HUMAN SPECIES

Department of Anthropology • College of Sciences • University of Central Florida

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ANT2511(0003) / Spring 2019

Tuesdays and Thursdays 1:30-2:45 PM
HPA1 0112

Instructor: Dr. Emily Zavodny
Office: HPH 103
Office Hours: Tuesdays 3-5 pm & Thursdays 10:30 am -12:30 pm
Email: Emily.Zavodny@ucf.edu or via Webcourses

GTA: Ms. Tyler Vanburen
Office: TBA
Office Hours: TBA
Email: via Webcourses

University Catalogue Description

Human biological variation in an evolutionary perspective. This course satisfies the Science Foundation for the General Education Program (GEP) for many UCF degree programs. Please consult your college adviser to evaluate how this course applies to your degree requirements.

Overview

Who are we? Where do we come from? Why do we look and act the way we do? The focus of this course is to address these questions and others related to human evolution and variation, both past and present.

In the first section of this course, we will investigate modern genetics and forces of evolution that serve as a basic context for understanding human variation. During the second section, we will examine our living non-human primate relatives and a few of our earliest non-human ancestors to see what they can tell us about ourselves as humans. Finally, in the last section we will look at the emergence and evolution of modern humans and the future of our species. We will explore these various topics through readings from your textbook as well as through lectures, films, and additional readings. You will be assessed through assignments, quizzes and exams.

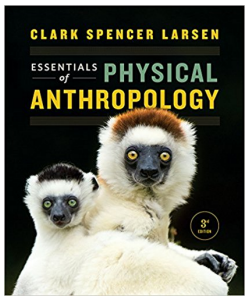
Objectives

By the end of this course, you will be able to:

- Discuss basic concepts and methods in biological anthropology.
- Explain the history and modern synthesis of evolutionary thought.
- Identify structures and processes of modern genetics and evolutionary forces.
- Use an evolutionary perspective to interpret the adaptations and variations among modern humans
- Compare and contrast our place in nature through the biology, habitats, and behavior of living primates.
- Evaluate the fossil evidence used to understand our past.
- Formulate knowledgeable questions about our past and our future as we continue to adapt to our ever-changing environment.

Materials

There is one required textbook for this class.



Essentials of Physical Anthropology
Author: Clark Spencer Larsen
Edition: 3rd
Publisher: W.W. Norton
Year: 2015
ISBN: 0393938662

Student Financial Assistance has two programs to assist financial aid recipients with purchasing their textbooks: the **Textbook Purchase Program** and the **Short Term Advance for Books.** Students must select one **or** the other of the two programs, not both, during any given semester. Students who apply late for financial aid or have incomplete files should be prepared to cover their textbook expenses out-of-pocket. Additional information can be found at https://finaid.ucf.edu/receiving/funds-for-books/. Check the Bulletin Boards on **myUCF** for specific dates and information throughout the year.

I also highly recommend bookmarking the Smithsonian Human Origins Institute website for helpful study tools, interactive maps and great images of our human ancestors.

- http://humanorigins.si.edu/
- http://humanorigins.si.edu/evidence/human-family-tree

Grading

Your final grade is based on the following: financial aid activity (1), exams (3), quizzes (11), participation activities (5), and a film activity (1). The total value for all assignments is 500 points, meaning your final letter grade is based directly on how many points you earn throughout the semester. If you wish to discuss your grade, please come see Tyler or me during our office hours or schedule an appointment. We cannot discuss grades via email.

FINANCIAL AID ACTIVITY: 10 POINTS (1 X 10 POINTS)

I am required to document your academic activity at the beginning of each course due to financial aid issues. In order for me to do this, you must complete the **Introductory Quiz (Financial Aid Activity) by 5 PM (EST) Friday, Jan 11**. Failure to do so will result in a delay in the disbursement of your financial aid and no one wants that!

EXAMS: 300 POINTS (3 X 100 POINTS EACH)

There will be three (3) non-cumulative exams throughout the semester. They will consist of multiple choice and true/false questions. You must bring your own **PINK** scantron on exam days. Students can pick up free scantrons Monday through Friday at the SGA office (8 am-5 pm) or at the Student Union information desk (after 5 pm).

ONLINE READING QUIZZES: 110 POINTS (11 X 10 POINTS EACH)

Readings are assigned as a group each week, meaning you should complete all readings before you come to class Tuesday in order to understand and participate in the week's discussions. To facilitate this there will be twelve (12) online reading quizzes throughout the semester. Quizzes will be posted on a Thursday and due by 1:30 pm the following Tuesday. Your lowest quiz score will be dropped at the end of the semester. Quizzes will consist of multiple choice, true/false, and/or fill-in-the-blank questions. **Important:** Once you start a quiz, you will have 15 minutes to complete it.

PARTICIPATION: 50 POINTS (5 X 10 POINTS EACH)

Given the size of this class, I will not be taking attendance each meeting period. However, your regular attendance *is* important to your success in this class. Material conveyed through lectures and class discussions will be on your exams but will not always be found in your readings.

To encourage attendance and participation, you will complete six (6) short in-class activities this semester. You will not be allowed to complete these activities if you are not in class that day, but I will drop your lowest activity score at the end of the semester.

FILM ACTIVITY: 30 POINTS (1 X 30 POINTS)

We will watch one (1) film this semester for which you will be required to complete a small assignment. A more detailed description and grading rubric for these assignments will be provided closer to the film viewing (April 11).

Final Grades

Letter grades will be assigned according to the table below. You can calculate your final grade using the following formula:

Percentage Grade = (Total Financial Aid Activity Points Earned + Total Exam Points Earned + Total Quiz Points Earned + Total In-Class Activity Points Earned + Total Film Activity Points Earned) / 500

Letter Grade	A	B	C	D	F
Percentage	90-100	80-89	70-79	60-69	≤ 59

Final grades will be rounded up to the nearest whole number IF the grade is within 0.5 points of this next highest number. For instance, a grade of 89.5 will be rounded to a 90, but a grade of 89.49 will not. No extra credit assignments will be offered.

Late Work & Make-Up Policy

All assignments are due in-class on the date indicated on the course schedule and syllabus. You may submit late work without a university excuse up to four (4) days after the due date, but with a 15% deduction per day from your grade on that assignment. I will not accept anything beyond four days past the deadline. You cannot make up missed participation activities.

Students with a university-approved excuse (hospitalization, jury duty, family emergency) may be asked to provide documentation in order to make up graded assignments. Students with an approved excuse must also contact me before the assignment in question is due, otherwise no accommodations will be made. All make-up work is at the discretion of the instructor.

Communication

You must check the course webpage and your Knights email regularly as these are the primary means of communication for this course. We will be using our Webcourse page to post important information throughout the semester, including grades, required reading, and announcements. Some assignments, such as quizzes, will be completed and submitted entirely on Webcourses. You are responsible for all of the information posted online to our course page.

Email is the best way to communicate with Tyler (your GTA) or me if you have any questions about readings, specific assignments, or anything else not answered in the syllabus. Please include the course and section numbers in your email subject line, as well as a salutation and your name in the body of the email. We will respond to emails within 48 hours of receiving them, but please note that it may take us the full 48 hours to respond. Waiting for a response is not an excuse for missing an assignment deadline.

Academic Responsibility

First and foremost, read the syllabus and course schedule. This document is your guide so that you can keep up with the scheduled readings, modules, and assignments. Time management, problem solving, responsibility, and personal accountability are among the most important things you can learn in college. To be successful in this class (and in college in general), you will need to check Webcourses regularly (and often!), keep up with assigned readings, and make every effort to complete assignments, quizzes and exams on time and in a professional manner. Lastly, if you've read this far, email me a picture of your favorite primate by January 12th for two extra credit points.

Course Etiquette

Anthropology is focused on understanding the diversity of human life. The readings, discussions, and assignments required in this class will address many controversial topics, including sexual behavior, gender norms, and religious beliefs and practices. Many of the examples covered will seem strange and possibly objectionable to you, just as your own way of life may seem objectionable to many others around the world. This class does not require you to agree with, believe in, or choose to follow any particular way of life and it does not ask you to be uncritical about social or cultural patterns. You are, however, expected to approach alternative perspectives with respect and to listen to and seek to understand unfamiliar points of view. You also have the right to have others respectfully listen to and seek to understand your point of view. Please feel free to come and see us at any point in the semester if you have any concerns.

Laptops are allowed in class for note-taking only. If you are you using your laptop for other purposes, you will be asked to put it away. Cellphones should be silenced and stored out of sight for the entirety of the class.

Academic Integrity

As reflected in the UCF creed, integrity and scholarship are core values that should guide our conduct and decisions as members of the UCF community. Plagiarism and cheating - presenting another's ideas, arguments, words or images as your own, using unauthorized material, or giving or accepting unauthorized help on assignments or tests - contradict the educational value of course exercises and are very serious academic offenses. Violations of these rules will result in a record of the infraction being placed in your file and receiving a zero on the work in question AT A MINIMUM. At my

discretion, you may also receive a failing grade for the course. Confirmation of such incidents can also result in suspension or expulsion from the University. Students are expected to familiarize themselves with and follow the University's Rules of Conduct (see http://www.osrr.sdes.ucf.edu/).

Student Accessibility and Accommodations

The University of Central Florida is committed to providing access and inclusion for all persons with disabilities. Students with disabilities who need disability-related access in this course should contact Student Accessibility Services (SAS) and me as soon as possible. More information can be found at http://sas.sdes.ucf.edu/. SAS is located at Ferrell Commons Room 185 and can be contacted via email (sas@ucf.edu) or phone (407-823-2371, TTY/TDD only phone 407-823-2116).

Religious Observances

Students must notify me in advance if they intend to miss class for a religious observance. For a current schedule of major religious holidays, see the Faculty Center's main web page under "Calendars," and for additional information, contact the Office of Diversity Initiatives at 407-823-6479.

Deployed Active Duty Military Students

A deployed active duty military student who feels the need for a special accommodation due to that unique status should contact me to discuss the circumstances.

Campus Safety Procedures

Emergencies on campus are rare, but students should be aware of their surroundings and familiar with some basic safety and security concepts. Every UCF classroom contains an emergency procedure guide posted on a wall near the door. Students should make a note of the guide's physical location and review the online version at http://emergency.ucf.edu/emergency_guide.html. Students with special needs related to emergency situations should speak with me outside of class.

Course Lecture and Assignment Schedule

Changes to the lecture and assignment schedules are not expected but may occur (i.e., zombie apocalypse). I reserve the right to make reasonable adjustments to the assignment schedule and will announce any changes via Webcourses. Due dates for assignments can be found in the table below.

COURSE SCHEDULE

** All reading quizzes are due by 1:30 pm on the date indicated.

Dates	Topic	Readings and Due Dates
Week 1	Introduction and course overview Introduction to Biological Anthropology	Read Ch. 1 Financial Aid Activity (Due 5PM Jan 11)
Week 2	Biology and evolution: not just for Darwinians!	Read Ch. 2 Quiz 1 (Due Jan 15)
Week 3	The stuff we're made of: Cells, DNA and genes	Read Ch. 3 Quiz 2 (Due Jan 22)
Week 4	How things change: Micro-and macroevolution	Read Ch. 4 Quiz 3 (Due Jan 29)
Week 5	We are adaptable! Modern human diversity	Read Ch. 5 Quiz 4 (Due Feb 5)
	Exam 1: Thursday, February 7	
Week 6	Our closest living relatives: Primates	Read Ch. 6 Quiz 5 (Due Feb 12)
Week 7	Primate behavior	Read Ch. 7 Quiz 6 (Due Feb 19)
Week 8	Fossils!	Read Ch. 8 Quiz 7 (Due Feb 26)
Week 9	In the beginning: Primate origins	Read Ch. 9 Quiz 8 (Due March 5)
Week 10	Spring Break Mar 12-16	
Week 11	Primate origins continued	
	Exam 2: Thursday, March 21	
Week 12	Walking the walk: Bipedalism abounds!	Read Ch. 10 Quiz 9 (Due March 26)
Week 13	Our genus: *Homo*!	Read Ch. 11 Quiz 10 (Due April 2)
Week 14	We are everywhere! Dispersal of modern humans	Read Ch. 12 Quiz 11 (Due April 9)
Week 15	We grow things! Agriculture and complex societies	Read Ch. 13 Quiz 12 (Due April 16) Film Activity (Due April 16)
Exam 3: Tuesday, April 30 1:00-3:50 PM		