

**ANTHROPOLOGY 201:  
INTRODUCTION TO BIOLOGICAL ANTHROPOLOGY  
FALL 2009**

Tuesdays, Thursdays  
2:30-3:45 p.m.  
Stevenson 3008

**Professor:** Alexis Boutin  
**Email:** alexis.boutin@sonoma.edu  
**Phone:** 664-2729

**Office location:** Stevenson 2054A  
**Office hours:** Tuesdays and Fridays,  
10:30-12:00

**Course Description**

This course is an introduction to the principles of physical anthropology, “a biological science that deals with the adaptations, variability, and evolution of human beings and their living and fossil relatives. Because it studies human biology in the context of human culture and behavior, physical anthropology is also a social science” (American Association of Physical Anthropologists website). Physical anthropology encompasses a number of subfields that we will discuss in this course, including paleoanthropology, primatology, molecular anthropology, evolutionary biology, osteology, and forensic anthropology.

The course is broadly divided into three complementary units to provide a holistic understanding of human evolution. After a brief review of the disciplinary context and history of physical anthropology, the first unit will focus on the molecular building blocks of primate evolution. In the second unit, we will study the ecology, biology, behavior, and evolution of our non-human primate relatives. The third (and longest) unit will tackle past and ongoing processes of hominid evolution, via fossils and other evidence, for the behavior and biology of modern humans and our ancestors. This course satisfies G.E. Category B3 (specific emphasis in natural sciences).

**Readings**

The required text for this course is Craig Stanford, John S. Allen, and Susan C. Antón. *Biological Anthropology: The Natural History of Humankind*. **Second edition**. Pearson Prentice-Hall, **2009**. ISBN: 0-13-601160-8.

This book is available for purchase at the SSU bookstore and is on reserve in the SSU library. 180-day access to an electronic version of the textbook (eText ISBN-10: 0-13-601210-8) can also be purchased at a discounted rate through CourseSmart.com.

**Important Dates to Remember**

| Classes begin | Last day to add | Last day to drop with<br>W notation on record | Classes end |
|---------------|-----------------|---|-------------|
| August 26     | September 9     | September 22                                  | December 11 |

## Assignments

To be successful in this class, you must complete **ALL** of the following assignments:

1. In-class activities (3 x 5 points = 15 points)
  - o These points will be awarded based on how students perform on **four** in-class activities. These activities may include written responses to movies viewed during class, pop quizzes on assigned readings, written reflections on lecture material. Please come to class prepared with blank paper and a writing implement. No make-ups will be accepted, although the lowest grade will be dropped. Students who receive the full score on all four assignments will earn 5 points extra credit.
2. Homework assignments (3 x 15 points = 45 points)
  - o Students will complete three homework assignments. These will be announced during class and posted on WebCT. They are due at the beginning of the class period, before lecture begins. Points will be deducted for late assignments according to the course grading policy.
3. Primate observation (40 points)
  - o Students will visit a zoo of their choosing (San Francisco, Oakland, or Safari West) and complete observation forms about two species of non-human primates. They will be due in class on October 20. An assignment sheet will be posted on WebCT.
4. Exams (3 x 50 points = 150 points)
  - o There will be three exams. The first two will be given in class (October 1, November 3) and the third during the finals period (December 15). The exams will cover material from the readings as well as class lectures. Study guides will be made available on WebCT at least one week prior to the exam. The exams will include identification, multiple choice, fill-in, and short-answer questions. Students are responsible for bringing a blank 100 question blue Scantron sheet (available at the SSU Bookstore) and #2 pencil to each exam. **There will be no make-up exams.**

### Grading Scale and Policies

|          |          |              |
|----------|----------|--------------|
| A 100-94 | B- 83-80 | D+ 69-67     |
| A- 93-90 | C+ 79-77 | D 66-64      |
| B+ 89-87 | C 76-74  | D- 63-60     |
| B 86-84  | C- 73-70 | F 59 or less |

Late assignments will be accepted, but one letter grade will be deducted for each day that an assignment is handed in late. So, an A assignment submitted after the due date will be graded as follows:

| <u>Initial Grade</u> | <u>Submission Date</u> | <u>Final Grade</u> |
|----------------------|------------------------|--------------------|
| A                    | Up to one day late     | B                  |
| A                    | Two days late          | C                  |
| A                    | Three days late        | D                  |

Extensions for assignments (without loss of points) will only be granted in cases of extreme duress (e.g., personal or medical emergency), when I have been notified *before*

the due date by email or phone. Each case will be decided at my discretion or at the discretion of college officials. No extensions will be accepted once the assignment has been returned to the rest of the class.

### Course Policies

- o Students are required to complete assigned readings *before* that day’s lecture. Any information from the readings may appear on exams, regardless of whether it has been discussed during lecture.
- o Attendance will only be taken during the first two weeks of class. Unless I have received prior notification, students who do not attend the first two class meetings will be dropped to make room for those on the waiting list.
- o Students are required to arrive on time to every class, participate in lectures and discussions, and leave only when dismissed by me. Please show respect for me and for your fellow students by arriving before class begins and staying awake for its duration; and by **not** talking or texting on a cell phone, surfing the Internet on a laptop, or listening to an iPod.
- o Requests for re-grades of assignments and exams must be submitted *in writing* at least 24 hours, but no more than one week, after the assignment or exam has been handed back. After the one-week period, the grade will not be reevaluated.
- o Plagiarism and cheating on assignments and exams, as well as other forms of academic dishonesty, are serious violations of SSU University Policy. Violation will result in an automatic zero grade for the assignment or exam, and the student may be reported to the Fairness Board. For further information on this and other University policies, such add/drop and grade appeal procedures, see <http://www.sonoma.edu/uaffairs/policies/studentinfo.shtml>.
- o If a student has a documented learning disability and/or other special needs that require accommodation, please inform me *at the beginning of the course*. I will do everything possible to accommodate the student’s needs, but I must be made aware of them as soon as possible. For additional resources, please contact Disability Services for Students Center (<http://www.sonoma.edu/dss/>; Salazar Hall, Room 1049; Phone: (707) 664-2677; TTY/TDD: (707) 664-2958).
- o **If you have any questions or concerns about course readings, assignments, or exams, please contact me!!! We can communicate over email, talk on the phone, or chat during my office hours. I want every student to succeed in this course, but I can’t help you if I don’t know that you need help!**

### Course Schedule

| Week | Date | Topics   | Reading/Deadlines   |
|------|------|--|---------------------|
| 1    | 8/27 | Course overview and expectations;<br>Introduction to physical anthropology             | Introduction        |
| 2    | 9/1  | A history of evolutionary theory: Darwin’s<br>theory of evolution by natural selection | Chapter 1           |
|      | 9/3  | The molecular basis for evolution  | Chapter 2           |
| 3    | 9/8  | DNA, RNA, and protein synthesis  | Chapter 2 continued |
|      | 9/10 | The basis of heredity  | Chapter 3           |

|    |             |  |   |
|----|-------------|--|---|
| 4  | 9/15        | Mendelian and post-Mendelian genetics                        | Chapter 3 continued   |
|    | 9/17        | Forces of evolution  | Chapter 4   |
| 5  | 9/22        | Speciation and classification                                | Chapter 4 continued   |
|    | 9/24        | Population genetics  | Chapter 5   |
| 6  | 9/29        | Human variation and adaptation                               | Chapter 5 continued   |
|    | 10/1        |  | <b>Exam #1: Genetics and Evolution (Introduction-Ch. 5)</b>               |
| 7  | 10/6        | Introduction to non-human primates                           | Chapter 6   |
|    | 10/8        | Primate ecology  | Chapter 6 continued   |
| 8  | 10/13       | Primate reproductive strategies                              | Chapter 7   |
|    | 10/15       | Primate social behavior                                      | Chapter 7 continued   |
| 9  | 10/20       | FURLOUGH DAY: NO CLASS                                       |   |
|    | 10/22       | Geological and temporal frameworks for primate evolution     | Chapter 8<br><b>Assignment Due: Primate Observation</b>                   |
| 10 | 10/27       | Early primate evolution: from tree shrew to ape              | Chapter 9   |
|    | 10/29       | The ape-hominid transition                                   | Chapter 10  |
| 11 | 11/3        |  | <b>Exam #2: Non-Human Primates and Primate Evolution (Ch. 6-10)</b>       |
|    | 11/5        | The first hominids   | Chapter 11  |
| 12 | 11/10       | Australopithecines   | Chapter 11 continued  |
|    | 11/12       | Origin of the genus <i>Homo</i>                              | Chapter 12  |
| 13 | 11/17       | <i>Homo erectus</i>  | Chapter 12 continued  |
|    | 11/19       | Archaic <i>Homo sapiens</i>                                  | Chapter 13  |
| 14 | 11/24       | FURLOUGH DAY: NO CLASS                                       |   |
|    | 11/26       | THANKSGIVING: NO CLASS                                       |   |
| 15 | 12/1        | Who were (are) the Neandertals?                              | Chapter 13 continued  |
|    | 12/3        | Anatomically modern humans                                   | Chapter 14  |
| 16 | 12/8        | Models for the origin and spread of modern humans            | Chapter 14 continued  |
|    | 12/10       | Applications of physical anthropology: forensic anthropology | Chapter 18  |
| 17 | Tues, 12/15 | <b>FINAL: 2:00-3:50 p.m.</b>                                 | <b>Exam #3: Human Evolution, Adaptation, and Behavior (Ch. 11-14, 18)</b> |