

Fall 2014 – 12 Weeks

Anthropology 101: Human Biological Evolution (3 units)
Section 7706, West Los Angeles College, Fall 2014
Online through ETUDES (www.myetudes.org)

Instructor: Prof. MJ Gordon, J.D., M.A.

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Please use the Private Message system to contact me regarding the course.

Course Description: This course surveys the major topics of biological anthropology. The primary goal of this course is to present how modern humans evolved. To accomplish this objective, it is necessary to (1) know how the evolutionary process works in general; (2) assess the evolutionary forces shaping the behavior and morphology of our closest living relatives, the monkeys and apes; (3) understand what the fossil record is and how it was created; and (4) consider fossil evidence that documents the evolutionary history of our own lineage, the hominids. These processes provide the key to understanding why humans are the way we are today.

Student Learning Outcomes:

Institutional SLOs:

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 SLO:

Explain how hereditary traits are transferred between generations and conclude how this relates to evolution by natural selection.

Required Text: R. Jurmain, L. Kilgore, & W. Trevathan (2011) *Essentials of Physical Anthropology*, 9th edition. Wadsworth, Belmont. (ISBN 978-1-111-83718-1)

References made in this course to chapters and page numbers are referring to those in this text.

Modules: Modules, accessed from the left hand menu of the class site, are the "classroom" or lecture component of this course. Module material is designed to add to course readings. While reading the modules, have your textbook on hand.

Discussions: There are three categories of discussions available for student participation. All discussions can be accessed from the left hand menu in our class site. Click on "Discussion and Private Message" to see two 'Main' discussion categories "Required Discussion Essays" & "Questions" and one 'Other' category, "Student Lounge."

A. "Required Discussion Essays" is the forum where you will essays on topics posed by the instructor covering materials from readings and modules. The date the topic locks is listed with the topic in the discussion forum.

There will be 12 required discussion essays, one for each chapter of the textbook, due at the rate of one essay each week of the course. Don't panic or be overwhelmed by these - - do your best! Sometimes the essay topics will be broken down into several sub-questions, and you should make sure to answer ALL of the parts and to follow ALL of the directions listed below.

If you do not post your first essay by the due date (Friday, October 3, 2014 at 11:59 PM PT), you will be dropped from the class as a "no show". Missing other Required Discussion Essays may result in being dropped for lack of participation.

Discussion Essay Requirements:

- 1) Post a thoughtful reply to the questions posed. Be sure your essay covers all points from the prompt.
- 2) Present your responses in an academic manner. These discussions are formal writing assignments for this class; make a well reasoned argument, use proper grammar, punctuation, and capital letters where appropriate. Do not address your essays to an individual.
- 3) Fully develop your arguments. Be thorough and explain completely. Connect your argument to the evidence presented in this course (citing the course text and modules is required).
- 4) All statements need to be backed up with data and ideas presented in modules and readings--include the page number or module section in brackets. This is your evidence. The idea is to demonstrate your understanding of the course material. If you use sources from outside of the class (not required), they must be academic sources and you must provide the full citation.
- 5) Each essay should be approximately 2-4 paragraphs. Each paragraph should have approximately 6 sentences and there should be on average 10 words per sentence. THESE NUMBERS ARE GUIDELINES ONLY, BUT KEEP THIS IN MIND: Your goal is to be thorough but concise and to the point - - 2 well-reasoned and eloquent paragraphs beat 2 pages of unintelligible stuff.
- 6) The essays must be posted on time in the appropriate forum. No submissions will be accepted after the date the topic locks (date posted on topic). There is no acceptable excuse for late essays including illness (yours or a family members), computer problems, internet connection issues, forgetting the assignment was due, or work schedule conflict. Work ahead and complete the assignment before the due date to avoid potential loss of points.

B. "Questions" are for when you have a question or comment on material from the readings and/or the modules, the structure of the course, or anything else course related. Use this forum to ask all class questions (with the exception of individual grade or other private matters, in which case use Private Message). This will allow others to benefit from the question as well as contribute responses.

C. "Student Lounge" provides you with a forum to "talk" amongst yourselves about course material. These are informal discussions between students about class topics. The instructor will not address questions in this forum.

The instructor will remove inappropriate topics and postings from any forum. 'Inappropriate' is defined by the instructor.

Polling Questions: From time to time, the instructor may post questions that are NOT graded, but that should provoke thought and facilitate a deep discussion of the course material. Please respond to these questions by posting your responses. No only should the discussion be relevant and interesting, but these posts will help the instructor to recognize who is still participating in the course and fulfilling the course requirements, and who should be DROPPED for “truancy”. The instructor intends to try to remain aware of which students are still with us, and which are no longer active in the course.

Quizzes: For each of the assigned chapters there is a reading quiz. Once you have finished a chapter, take the quiz to test your understanding of the chapter material. Quizzes should be turned in the week listed on the course schedule, and the absolute last date to turn a quiz in is the date listed in the Assignments, Tests and Surveys tool.

Quiz	Covers
Q1	Ch. 1
Q2	Ch. 2
Q3	Ch. 3
Q4	Ch. 4
Q5	Ch. 5
Q6	Ch. 12
Q7	Ch. 6
Q8	Ch. 7
Q9	Chs. 5, 8
Q10	Ch. 9
Q11	Ch. 10
Q12	Ch. 11

Tests: Tests may cover material presented in the readings and modules. All tests are objective and will be completed online before the posted due date listed in the Assignments, Tests and Surveys tool.

Be advised that you need to set aside time to take a test after you have finished the readings, modules and discussions for each section.

Because you have several weeks per test, no excuses will be accepted for not submitting a test by the due date--NO EXCEPTIONS. It is recommended that you complete the tests well in advance of the due date in order to avoid losing points due to unforeseen issues like computer malfunction, internet problems, or illness.

Following is the list of tests with the chapters and modules covered:

Test	Covers
T1	Textbook Chapters 1,2,3,4,5,12
T2	Textbook Chapters 6,7
T3	Textbook Chapters 5,8,9,10,11

Course Grade: Your course grade will be based on points earned from tests, quizzes, and Discussion Essays:

Tests	300	A 540 +
Quizzes	180	B 539-480
<u>Discussions</u>	<u>120</u>	C 479-420
Total Possible Points	600	D 419-360
		F 359 and below

Please note:

- No extra credit will be offered.
 - "Incompletes" will be given only in extreme circumstances. Consultation with the instructor required.
 - It is ultimately the student's responsibility to drop a course that you do not plan on completing.
 - The instructor will strictly adhere to these rules and this syllabus, and deadlines will NOT be bent, NOR exceptions to this syllabus made.
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Course Outline

This is a fast paced course; please keep up with readings, quizzes, modules, discussions, and tests.

Absolute due dates are found on each assignment and are listed in the Assignments, Tests and Surveys tool. Work ahead whenever possible - - there is a lot to accomplish in this fast-paced course.

The basic course structure is:

- 1 Textbook Chapter (and associated internet "course module") per week
- 1 Formal Required Discussion Question per week (you will post these by the listed due date on the class discussion board)
- 1 Reading Quiz per week
- Tests on weeks #7, #9, and #12

As Instructor of the course I reserve the right to modify the syllabus, assignments, and the course schedule. I will notify you in writing via the Announcements tool if there are any changes.

Accommodations

If you are a student with a disability and require accommodations, please contact the Disabled Students Programs & Services (DSP&S) Office. The DSP&S Office provides special assistance in areas including: registration assistance specialized tutoring, academic and career guidance counseling, instructor liaison, special instruction and testing assistance. For more information go to the DSPS page at <http://www.wlac.edu/dsps/>.

Location

Student Services Building (SSB 320)

Telephone

(310) 287-4450

Department Email

dsps@wlac.edu

Communication Policies

All students will please follow these policies for all private messages, emails, and discussion communications:

1. No profanity or foul language of any kind at any time

2. Please politely address everyone by formal name
3. Under no circumstances may you use the classroom forum to ask for a classmate's personal contact information or in any way ask for a personal meeting or date
4. Do not include in your signature or other material in your messages any kind of sales solicitations, information about a business, or a political or religious message of any kind. Do not include a blind or other kind of hyperlink to such information
5. Please use common sense and common courtesy. Please check with me first if you have any questions about what is appropriate
6. The instructor maintains the right to delete any public posting deemed inappropriate

Communications with the Instructor:

Please, do not email, private message, or post a message to the instructor as you would text a message to your friend. Please follow these basic rules:

1. Sign off with your full name - first and last
2. If emailing, state in which class you are enrolled
3. Do not tell me to reply ASAP or make other demands
4. Do a spell check on your communications
5. Use upper- and lower-case letters as appropriate in any formal academic written communications (this includes "I")

I will reply to your messages as quickly as possible, and with every effort to do so within 48 hours during weekdays (except holidays).

Academic Dishonesty Policy

Academic integrity is a fundamental value of higher education and WLAC; therefore, acts of cheating, plagiarism, falsification or attempts to cheat, plagiarize or falsify will not be tolerated in this course. It is your responsibility to understand what plagiarism is and you can read about it here: <http://www.plagiarism.org>.

Acts of academic dishonesty may result in zero points for the assignment, being reported to Student Services, and/or receiving an F for the class.

The following is from LACCD student code of conduct as it relates to student dishonesty (Board Rule 9803.28):

"Violations of academic integrity of any type by a student provides grounds for disciplinary action by the instructor of college. Violations of Academic Integrity include, but are not limited to, the following actions: cheating on an exam, plagiarism, working together on an assignment, paper or project when the instructor has specifically stated students should not do so, submitting the same term paper to more than one instructor, or allowing another individual to assume one's identity for the purpose of enhancing one's grade. For more information on the Standards of Student Conduct refer to the college catalog available in hardcopy and online at www.wlac.edu."