

**ANT 301 INTRODUCTION TO PHYSICAL ANTHROPOLOGY  
SUMMER 2011**

**COURSE DESCRIPTION AND GENERAL INFORMATION**

**INSTRUCTOR:** Dr. Liza Shapiro  
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Please feel free to make an appointment with me, email me or call me with questions or concerns.

**TEACHING ASSISTANT:** Andrew Barr  
Office hours: Tues 11:30-12:30 or by appointment  
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**LECTURE:** MTWTH 10-11:30 SAC 5.172

**LABORATORY:** There is no separate lab section for this course. Labs will be incorporated into regular class time.

**COURSE WEBSITE:** You can access the course website through UT Direct (<https://utdirect.utexas.edu/utdirect/>) or via <http://courses.utexas.edu/>

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

This course is an introduction to the principles and methods of physical anthropology. Physical anthropology is the study of human beings in a biological context, and seeks to explain our relationship to other primates and to the rest of the natural world. In other words, who are we? How are we unique? How, why, and when did we come to be the way we are?

The study of physical anthropology requires many different types of knowledge. Throughout the course, we will examine anatomical, behavioral, and genetic similarities and differences among living primates, learn the basic mechanisms of the evolutionary process, and trace the pathway of human evolution as reconstructed from the fossil record. The main goal of the course is to obtain a clear understanding of our place in nature. Take a good look at yourself now; by the end of the course, you might see yourself a bit differently.

Lab exercises and assignments will be incorporated into class time and are taught by the teaching assistant. These labs complement the lectures and will greatly enhance your learning experience. You will have the opportunity to examine "hands-on", human and nonhuman primate bones and replicas of fossils, and participate in discussions.

**GRADING:** Grades are based on the following:

Midterm exam	33.3%
Final exam (not cumulative)	33.3%
Laboratory homework, assignments, quizzes	33.3%

**MAKE-UP EXAMS WILL NOT BE GIVEN UNLESS YOU HAVE WRITTEN PROOF OF MEDICAL OR OTHER DIRE EMERGENCY.**

The format of each exam may vary, but will usually include identifications, multiple choice, and essays.

**READINGS**

The readings you will need for class include one textbook, six articles, plus lab readings. The articles and lab readings are all available on Blackboard (<http://courses.utexas.edu/>). You should do all assigned readings and homework assignments *before* each lecture and lab, and you should always bring your lab reading, homework and exercise with you to lab.

**TEXTBOOK** (available at the University Co-Op OR as an ebook: nortonebooks.com):

Boyd, R and Silk J. (2009) *How Humans Evolved*. Fifth Ed. Los Angeles: University of California Press.

**LAB READINGS AND ASSIGNMENTS** – available on Blackboard under “Assignments”.

**OTHER REQUIRED READING: ARTICLES ON BLACKBOARD** (See “Assignments”) (<http://courses.utexas.edu/>)

1. Locomotion. Excerpt from R. Jurmain et al. *Introduction to Physical Anthropology*, 2011-2012 edition. Pgs. 153-154.
2. Smuts B (1987) What are friends for? *Natural History* 96(2):36-44.
3. Whiten, Andrew; Boesch, Christophe (2001) The cultures of chimpanzees. *Scientific American*. 284(1):60-67
4. Grant P (1991) Natural selection and Darwin's finches. *Scientific American* October, pages 82-87.
5. Jablonski, N. and Chaplin, G. (2002). *Scientific American* October, pages 75-81.
6. Marks, J (2002) Molecular anthropology. In: *What it Means to be 98% Chimpanzee*. University of California Press, pp. 7-31.
7. Shreeve, J. (1996) Sunset on the savanna. *Discover*. July, pages 116-125.
8. Wong K. (2009) Twilight of the Neandertals *Scientific American* August. 301, 32-37.
9. Wong, K. (2009) Rethinking the hobbits of Indonesia. *Scientific American* November, pages 66-73.

## **LAB POLICIES**

Lab in ANT 301 is a hands-on, collaborative, and generally fun experience that usually helps bolster the course grades of students who take it seriously. Labs make up a substantial portion of your overall grade (%33), so it is vital that you are in attendance at each of the five labs (see Syllabus for schedule). There will be no make up labs. Exceptions will be made only 1) with proof of dire emergency or illness, 2) due to observance of a religious holiday, or 3) due to military service.

Your lab performance will be evaluated based on 5 homework assignments and 5 exercises. Homework and exercises are weighted equally, each making up 1/2 of your lab grade. Homework assignments are due at the BEGINNING of each lab meeting, and are designed to help you prepare for lab as you read the assigned course reading materials in advance. Exercises will be completed during the scheduled lab time and are due at the END of each lab meeting.

### **To prepare for each lab, you are responsible for:**

- (1) Downloading the lab exercise, homework, and reading assignments. You must print the exercise and homework so you can hand these in to your TA. **YOUR TA WILL NOT BRING PRINTOUTS OF MATERIALS TO LAB.**
- (2) Reading the reading assignment.
- (3) Completing the homework assignment.

You may work in small groups to complete lab exercises during the lab meeting. However, there is a major difference between collaboration and plagiarism, and plagiarism will not be tolerated (see the University policy on Scholastic Dishonesty). Students who arrive excessively late for lab or who otherwise disrupt lab (e.g. talking/texting/tweeting) will receive no credit for the week's lab assignment.

## **COURSE POLICIES**

The following policies are not intended to be harsh, but are included to provide clear guidelines on issues that students often face throughout the semester.

### **Make-ups**

There will be no make-up exams or labs. Exceptions will be made only 1) with *proof* of dire emergency or illness, 2) due to observance of a religious holy day, or 3) due to military service.

**Note:** Summer is often a busy time on your social calendar, but you have committed to take a course that meets every day for an intensive period of time. We cover material rapidly, and if you miss classes, your grade will likely suffer. **I will not provide alternative exam or lab times for students who have personal travel/vacation plans or commitments, so please don't ask.**

**Illness or emergency:** If you miss an exam or lab due to illness or emergency, contact me or the T.A. *as soon as possible* either before the exam or within 2 days after the exam or lab. You will not be given a make-up unless you can provide documentation regarding the reason for your absence.

Religious holy days. By UT Austin policy, you must notify me of your pending absence at least fourteen days prior to the date of observance of a religious holy day. If you must miss a class, an examination, a work assignment, or a project in order to observe a religious holy day, you will be given an opportunity to complete the missed work within a reasonable time after the absence.

Absence for military service. In accordance with section 51.9111 of the Texas Education Code, a student is excused from attending classes or engaging in other required activities, including exams, if he or she is called to active military service of a reasonably brief duration. [The maximum time for which the student may be excused has been defined by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board as "no more than 25 percent of the total number of class meetings or the contact hour equivalent (not including the final examination period) for the specific course or courses in which the student is currently enrolled at the beginning of the period of active military service."] The student will be allowed a reasonable time after the absence to complete assignments and take exams.

Students with disabilities: At the beginning of the semester, students with disabilities who need special accommodations should notify the instructor by presenting a letter prepared by the Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) office. To ensure the most appropriate accommodations can be provided, students should contact the SSD at 471-6259. See <http://www.utexas.edu/diversity/ddce/ssd/>

### Late assignments

Late labs will cost you 10 percentage points per day. This could change your grade dramatically. Don't be late!

### Attendance

I do not take formal attendance, but I am aware of who consistently comes to class and who doesn't. Consistent attendance can help boost your grade if you end up with a borderline final grade. Whether you come to class or not, you are responsible for keeping up with what happens in class. This applies to the content of the class, handouts, and announcements about class policies, events, deadlines, etc. Lectures and announcements can be found on Blackboard, but it is easy to miss other pertinent information if you are absent from class.

### Grades

The grade you are given, either on an individual exam or assignment or as your final grade, is not the starting point of a negotiation. It is your grade unless an error has been made. If you think an error has been made, let me know within one week of receiving the assignment or exam grade.

**\*\* Important!** I do not offer "extra credit" opportunities. If you are struggling in the course, please come for help *during* the semester when there is still time for me to help you. Make an appointment with me as soon as possible. Do not wait until the course is over and ask me to change your grade because you are trying to graduate, or you have had a tough time with your personal life this semester. By then, it is too late for me to help you.

### **Scholastic Dishonesty**

Students who violate University rules on scholastic dishonesty are subject to disciplinary penalties, including the possibility of failure in the course and/or dismissal from The University. Scholastic dishonesty" includes, but is not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, collusion, falsifying academic records, misrepresenting facts, and any act designed to give unfair academic advantage to the student (such as, but not limited to, submission of essentially the same written assignment for two courses without the prior permission of the instructor), or the attempt to commit such an act. For more information, see <http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/sjs/scholdis.php> and section 11-802 in the General Information Catalog <http://registrar.utexas.edu/catalogs/gi09-10/app/gi09.appc03.html#subchapter-11-800-student-standards-of-conduct>

**ANT 301 Physical Anthropology Summer 2011**  
**Shapiro MTWTH 10-11:30 SAC 5.172**

**LECTURE, LAB, READINGS AND EXAM SCHEDULE**

BS= Boyd and Silk textbook

ART= article available on course website under “Assignments” (Blackboard  
<http://courses.utexas.edu>)

June 2	<u>Introduction</u>
June 3	<u>Living nonhuman primates - overview</u> BS:pages 116-122
June 6	<u>Primate diversity and taxonomy</u> BS: pages 122-126
June 7	<u>Primate feeding adaptations</u> BS:pages 127-141
June 8	<u>Primate locomotor adaptations</u> ART: Locomotion
June 9	<u>Primate Social Behavior</u> BS:141-145 and Chapter 6 ART Smuts: What are friends for?
<b>June 10</b>	<b>LAB 1 Primate Locomotor Adaptations</b>
June 13	<u>Humans: anatomy and behavior</u> BS: Box 10.1 (p.249-250) and Chapter 15 ART: Whiten and Boesch: The cultures of chimpanzees.
June 14	<u>History of evolutionary theory</u> BS: Chapter 1 ART: Grant: Natural Selection and Darwin's Finches
June 15	<u>Microevolution: Genes and inheritance</u> BS: Chapter 2
June 16	<u>Microevolution: Genes in populations</u> BS: Chapter 3
<b>June 17</b>	<b>LAB 2 Primate Feeding Adaptations</b>

June 20	<b>Midterm</b>
June 21	<u>Human variation and adaptation</u> BS: Chapter 14 ART: Jablonski and Chaplin: Skin Deep
June 22	<u>Macroevolution: Speciation, Phylogeny, Cladistics</u> BS: Chapter 4
June 23	<u>Molecular phylogenies</u> : phylogenetic reconstruction and molecular clocks ART: Marks: Molecular Anthropology
<b>June 24</b>	<b>LAB 3 Cladistics and Phylogeny</b>
June 27	<u>The Fossil Record</u> : paleontology and early primate evolution BS: Chapter 9
June 28	<u>The first hominins</u> : <i>Australopithecus</i> and others BS: pages 246-261 ART: Shreeve: Sunset on the savanna
June 29	<i>Australopithecus</i> and others (continued) BS: pages 261-280
<b>June 30</b>	<b>LAB 4 Hominin fossil record I: <i>Australopithecus</i></b>
July 1	<u>Evolution</u> of the genus <i>Homo</i> BS: Chapters 11 and 12 ART: Wong: Twilight of the Neandertals
July 4	Holiday-no class!
July 5	<u>Origin of anatomically modern <i>Homo sapiens</i></u> BS: Chapter 13 ART: Wong: The littlest human
<b>July 6</b>	<b>LAB 5 Hominid fossil record II: <i>Homo</i></b>
July 7	Review for final exam
July 8	No class

**Final Exam (Not cumulative): Sat July 9 at 9:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m in SAC 5.172 (2 hours not 3 )**

