**ANTH 260: INTRODUCTION TO BIOLOGICAL ANTHROPOLOGY**

Department of Anthropology, Washington State University (Fall 2021)

**Meeting Times and Places**

Lecture Lab

M, W, *and* F: 11:10-12:00 M or W: 1:10-3:40

Todd 404 College Hall 355

**Professor**

Dr. Aaron Blackwell ([aaron.blackwell@wsu.edu](mailto:aaron.blackwell@wsu.edu))

**Note: If emailing about the class, please include Anth 260 in the subject line**

Office hours: Talk with me after class or visit my Zoom office hours: MW 12:20-1:20 or by appointment (email me!). Link:

https://wsu.zoom.us/j/99981628612?pwd=TFlmZzFpSG9TeW9zclR4cVhYUTFsdz09

**Teaching assistants**

Eric Hubbard ([eric.hubbard@wsu.edu](mailto:eric.hubbard@wsu.edu)), Monday Lab, Office Hours Fri 8-10am on Zoom

Madison Hönig ([madison.honig@wsu.edu](mailto:madison.honig@wsu.edu)), Wednesday Lab, Office Hours Wed 4-6 on Zoom

**Course Description**

This class is an introduction to the field of biological anthropology: the study of human evolution, variation, and behavior. This course is about the origins of the human species, and thus we examine the pattern and process of evolution as it relates to hominins (living humans and their extinct bipedal relatives). We start by discussing the history of evolutionary thought, Darwin’s mechanism of natural selection, and the neo-Darwinian understanding of the process of evolution. Because humans are members of the Order Primates, we will explore the biology, behavior, and evolutionary trends of nonhuman primates. Next, we will turn to the hominin fossil record and examine changes in locomotion, morphology, diet, and social structure that have occurred since we last shared a common ancestor with members of the genus *Pan*. Finally, we will use an evolutionary perspective to investigate and make sense of the variation found in humans today.

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| **Student Learning Outcomes**  **At the end of this course, students should be able to:** | **The following topics/dates will address this outcome:** | **This outcome will be evaluated primarily by:** |
| Explain how evolution works by the four forces of evolution. | Weeks 1-5 | Unit 1 exam and lab exercises |
| Explain our species place in the broader context of the tree of life | Weeks 6-9 | Unit 2 exam and lab exercises |
| Cite fossil and genetic evidence for the origin of our species and the spread of humans around the world | Weeks 10-12 | Unit 3 exam and lab exercises |
| Explain some of the ways that living humans vary physically and behaviorally | Weeks 14-15 | Unit 3 exam and lab exercises |

**“Big questions” addressed in this course include:**

What is natural selection, and how does it result in biological change over time?

What is a gene and how is it related to the shape and behavior of an organism?

What roles do mutation and natural selection play in human evolution?

What traits do humans share with other living primates, and how might humans be unique?

When and why did bipedal locomotion evolve in the human lineage?

What is the first fossil evidence of our genus, *Homo*, and our species, *H. sapiens*?

What role has culture played in human evolution?

How, when, and where did humans domesticate plants and animals? What effects did this have?

How do extant humans vary genetically and what factors might help explain that variation?

**Required Textbook (1)**

***How Humans Evolved* (8th edition) by Robert Boyd and Joan B. Silk (2017, W. W. Norton)**.

Note that older versions of this book (i.e. 7th edition) may be acceptable as well but will be slightly out of date on some topics. There is also a 9th edition that is more up to date, but to save you some money I am sticking with the 8th edition for now. If you make use a different edition, the chapter numbers in the assigned readings section below may not be accurate. You will be responsible for looking up the table of contents for the 8th edition and matching it to the 7th edition to figure out what section you should read. Additional required readings will be posted on blackboard. Remember to check the black board site regularly.

**Lectures**

Lectures will include slides, audio/visual aids, and films. For the most part, the lectures are designed to illustrate, emphasize, or complement topics presented in the course readings. In some cases, lectures will present material not covered in the textbook or in the lab. This is one reason why it is important to attend lectures regularly. The schedule of lectures and readings (see below) is subject to revision during the semester.

**Canvas Quiz Questions**

Each day of lecture I will post a question or two about the lecture material on Canvas under Quizzes. These should just take you a minute or two to complete. You will have 48 hours after the lecture to complete the quiz, but I recommend doing it immediately after class so you don’t forget.

**Labs**

Lab attendance is mandatory and will be part of your final grade. Labs will be taught by the teaching assistants. Labs include hands-on work with fossil casts, skeletal materials, group demonstrations, or group discussions. Laboratory grades will be based on attendance and six graded lab reports.

**Exams**

There are 3 exams in this course. Exams will primarily test knowledge and understanding of material from the respective unit, but exams 2 and 3 will require integration of material from earlier units. Note that exams will cover material presented in lectures, labs, and reading assignments. The exams will be composed of multiple choice, true-false, and/or short essay questions. Exam format will be discussed in more detail prior to the first exam. Make-up exams will be an option only under exceptional and documented cases (this does not include pre-scheduled travel).

Exams will take place in class or at the scheduled final exam time.

**You may bring one 8.5x11in page of handwritten notes with you to the exam. You may use both front and back of the page.**

**Final Grade Determination**

% of total points

Quizzes 10% 10

Exam 1 20% 20

Exam 2 20% 20

Exam 3 25% 25

Lab 25% 25 (10pts attendance + 15pts graded lab assignments)

**100 points total**

92.5-100% A

90-92.4% A-

87.5-89.9% B+

82.5-87.4% B

80-82.4% B-

77.5-79.9% C+

72.5-77.4% C

70-72.4% C-

67.5-69.5% D+

60-67.4% D

below 60% F

**Tentative Schedule of Lectures, Labs, Required Readings, and Exams**

**Unit 1: How Evolution Works**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Date** | **Topic** | **Reading** |
| Week 1 | Aug 23 | Introduction to course and to anthropology |  |
|  | Aug 25 | History of evolutionary thought | Ch 1. |
|  | Aug 27 | Darwin and Natural Selection |  |
|  | LAB | NO LAB IN WEEK ONE |  |
| Week 2 | Aug 30 | Misconceptions About and Evidence for Evolution |  |
|  | Sep 1 | Mendelian genetics |  |
|  | Sep 3 | What is a Gene? | Ch 2. |
|  | LAB | FILM: Darwin’s Dangerous Idea |  |
| Week 3 | Sep 6 | NO CLASS LABOR DAY |  |
|  | Sep 8 | Genetic Determinism (or Not) | R1 |
|  | Sep 10 | Reaction Norms/Plasticity | R2 |
|  | LAB | NO LABS DUE TO HOLIDAY |  |
| Week 4 | Sep 13 | Life History Theory | (also see R12) |
|  | Sep 15 | Evo-Devo I |  |
|  | Sep 17 | Population genetics | Ch 3. |
|  | LAB | Genetics |  |
| Week 5 | Sep 20 | Species and Phylogenies | R3 |
|  | Sep 22 | Modern synthesis |  |
|  | Sep 24 | Four forces of evolution | Ch 4. |
|  | LAB | Phylogenies: Tree thinking |  |
| Week 6 | Sep 27 | Constraints and Kin Selection |  |
|  | Sep 29 | Review and Catch-up (Time Permitting) | R4, R5 |
|  | Oct 1 | **EXAM 1** |  |
|  | LAB | FILM: Jane |  |

**Unit 2: Now and Then: A look at our primate cousins**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Date** | **Topic** | **Reading** |
| Week 7 | Oct 4 | Introducing Primates | Ch 5. |
|  | Oct 6 | Survey of extant primates |  |
|  | Oct 8 | FILM: Life in the Trees | R6. |
|  | LAB | Overview of Primates |  |
| Week 8 | Oct 11 | Primate behavioral ecology I | Ch 6. |
|  | Oct 13 | Primate Behavioral ecology II | R7 |
|  | Oct 15 | Comparative primate life histories | Ch 7. |
|  | LAB | Primate Food Fight |  |
| Week 9 | Oct 18 | Geological time, paleontology, dating | Ch 8. |
|  | Oct 20 | Early primate evolution |  |
|  | Oct 22 | Primate fossil record |  |
|  | LAB | Primate Evolution |  |
| Week 10 | Oct 25 | Primate fossil record | Ch 9. |
|  | Oct 27 | Review (Time Permitting) |  |
|  | Oct 29 | **EXAM 2** |  |
|  | LAB | Human Osteology |  |

**Unit 3: Early Hominins and our genus *Homo***

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|  | **Date** | **Topic** | **Reading** |
| Week 11 | Nov 1 | Early hominin diversification  Origins of bipedalism | Ch 10. |
|  | Nov 3 | Early *Homo* and *H. erectus* | Ch 11. R8. |
|  | Nov 5 | Neanderthals and Friends (Lovers?) |  |
|  | LAB | Early Hominins |  |
| Week 12 | Nov 8 | The appearance of anatomically modern humans | Ch 12. R9, R10, R11 |
|  | Nov 10 | The spread of anatomically modern humans | Ch 13. |
|  | Nov 12 | Human Behavioral Ecology |  |
|  | LAB | Late hominins |  |
| Week 13 | Nov 15 | The Human Adaptive Complex | R12 |
|  | Nov 17 | FILM: The Hunters Part I |  |
|  | Nov 19 | FILM: The Hunters Part II |  |
|  | LAB | Tribes! (Human Behavioral Ecology) and Stone Tools |  |
|  |  | THANKSGIVING |  |
| Week 14 | Nov 29 | Human biological variation | Ch 14.  ^NYT articles |
|  | Dec 1 | Origins of agriculture (where, what, when, and how) | R13, R14 |
|  | Dec 3 | Human Biology and Evolutionary Medicine |  |
|  | LAB | What does “race” mean today? |  |
| Week 15 | Dec 6 | Evolution and human behavior | Ch 15. |
|  | Dec 8 | Cultural evolution | Ch 16. |
|  | Dec 10 | Are humans still evolving? What’s next?  Review (Time Permitting) |  |
|  | LAB | Field methods in human biology |  |
| FINALS | Dec 14 | **EXAM 3** (10:10-1:00pm) [No early exams] |  |

R1-14 and the NYT readings about race are readings available on blackboard.

Students are allocated $7.50 each semester to use for printing. Students can print at any of the Coug Prints locations, for example the libraries or the residence halls. There is an extensive list of the locations at https://cougprints.wsu.edu/printing/locations.

This syllabus is not a contract. Changes to this syllabus may be made during the semester (substantial changes will be announced in lecture and/or lab).

**Attendance Policy**

Your attendance in this course is highly recommended but is not graded. However, points will be awarded for answering questions posted on Canvas following each lecture, so keeping up with the lectures is also highly recommended. Quiz points cannot be made-up but may be excused for valid emergencies or other excused absences. Exams and laboratories can only be made-up except under documented extraordinary circumstances, unless arrangements are made with the instructor prior to the lab or exam. Note, since labs are offered on both Monday and Wednesday you may be able to attend a lab other than your regularly scheduled lab. However you must ask permission ahead of time so we do not end up with too many people in one lab.

###### COVID-19 Policy

Per the proclamation of Governor Inslee on August 18, 2021, masks that cover both the nose and mouth must be worn by all people over the age of five while indoors in public spaces. This includes all WSU owned and operated facilities. The state-wide mask mandate goes into effect on Monday, August 23, 2021, and will be effective until further notice. Public health directives may be adjusted throughout the year to respond to the evolving COVID-19 pandemic. Directives may include, but are not limited to, compliance with WSU’s COVID-19 vaccination policy, wearing a cloth face covering, physically distancing, and sanitizing common-use spaces. All current COVID-19 related university policies and public health directives are located at <https://wsu.edu/covid-19/>. Students who choose not to comply with these directives may be required to leave the classroom; in egregious or repetitive cases, student non-compliance may be referred to the Center for Community Standards for action under the Standards of Conduct for Students.

**Academic Integrity**

All members of the university community share responsibility for maintaining and promoting the principles of integrity in all activities, including academic integrity and honest scholarship. Students are responsible for understanding the full [Academic Integrity Statement](https://communitystandards.wsu.edu/policies-and-reporting/academic-integrity-policy/). Students who violate WSU’s Academic Integrity Policy (identified in WAC 504-26-010(3) and -404) will receive a zero on the assignment in question, and will not have the option to withdraw from the course pending an appeal, and will be reported to the Center for Community Standards. If you have any questions about what is and is not allowed in this course, ask your course instructor.

###### Students with Disabilities

Reasonable accommodations are available for students with documented disabilities or chronic medical or psychological conditions. If you have such a condition and need accommodations to fully participate in this class, please visit your campus’ Access Center/Services website to follow published procedures to request accommodations. Students may also contact their campus offices to schedule an appointment with a Disability Specialist. All disability related accommodations are to be approved through the Access Center/Services on your campus. It is a university expectation that students connect with instructors (via email, Zoom, or in person) to discuss logistics within two weeks after they have officially requested their accommodations.

For more information, contact a Disability Specialist on your home campus:

* Pullman, WSU Global Campus, Everett, Bremerton, and Puyallup: 509-335-3417 [Access Center](https://www.accesscenter.wsu.edu/) (https://www.accesscenter.wsu.edu) or email at [access.center@wsu.edu](mailto:access.center@wsu.edu)
* Spokane: 509-358-7816 [Access Services](https://spokane.wsu.edu/studentaffairs/access-resources/) (https://spokane.wsu.edu/studentaffairs/access-resources/) or email [j.schneider@wsu.edu](mailto:j.schneider@wsu.edu)
* Tri-Cities: [Access Services](http://www.tricity.wsu.edu/disability/) (http://www.tricity.wsu.edu/disability/) or email [g.hormel@wsu.edu](mailto:g.hormel@wsu.edu)
* Vancouver: 360-546-9238 [Access Center](https://studentaffairs.vancouver.wsu.edu/student-wellness-center/access-center) (https://studentaffairs.vancouver.wsu.edu/student-wellness-center/access-center) or email [van.access.center@wsu.edu](mailto:van.access.center@wsu.edu)

###### Accommodation for Religious Observances or Activities

Washington State University reasonably accommodates absences allowing for students to take holidays for reasons of faith or conscience or organized activities conducted under the auspices of a religious denomination, church, or religious organization. Reasonable accommodation requires the student to coordinate with the instructor on scheduling examinations or other activities necessary for course completion. Students requesting accommodation must provide written notification within the first two weeks of the beginning of the course and include specific dates for absences. Approved accommodations for absences will not adversely impact student grades. Absence from classes or examinations for religious reasons does not relieve students from responsibility for any part of the course work required during the period of absence. Students who feel they have been treated unfairly in terms of this accommodation may refer to Academic Regulation 104 – Academic Complaint Procedures.

**Safety and Emergency Notification**

Please sign up for emergency alerts on your account at MyWSU. For more information on this subject, campus safety, and related topics, please view the FBI’s Run, Hide, Fight video and visit the classroom safety page <https://provost.wsu.edu/classroom-safety/>.