

Anthropology 101: Human Biological Evolution (0268)
West Los Angeles College, Fall 2015

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Lecture: SC 101, MW 11:10-12:35
Office & Hours: GC 380D, M W 10-11
and by appointment

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.

Course Readings: All course readings are from the textbook *Essentials of Physical Anthropology*, 9th edition, by R. Jurmain, L. Kilgore, and W. Trevathan. 2013. (ISBN 978-1-111-83718-1)

To facilitate discussion and your understanding of the material, please have the assigned reading completed before class. See Course Outline for reading assignments.

Grading: Course grade is based on exams (see Course Outline for dates), class participation (2 points per day), and chapter assignments.

Based on the total number of points offered throughout the course, grades are calculated as follows: 90% or greater is an A, 80-89% is a B, 70-79% is a C, 60-69% is a D, and less than 60% is failing. Keep all scored assignments and tests until the end of the semester.

“Incompletes” will be assigned only in very extreme circumstances and require a consultation with the instructor.

No individual extra credit will be given.

Accommodations: Students with disabilities who believe they may need accommodations in this class are encouraged to contact Disabled Students Programs and Services (DSPS) located in SSB 320, phone number 310-287-4420. Department email: dsps@wlaac.edu and page <http://www.wlaac.edu/dsps/>

Exams: Exams will cover material presented in lecture, films, and assigned readings. Exams are not cumulative; however, each section of the class will build on ideas developed in previous sections. Exams consist of objective questions. Students are required to bring a scantron form 882 and a sharpened no. 2 pencil, with a good eraser to all exams. Missed exams -no redos- may be made up in class on Monday, 12/14.

All exams are to be taken without the use of notes, the text or any other aid. Anyone who uses any aids during an examination, this includes looking at another student’s work and looking at the textbook or notes, will as a minimum penalty, receive a zero score (see Academic Integrity). Please be on time for all exams; if late you may not be allowed to take the exam that day.

Participation: Students are expected to have read the assigned chapters before the lectures and actively take part in class discussions with relevant comments and questions. Two points will be awarded for each full class session attended, except exam days. Points can NOT be made-up for missed class regardless of the reason (illness, extracurricular activities, etc.). It is your responsibility to sign-in each class session. I recommend that you have contact information for at least two classmates. If you must miss class, contact a classmate to learn of any announcements and to get lecture notes. If you miss class meetings, you run the risk of being dropped from the course.

It is ultimately the student’s responsibility to drop a course you don’t plan on finishing.

Last day to drop this class without a “W” is Friday, Feb 20

Last day to drop this class with a “W” is Friday, May 8

Assignments: In-class and take-home assignments may be given out over the course of the semester. Directions and due dates will be explicit. If you miss a class, see instructor for makeup work. Late assignments, regardless of the reason, that are turned in after the graded assignment has been returned at most can only earn ½ the points. No points will be given to assignments turned in after the material is covered in an exam.

Student Learning Outcomes: This course will help students achieve the following SLOs:

Institutional-level

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

SLO 2: Recall and define anthropological terms and concepts that deal with the fossil record.

Academic Integrity: Academic integrity concerns honesty, and implies being truthful and free from lies, fraud, and deceit. Academic dishonesty includes cheating, fabrication, facilitating academic dishonesty, and plagiarism. All forms of academic dishonesty will be treated severely in this class and may result in grade penalties, formal disciplinary actions, and severe academic sanctions. If there is any question as to what academic dishonesty is, please contact the instructor and refer to Standard of Student Conduct in the Schedule of Classes.

Class Conduct: There will be ample opportunity for participation in class. Students are encouraged to ask questions or make comments that are relevant to the class. You are required to listen to and respect the opinions of others, even if you do not agree. Students should not make disruptive or insulting comments, talk privately during class, interrupt the class with electronic devices, or come in class late or leave early. Disruptive students will be required to leave class and will be officially suspended from class for two class meetings. This action will appear in your permanent record.

Course Outline: The course outline is subject to change. Changes, if any, will be announced in class. Absence from class does not excuse you from the responsibility of knowing of announced changes or of material covered during missed lectures.

Week	Meeting	Topic	Readings
Wk 1	8/31	Course Introduction	
	9/2	Anthropology & Science	Ch. 1, Pg 340-341, & Appendix D
Wk 2	9/7	Labor Day—Campus Closed	
	9/9	Development of Evolutionary Theory	Ch. 2
Wk 3	9/14	Natural Selection and Evolutionary Change	
	9/16	Evolution: Micro and Macro	
Wk 4	9/23	EXAM #1 (Ch. 1 & 2 +)	
	9/21	The Cell and Cellular Function	Ch. 3
Wk 5	9/28	Heredity & Evolution	Ch. 4
	9/30	Variation	
Wk 6	10/5	Population Genetics	Pgs 321-322 & Appendix C
	10/7	EXAM #2 (Ch. 3 & 4 +)	
Wk 7	10/14	Macroevolution	Ch. 5
	10/12	Continental Drift & Geologic Time	
Wk 8	10/19	Interpreting the fossil record	
	10/21	EXAM #3 (Ch. 5)	
Wk 9	10/26	Nonhuman Primates	Ch. 6 & 7 *Essay 1 Due
	10/28	Early Primate Evolution & Dating techniques	Ch. 8
Wk 10	11/2	Bipedality & early Hominins	Appendix A
	11/4	Australopithecines	Appendix B
Wk 11	11/9	Genus Homo	Ch. 9
	11/11	Veterans Day—Campus Closed	
Wk 12	11/16	Homo erectus	
	11/18	EXAM #4 (Ch. 8 & 9)	
Wk 13	11/23	Archaic Hs	Ch. 10
	11/25	Neandertals	pgs 328-330
Wk 14	11/30	Homo sapiens	Ch. 11
	12/2	Peopling of the World	*Essay 2 Due
Wk 15	12/7	Human Variation	Ch. 12
	12/9	EXAM #5 (Ch. 10 & 11)	
Wk 16	12/14	MAKEUP EXAMS – Finals week	