

Anthropology 101: Human Biological Evolution **West Los Angeles College, Fall Semester 2013**

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

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.

Reading: R. Jurmain, L. Kilgore, & W. Trevathan (2011) *Essentials of Physical Anthropology*, 9th edition. Wadsworth, Belmont. (ISBN [978-1-111-83718-1](https://www.wadsworth.com/9781111837181))

This is the required text and edition for this course. 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 Class Discussions" & "Questions" and one 'Other' category, "Student Lounge."

A. "**Required Class Discussions**" is where you will participate in the graded class discussions on topics posed by the instructor covering materials from readings and modules. The due date is listed with each discussion in the discussion forum.

Discussion	Topic
D1	Introduction*
D2	Anthropology
D3	Natural Selection
D4	Speciation
D5	Race

* If you do not post an introduction (D1) by the due date, you will be dropped from the class as a "no show". Missing other Required Class Discussions may result in being dropped for lack of participation. If dropped, you will not be reinstated.

To earn full discussion points on discussions you must:

- 1) Post a thoughtful reply to the questions posed. This includes backing up statements with data and ideas presented in modules and readings. The idea is to demonstrate your understanding of the course material.
- 2) Each discussion requires a minimum of two separate postings. If you only have one posting for a discussion, the most you can earn is half the points.
- 3) 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.
- 4) The postings must be in the appropriate forum. The first essay (responding to the original question) must be in before the due date in order to give other students time to read and respond to it. Points will be deducted if the first essay isn't submitted at least two days (48 hours) prior to the due date. Late submissions (late is defined as even 1 minute after the due date) will not be accepted, regardless of the reason (e.g., illness, computer problems, internet connection, forgetting, work, illness etc.). Work ahead and complete the assignment before the due date to avoid loss of points.

B. "**Questions**" are for when you have a question or comment on material from the readings and/or the modules. The questions will be organized by chapter. 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 reserves the right to eliminate inappropriate topics from this and other forums.

Tests: Tests cover material presented in the readings and modules. All tests are objective and each question is worth a possible 1 point. While there is no time limit as to how long you have to take a test up until the due date.

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. You can stop taking a test and continue it at a later time but be aware that if you submit/Finish a test, even accidentally, there is no going back to make changes or to redo a test.

I recommend completing 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. Because you have several weeks per test, no excuses will be accepted for not submitting a test by the due date--NO EXCEPTIONS. Missing tests may result in being dropped from the course for lack of participation. The tests and due dates are listed in the Assignments, Tests and Surveys tool.

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

Test	Covers
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T1	Ch. 1 & 2 and Modules 1 & 2
T2	Ch. 3 & 4 and Modules 3 & 4
T3	Ch. 5 & Module 5
T4	Ch. 6 & 7 and Modules 6 & 7
T5	Ch. 8 & 9 and Modules 8 & 9
T6	Ch. 10 & 11 and Module 10 & 11
T7	Ch. 12 and Module 12

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 are not timed. All quizzes must be finished by the due date, no excuses will be accepted. Missing quizzes may result in being dropped from the course for lack of participation. Quizzes and due dates are 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. 6
Q7	Ch. 7
Q8	Ch. 8
Q9	Ch. 9
Q10	Ch. 10
Q11	Ch. 11
Q12	Ch. 12

Course Grade: Your course grade will be based on points earned from tests, quizzes, and required class discussions:

Tests	290	A 466 +
Quizzes	138	B 414-465
Discussions	90	C 363-413
Total Possible Points	518	D 311-362
		F 310 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.

*Last day to drop the class without a "W" is Aug 30.

*Last day to drop the class with a "W" is Oct 4.

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)

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