

OXFORD COLLEGE
Spring Semester 2011

**ANTHROPOLOGY 200
NBB 201**

Foundations of Behavior

ANTH_OX200 01J
Crosslisted as NBB201

**TuTh 1:00 pm – 2:15 pm
Language Hall 201**

Professor: Dr. Aaron Stutz
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Office Hours: BY APPOINTMENT ONLY – times available daily

Teaching Assistant: Gabriela Alvarez (gmalvar@emory.edu)

FOUNDATIONS OF BEHAVIOR

This course introduces you to scientific inquiry into the biological bases of BEHAVIOR in animals, with a focus on humans.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- Define and understand behavior, considered in ecological context
- Explore how the biological processes of evolution shape behavior
- Examine the relationship between the biological concept of behavior with that of adaptation
- Explain in detail about how human behaviors have an evolutionary and ecological context, which helps us to understand our own evolution and place in nature

REQUIRED TEXTS:

On Fertile Ground: A Natural History of Human Reproduction (2001), by Peter T. Ellison. Harvard University Press.

- Available at the Oxford College Bookstore

Life Histories of the Dobe !Kung: Food, Fatness, and Well-Being Over the Life-Span (2010), by Nancy Howell. University of California Press.

- Available at the Oxford College Bookstore

RECOMMENDED TEXT:

The Human Strategy: An Evolutionary Perspective on Human Anatomy (2005), by John H. Langdon. Oxford University Press.

- Available at the Oxford College Bookstore

REQUIRED E-COURSE PACK

Additional REQUIRED Readings will be posted on Anthro 200's Blackboard page.

To access the Blackboard course packs:

- go to <http://classes.emory.edu>
- log in and select *Foundations of Behavior* in your course links
- click on the *Course Documents* button on the upper left
- open or right-click on assigned PDF file for download
- the articles are included as PDF files, numbered to correspond with the coursepack readings listed in the syllabus

COURSE GRADES

The exams and assignments will be weighted as follows:

In Class and TA-session Participation: 5%
Homework Assignments and Quizzes: 5%
Group Presentations and Assignments: 5%
Midterm Exam I: 15-35% (sliding scale)*
Midterm Exam II: 15-35% (sliding scale)*
Midterm Exam III: 15-35% (sliding scale)*
Individual Essay on Hunter-Gatherers: 5%
Final Reflective Essay: 5%

*** The sliding scale for the exam weights means that the raw exam scores (out of 100% will be ranked 1-2-3, and they will correspondingly weigh 35%, 25%, and 15% for your final grade).**

Final grades will be calculated on a percentage basis according to the weights shown above. They will then be converted to a +- letter scale. Grades are given so that:

94 - 100 = A
<94 = A-
<92 = B+
<89 = B
<82 = B-
<80 = C+
<78 = C
<72 = C-
<70 = D+
<68 = D
<63 = F

IMPORTANT: The exams, the individual essay, and the final reflective essay are MANDATORY. A failure to complete any one of these will result in a failing grade for the course.

JUST AS IMPORTANT: Unless you have a valid excuse that you present to me beforehand, *all exam and due dates must be strictly adhered to*. RARE EXCEPTIONS are granted under the following clear conditions: you have a valid, documented medical or family *emergency*. If you require special arrangements through Disability Services, or if you otherwise know ahead of time that you have a major schedule conflict, contact the professor as soon as possible to schedule an alternative exam. Be prepared to provide documentation.

KEY DATES TO REMEMBER:

Midterm Exam I -	LANG201, in class, Tue February 1
Midterm Exam II -	LANG201, in class, Thu February 24
Midterm Exam III -	LANG201, in class, Tue April 5
Individual Essay -	LANG201, in class, Tue April 26
Final Reflective Essay -	Dr. Stutz's Office, by 4 pm, Tue May 3

Reminder: ALL EXAMS TAKE PLACE IN LANG201

THIS SYLLABUS IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE AT THE PROFESSOR'S DISCRETION; ANY CHANGES WILL BE ANNOUNCED IN CLASS.

**Anthropology 200
Spring 2011
Syllabus**

I. Introduction: The Biological Foundation of Behavior is Evolution

Tue January 18 - *Introduction: Evolution and Behavior*

Thu January 20 - *Is it adaptation yet?*

e-Coursepack: 01-Langdon - Chapter 1
02-Mayr - How to Carry Out an Adaptationist Program
03-Gould & Lewontin - the Spandrels of San Marco
recommended: Langdon - Chapter 2

Tue January 25 - *Behavior and Niche*

e-Coursepack: 04-Hutchinson - Homage to Santa Rosalia
05-Whittaker et al - Niche, Habitat, Ecotope

Thu January 27 - *The Human Niche*

e-Coursepack: 06-Sigmund - Population Ecology and Chaos
07-Leonard - Food For Thought

Due in class: Individual Definitions and Descriptions of Behavior, Adaptation, and Niche - Diagram and Short Essay

Tue February 1 - Exam I - Covers *Behavior, Adaptation, Natural Selection, Ecosystem, Species, Niche, and the Definition of the Human Niche*

II. What Behaviors Are Adaptive in the Human Niche, and How Has the Human Body Evolved To Support Those Behaviors?

Thu February 3 - *Elements of the Human Niche - Skin, Homeostasis, and Adaptation*

e-Coursepack: 08-Jablonski - Evolution of Hairlessness

Tue February 8 - *Work on First Group Presentations: The Terrestrial, Omnivorous, Extractive Niche*

Supplementary Readings from Langdon

Thu February 10 - *FIRST GROUP PRESENTATIONS: Adaptations to the Terrestrial, Omnivorous, Extractive Niche*

DUE 10 am on BLACKBOARD: Upload 1st group presentations

III. How Has the Human Brain Evolved in the Terrestrial, Omnivorous Extractive Niche?

Tue February 15 – *Introduction to the Social and Symbolic Brain*

e-Coursepack: 09-Dunbar – Brains and Group Life
10-Manhart- Myths in the Brain

Thu February 17 – *Brains, Language, and Tools*

e-Coursepack: 11-Stout et al – Language and Tool Making
Supplementary Readings from Langdon

Tue February 22 – *SECOND GROUP PRESENTATIONS: Adaptive Aspects of the Human Brain*

DUE 10 am on BLACKBOARD: Upload 2nd group presentations

Thu February 24 – Exam II – Covers the Human Niche, Key Anatomical and Physiological Adaptations, and Brain Adaptations

IV. What is Life History Theory? How Does it Help Us to Understand the Human Niche – and Adaptations to It?

Tue March 2 – *Human Cooperation, Culture, and Its Ecological Impact*

e-Coursepack: 12-Hill et al. – Cooperation, Culture, and the Human Impact

Thu March 4 – *Life History Theory – An Introduction*

e-Coursepack: 13-Ross – Primate Life Histories
14-Kramer & Ellison – Life Histories and Growth

Tue March 8 & Thu March 10 – **NO CLASSES – SPRING BREAK**

Tue March 15 - *The Big Deal with Lactation*

Text: Ellison - The Elixir of Life

Due in class: Individual Definitions and Diagrams of Life History Theory Key Concepts

Thu March 17 - *Growing Up*

Text: Ellison - Why Grow Up?

Tue March 22 - *Environment, Work, and Reproduction*

Text: Ellison - Balancing Act

Due in class: Individual Summary of Key Aspects of Human Female Reproductive Development, Physiology, and Behavior

Thu March 24 - *Female and Male Reproductive Histories*

Text: Ellison - The Arc of Life
Ellison - The Body Builders

Tue March 29 - *Human Life Histories as Intertwined Life Histories*

Text: Ellison - The Journey and the Procession

Due in class: Individual Summary of Key Aspects of Human Female and Male Reproductive and Offspring Investment Strategies

Thu March 31 - *NO CLASS - Dr. Stutz away at the Society for American Archaeology Annual Meeting*

Tue April 5 - Exam III - Covers the Life History Theory, Human Reproductive Biology, and Human Reproduction and Investment in Offspring as Evolutionary Strategies

V. Case Study: The Ju Hoansi (!Kung San) Hunter-Gatherers of the Kalahari Desert Illustrate the Links Among Evolution, Behavior, Reproduction, and Growth.

Thu April 7 - *Introduction to the Ju Hoansi (!Kung San)*
e-Coursepack: 15-Yellen & Lee - Background to a Hunting
and Gathering Way of Life
16-Marshall - Sharing, Talking & Giving

Tue April 12 - *Life History Stages of the Dobe !Kung*
Text: Howell - Chapters 1 and 2
Due in class: Group Summary of the Hunter-Gatherer Mode of Production

Thu April 14 - *Growth and Caloric Intake in a Hunter-Gatherer Environment*
Text: Howell - Chapters 3 and 4
Due in class: Group Summary of Hunter-Gatherer Life Stages

Tue April 19 - *Producing Calories as a Hunter-Gatherer*
Text: Howell - Chapter 5
Due in class: Group Summary of the Hunter-Gatherer Growth and Health Paradox

Thu April 21 - *Social Ties: How a Hunter-Gatherer Gets and Uses Calories*
Text: Howell - Chapters 6 & 7

Tue April 26 - *The Fat Hypothesis: Parental Investment as a Key For Understanding the Foundations of Behavior*
Text: Howell - Chapter 8
Due in class: Individual Essay on Hunter-Gatherer Behavior in Evolutionary Perspective

VI. Conclusion: Developing an Evolutionary Perspective

Mon May 3 - Turn in Final Reflective Essay during the Final Exam period (2-4 pm, LANG 201)