

Concepts & Methods in Biological Anthropology

ANTH 201, Oxford College, Fall 2013

Particulars

Professor: Caroline VanSickle, vansickle@emory.edu

Office hours: MO 1:30-2:30 or by appointment, in 109 Pierce Hall (don't be shy!)

Lectures: TU/TH 1:40 (01J) or 3:30 (03J), in 257 East Village

Labs: MO 2:30 (L-A) or TH 9:45 (L-D2), in 109 Pierce Hall (Lab starts week of Sept 9)

Description

What makes us human and different from other animals? How do humans adapt to environmental extremes? Why did primates first evolve? What are the most important forces shaping human biology today? In this course we will explore the answers to these questions and more. This course is split into three parts. Part 1 will focus on evolutionary theory. Part 2 will focus on living primates, including humans. Part 3 will focus on human evolution.

Required Materials

Textbook: *Our Origins*, 2nd ed, by Clark Larsen; you do not need the CD

Additional readings will be posted on the course Blackboard site

Grade breakdown

Your grade is out of 1000 points. There is no weighting. Grades are based on:

Homework (40 points each x 3 assignments + 50 points x 3 assignments = 270 points)

Instructions will be distributed next week. Due dates are on the schedule.

Lab Quizzes (10 points each x 8 labs = 80 points)

Quizzes cover readings and the previous week's lab. Your lowest score will be dropped.

Lab Participation (5 points each x 10 labs = 50 points)

Participate in discussions and activities during lab. Your lowest score will be dropped.

Exams (200 points each x 3 exams = 600 points)

Exams are not cumulative. Dates are on the schedule.

Honor Code

You are bound to complete course work according to the Honor Code of Oxford College.

You may collaborate in studying for exams and in completing the labs, but cheating and plagiarizing are Honor Code violations. Do not cheat on exams. Do not turn in homework that you yourself did not think of, write, or draw. If you have questions or concerns, please contact me for clarification rather than risk violating the Honor Code.

So you missed class?

Lecture: You do not need to contact me. Read the lecture slides and get notes from a classmate. If you still have questions over what you missed, come see me in office hours.

Lab: There are **no makeups** for points missed in lab. You may come to office hours if you have questions about the lab materials or want to see them first hand to study.

Exam Day: Contact me as soon as you know you will miss an exam. You must have a documented excuse to earn a makeup. You must sit all three exams to pass this course.

Additional information about this class is available on the Lec 01 Slides on Blackboard.

Course Outline/Schedule

Date	Lecture topic & due dates	Lab (*=Quiz) & Readings (Ch=Larsen; BB=on Blackboard)
Aug 29	What is biological anthropology?	NO LAB
Sept 3	How do we know what we know?	NO LAB
Sept 5	Darwin's theory of evolution	Read: Ch 1 & 2
Sept 8	HW 1 DUE ON BLACKBOARD	
Sept 10	Biology primer	Human heredity and variability*
Sept 12	Human heredity	Read: Ch 3, BB1
Sept 15	HW 2 DUE ON BLACKBOARD; Present during lab this week	
Sept 17	Forces of evolution, pt 1	Forces of evolution*
Sept 19	Forces of evolution, pt 2	Read: Ch 4, BB2
Sept 24	EXAM 1: Lec/Lab/Readings Aug 29-Sept 19	Human osteology
Sept 26	How biological is race?	
Oct 1	Adaptations, pt 1	Adaptations*
Oct 3	Adaptations, pt 2	Read: Ch 5, BB3
Oct 6	HW 3 DUE ON BLACKBOARD	
Oct 8	What is a primate?	Behavioral ecology*
Oct 10	How nonhuman primates live	Read: Ch 6 & 7
Oct 15	FALL BREAK	NO LAB
Oct 17	How do we study the past?	Read: Ch 8, BB4
Oct 20	HW 4 DUE ON BLACKBOARD; Present during lab this week	
Oct 22	Primate evolution, pt 1	Primate comparative anatomy*
Oct 24	Primate evolution, pt 2	Read: Ch 9, BB5
Oct 29	EXAM 2: Lec/Lab/Readings Sept 23-Oct 24	Hominid origins
Oct 31	Recognizing human ancestors	
Nov 5	First hominids	Australopithecines*
Nov 7	Early members of the genus <i>Homo</i>	Read: Ch 10, BB6
Nov 10	HW 5 DUE ON BLACKBOARD	
Nov 12	<i>Homo erectus</i>	Early <i>Homo</i> *
Nov 14	Models of human evolution	Read: Ch 11, BB7
Nov 19	The Neandertals... and the Denisovans	Neandertals*
Nov 21	How modern were modern humans?	Read: Ch 12, BB8
Nov 26	NO CLASS	NO LAB
Nov 28	THANKSGIVING BREAK	
Dec 1	HW 6 DUE ON BLACKBOARD; Present during lab this week	
Dec 3	The 10,000 year explosion	Bioarchaeology and forensics*
Dec 5	Future of evolution and biological anthropology	Read: Ch 13 & 14
Dec 10	EXAM 3: Lec/Lab/Readings Oct 28-Dec 5	