

Anthropology 1
Spring, 2004
Sec. No. 30348
LBCC-LAC

Physical Anthropology
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M-W 12:30-2:00 PM
M206

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by appointment.

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COURSE SYLLABUS

This introductory anthropology course focuses on the evolutionary development of the human capacity for culture and its subsequent effects on human biology. We will review the relationship between humans and other animals; our origin and antiquity; fossil prehumans and humans; principles of heredity and population genetics; the question of human "race" and "racial" distinctions; and the laws of synthetic evolution. During the term we will consider possible scenarios for the future of the human species, both biologically and culturally, based on projections of current trends, policies, and world views.

This course concerns the human past, where we originated, and the phases we went through on the path to our modern forms in terms of both biological and cultural evolution. As a result of taking this course, you should be able to:

1. construct the human family tree and show our relationship to our nearest animal relatives;
2. identify the biological and social criteria unique to humans;
3. compare and contrast prosimians, monkeys, apes, and humans in scientific terms;
4. understand how, why, when, and where archeological excavations are done;
5. identify and describe human lithic industries from the earliest to modern examples;

6. locate and discuss the most important archeological sites for early humans on a world map;
7. explain the processes of biological evolution to demonstrate change through time;
8. discuss the scientific evidence for human physical variation seen today;
9. discuss the correlation between human biology, adaptation, and culture;
10. perform successfully in subsequent courses in human biology and/or anthropology; and
11. understand and be able to conduct basic physical anthropology laboratory analyses regarding ourselves, and both prehistoric and historic primate subjects.

A laboratory component will supplement this course. You will do the lab assignments in teams of two on instructor-guided projects. We will first examine our own physiology, then move on to other primate anatomy (mostly prehuman and human) which we will examine, measure, and record on lab forms submitted for grading after each lab assignment. I will furnish all laboratory materials for the lab projects. Specimens of skeletal anatomy of prehistoric and modern primates are delicate and extremely breakable. You are asked to handle these items carefully.

You are encouraged to form study groups to meet outside of class to help one another learn the material. Participation in such groups raises scores. I will assist in forming these groups, if students show an interest in this excellent study method. For those desiring a "C" or better in the course, regular class attendance and conscientious study habits will be required. Keeping up with the reading and studying will make the learning process easier.

The grade for the course will be based upon the following considerations:

1. a midterm exam; portion of grade: 100 points

2. four quizzes: 25 points each, total	100 points
3. four essays: 25 points each, total	100 points
4. four lab projects: 25 points each, total	100 points
5. a final exam:	<u>100 points</u>
Total Points:	500 points

For an “A”, you need to earn 90% of the points or more (450-500), for a “B” 400-449 points, for a “C” 350-399, for a “D” 300-349, below 300 points is a failing grade. Note: extra credit points will raise the score.

One text is required for the course:

Robert Jurmain, et al. Introduction to Physical Anthropology, Ninth Ed., Belmont, CA: Wadsworth Publishing, 2003.

You are expected to purchase the book and read the assignments before each class. Roughly seventy percent of the material for the quizzes and exams will be derived from the lecture. The remainder of the questions and topics will be drawn directly from the text, including material we may not discuss in class, so you should read the text and study consistently. This course provides a good foundation on which to build a scientific understanding of human culture.

To be successful, you must take extensive class notes on the lectures and discussions making it necessary for you to come to each class with pen, notebook, and the text. We will often refer to the text during the class sessions.

As you will see, there are definite career opportunities available as a result of a focus in physical anthropology. Those of you who find this course stimulating may inquire about professional anthropology. Anyone interested in pursuing advanced studies in anthropology after taking this class should visit me during office hours for information on schools, programs, subfields, etc. This course will be a challenge, but it is potentially very rewarding in

terms of understanding human origins and development, the contemporary human condition, and the biological and cultural features of different human societies around the world today.

Keeping up with the reading, studying, quizzes, and exams will require effort, even for those of you with good study habits. Those who have difficulty studying and learning will need to work harder on this material. I will assist with some handouts on learning skills through the term.

Attendance is mandatory and will be taken each class. Perfect attendance will be considered in the event a student's final course grade percentage points happen to fall between two letter grades-- those with perfect attendance will be assigned the higher letter grade. Poor attendance, on the other hand, will have dire consequences. According to LBCC academic policy:

"Attendance is the student's responsibility. In the event of excessive absences, the instructor may drop a student from a course or lower the student's grade. Students who are absent more than twenty percent of the total class hours or for two consecutive weeks shall be automatically dropped from the class."

{NOTE: For this class, five class meetings are the maximum allowable absences. Missing six classes will result in an automatic drop from the class regardless of the reason(s) for the absences}.

I will make every effort to ensure that classroom decorum is conducive to learning. You can help with this mission by actively participating in the class discussions and exercises. However, emotional outbursts or insulting comments directed to me, to other students, or to individuals or groups outside the class will not be tolerated. According to the LBCC catalog:

"Disorderly, lewd, indecent, obscene, or offensive conduct or expression which interferes with the college's primary

educational responsibility... (or)...obstruction or disruption of classes...will subject students to disciplinary action."

Pagers, beepers, cell-phones, walkie-talkies, two-way wrist radios, tricorders, etc. are to be set on silent ring or turned off during class times.

Though you are encouraged to participate in class, talking privately with a classmate is distracting and not acceptable. Violators will receive one verbal warning after which they will be asked to leave the class for the remainder of the day's session.

Leaving class before dismissal is disruptive. If, for some reason, you have to leave early, please make arrangements with me before class and find a seat near the door to avoid disturbing others when you leave. Anyone leaving early without prior arrangement, will be marked absent for the entire class.

Arriving late for class is also disruptive. If you arrive late and class is already in session, please enter the class as quietly as possible and find a seat near the door. Makeup quizzes or exams are given only in cases of extreme medical or other emergency. If you know you will not be present for an exam, you should take the course another time. Late work is severely penalized. Handing work in late would not be fair to those who submit their assignments on time. Though you are encouraged to come into class as long as we are in session, arriving more than twenty minutes late for class will be considered an absence for the day.

On the subject of academic honesty, the college catalog states:

"Lack of honesty in the classroom is considered a very serious offense. Any form of cheating on tests, turning in work which is not one's own (plagiarism), talking during tests, furnishing false information to instructors or knowingly misrepresenting

oneself to the college is ground for disciplinary action."

Please keep this information in mind during quizzes, exams, and when doing assignments. See the current Schedule of Classes for further information on LBCC policies and procedures.

Quizzes are unannounced so you should keep up with your reading and studies to be prepared. The quiz questions will be selected from the assigned reading material as well as from the previous lectures. The quizzes will normally consist of twenty-five questions.

Exams will usually be in the form of Scantron questions. The exam format and content will be discussed in detail prior to the midterm .

The essays will be on topics being covered in the assigned chapters in the readings and from the lectures. The essays will be done in class, also on unannounced occasions. They will be one to two pages in length and you will have about twenty minutes to complete each essay. Except for dire circumstances, make up work is not given. Instead, anyone absent who misses an exam (the Midterm or the Final), a quiz, a lab, or an essay, will receive half the total points for that assignment in the grade book. Please try to maintain good attendance to avoid this penalty for absenteeism.

I will show other audiovisual material to complement the class as well. Videos will be presented to amplify and illustrate significant topics covered in the course.

A number of handouts will supplement the text, lectures, and video presentations to clarify and expand several of the more important topics covered in this course. You are expected to learn the material from these handouts as well as from other sources of information.

A tentative schedule to guide your reading and to indicate important dates is as follows. While the lectures and discussions may not be exactly synchronized with this schedule, you should read the assigned material before it is covered in class.

Week	Chapters in Text	General Topics
1 (1/12/04)	1	Introduction
2 (1/19)	2	Evolutionary Theory
3 (1/26)	3	Biological Basis of Life
4 (2/2)	4	Heredity and Evolution
5 (2/9)	5	The Primates
6 (2/16)	6	Primate Behavior
7 (2/23)	7	Models for Evolution
8 (3/1)	8	Midterm Macroevolution/Primates
9 (3/8)	9	Paleoanthropology
10 (3/15)	10	Hominid Origins
11 (3/22)	11	Homo Erectus
12 (3/29)	12	Neandertals
13 (4/5)	13	Homo sapiens sapiens
14 (4/12)	none	Spring Recess, No Classes
15 (4/19)	14	Modern Humans
16 (4/26)	15	Human Variation
17 (5/3)	16	Legacies of Evolution
18 (5/10)	9-16	Review for Final Exam

Final Exam (Mon. 5/24, 1:00-3:30 PM)

Holidays and Other No Class Days This Term

Jan. 19, Mon, Dr. Martin Luther King Day
 Feb. 3, Tue, Flex Day
 Feb. 13, Fri, Lincoln's Birthday
 Feb. 16, Mon, Washington's Birthday
 Mar. 24, Wed, Flex Day

Apr. 12-18, Mon thru Sun, Spring Break
May 31, Mon, Memorial Day

I hope you will enjoy this study of the human species and leave the class with a new appreciation for the place of people in nature.