explain the field of primatology by identifying various non-human primates and describing their physical and behavioral characteristics, including a focus on behavioral ecology and social structures.
- Assess current models for human origins by defining ancestral hominins and explaining important elements of paleoanthropology,

including dating methods, experimental archaeology, specific fossil evidence, and general patterns of changing morphology and behavior. E. Link behavior and biology today by discussing human variation, modern race concepts, basic population genetics, examples of biocultural evolution, and potential future evolutionary trends.

## Course Content

- Background to biological evolution
  - Major subfields of anthropology
    - Biological or physical anthropology
    - Archaeology
    - Cultural anthropology
    - Linguistics
  - Major research areas within physical/biological anthropology
    - Primatology
    - Paleoanthropology
    - Sociobiology
    - Forensics
  - Anthropological perspective
  - Scientific method and its application to physical anthropology
  - Historical advances in the natural sciences, resulting in part from the age of discovery and exploration
    - Advances in geology (Lyell)
    - Advances in biological classification (Linnaeus)
    - Advances in population studies (Malthus)
    - European ethnocentric and racist world views, particularly the notions of fixity of species and a general sense of stasis
- Darwin's theory of biological evolution and Mendelian inheritance, including basic genetics, taxonomy, and speciation
  - Historical development of the Darwinian theory of natural selection
    - Contributions of 18th and 19th century scientists to evolutionary theory (Lamarck, Wallace, Erasmus Darwin)
    - Process by which Darwin used these earlier ideas to formulate his three postulates of natural selection
  - Theory of natural selection
    - Variation in species and how natural selection acts on this variation through differential reproductive success to alter species
    - Galapagos finches and recent studies by Rosemary and Peter Grant
    - Shortcomings of Darwin's explanation of evolution in reference to 19th century genetics and theories of inheritance (blending)
  - Basic principles of Mendelian inheritance
    - Mendel's pea experiments
    - Concepts of dominant, recessive, and codominant alleles
    - Principles of segregation and independent assortment
    - Using the Punnett Square
  - Cellular structure and genetic structure of DNA and RNA
    - Basic cell types and organelles including mitochondria and ribosomes
    - Nature of chromosomes and the concept of a gene
    - Compare and contrast mitosis with meiosis
    - Meiosis and the evolutionary process
    - New frontiers of genetic research
  - Mechanisms that produce genetic variation in populations
    - Mutation
    - Genetic drift
    - Gene flow
  - Concepts of population genetics using hemoglobin and malaria examples
  - Concepts of taxonomy
  - Homology and analogy
  - Concepts of genus and species

10. Speciation, including the roles of geographic isolation and natural selection
11. Geologic time scale
12. Major living mammalian groups
13. Contrast gradualism with punctuated equilibrium (S.J. Gould)
- C. The field of primatology
  1. Ancestral mammalian traits and the evolutionary trends that define the order primates
  2. Primate taxonomic classification, emphasizing the major taxa: suborder, superfamily, family, genus and species
  3. Distinguishing features of prosimians, monkeys, apes, and humans
  4. Describe hominoid morphological traits and social structures
  5. Primate field studies
  6. Primate behavioral ecology
  7. Types of primate social interactions, including grooming, dominance, and affiliative and aggressive behaviors
  8. Territoriality and resource acquisition
  9. Primate learned social behaviors and reproductive fitness
  10. Reproductive strategies (r-selected versus k-selected)
  11. Kin selection and Hamilton's Rule
  12. Sexual selection
  13. Importance of the mother-infant bond in contributing to the normal social and psychological development of primate infants
  14. Primate communication and the evolution of language
  15. Nonhuman species' culture and tool use
  16. Between-group aggression in chimpanzees
  17. Female sexual selection in baboons
  18. Bonobo sexual relationships
- D. Human origins and the important elements of paleoanthropology
  1. Define hominin, integrating the concept of biocultural evolution
  2. Paleoanthropology and the reconstruction of human biocultural evolution
  3. Data gathered from Olduvai Gorge and the example of how it is employed by paleoanthropology
  4. Various dating methods
  5. Experimental archaeology to interpret early hunting and tool use
  6. Different hypotheses for hominin origins
  7. Fossil evidence for primate origins
  8. Fossil evidence for anthropoid origins
  9. Fossil evidence for the origins and dispersal of the hominoids
  10. Major skeletal adaptations for full-time bipedalism
  11. Plio-Pleistocene hominins in chronological order
  12. Major early hominin fossil sites in Africa
  13. Classifying hominin species
  14. Dispersal of *H. erectus* out of Africa
  15. Fossil discoveries from Europe
  16. Early pre-modern *Homo sapiens*
  17. Evidence that Neandertals evolved in Europe
  18. Culture of Neandertals, including technology, settlement patterns, subsistence behaviors, and symbolic behaviors
  19. List the cultural contrasts between Neandertals and Upper Paleolithic humans
  20. Anatomically modern *Homo sapiens*
  21. Skeletal differences between anatomically modern *H. sapiens* and pre-modern *H. sapiens*
  22. Geographic distribution of *H. sapiens* and the Out of Africa model
  23. Climatic, technological, and subsistence changes in the Upper Paleolithic
- E. Behavior and biology today
  1. Historical views of human variation
  2. Contrast modern race concepts and racist beliefs
  3. Adaptive aspects of human genotypic and phenotypic variation

4. Population genetics and the study of human diversity
5. Hardy-Weinberg equilibrium formula
6. Examples of human biocultural evolution
7. Adaptive advantages of skin color related to levels of UV radiation and the incidence of rickets
8. Human responses to heat, cold, and high altitude
9. Bergmann's and Allen's rules
10. Interactions between natural selection and human infectious diseases
11. Nutritional effects on growth and development
12. Human senescence
13. The future of the Earth and the human species in light of the threat of overpopulation

## Lab Content

Not applicable.

## Special Facilities and/or Equipment

- A. When taught face to face the class needs a seminar room with tables, media enhanced, with computer and full VHS, DVD.
- B. When taught as an online distance learning section, students and faculty need ongoing and continuous Internet and Email access.

## Method(s) of Evaluation

- A. Homework
  1. Short answer and problem solving exercises emphasizing class discussion of results
- B. Map Quizzes
  1. Two map quizzes emphasizing geographic locations discussed in the class and text
- C. Written Project
  1. Anthropology field project involving the comparative study of primate physiology and behavior at the zoo
  2. Ten page paper reflecting complete research program
- D. Preparedness and participation in seminar style discussions on topics relevant to the lectures and primary source readings such as journal articles in *American Anthropology* or *Current Anthropology*
- E. Midterm Exam
  1. Multiple choice
  2. Identification and short essay
  3. Essay
- F. Final Exam
  1. Multiple choice
  2. Identification and short essay
  3. Essay

## Method(s) of Instruction

Lecture, Discussion, Cooperative learning exercises, Oral presentations, Electronic discussions/chat, Independent study, Laboratory, Demonstration.

## Representative Text(s) and Other Materials

Jurmain, Robert, Lynn Kilgore, and Wenda Travathan. [Essentials of Physical Anthropology](#). 9th ed. Belmont, CA: Wadsworth, 2013.

Larsen, Clark Spencer. [Essentials of Physical Anthropology](#). 3rd ed. New York: W.W. Norton and Company.

## **Types and/or Examples of Required Reading, Writing, and Outside of Class Assignments**

- A. Two map quizzes covering geography important to class
- B. Final paper with focus on scientific investigation of primates
- C. Six homework assignments for critical thinking
- D. All chapters in the textbooks are assigned
- E. Exams
- F. Primary source materials

## **Discipline(s)**

Anthropology