

Introduction to Graduate Physical Anthropology

ANT 392L Unique # 31200 Fall 2011

Wed.1:00 – 4:00 SAC 5.124

Course website on Blackboard: <http://courses.utexas.edu>

Instructor: Liza Shapiro

Office Hours: Tues. 10-12 or by appointment

SAC 5.128

471-7533

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This course is Part 1 of a two semester core curriculum in physical anthropology. All physical anthropology graduate students are required to take parts 1 and 2. Part 2 will be offered in Spring 2012. Part 1 will consist of a combination of lectures, discussions and student presentations, and will cover major topics in physical anthropology. Lab material will also be incorporated into the course. Topics covered will include the history of the field of physical anthropology, evolutionary theory, primate systematics, methods of phylogenetic reconstruction, primate diversity and anatomical adaptations, and the human and nonhuman primate fossil record. (Part 2 will emphasize primate social behavior and ecology, genetics, and human biological variation). The goal of the course is to give you an overview of the field, while allowing you to identify areas of research you might want to pursue at the master's and doctoral levels.

Course requirements:

Paper assignment 1 (due Sept 14)	15%
1 lab assignment (due Oct 19)	15%
Paper assignment 2 (due Nov 2)	15%
Term project presentation/paper (Nov 30/Dec 5)	30% (15% each)
Leading class discussion	15%
Participation in class discussion	10%

Readings:

Textbooks:

Whitehead P, Sacco W, and Hochgraf S (2005) A Photographic Atlas for Physical Anthropology. Morton Publishing Company.

Introduction to Physical Anthropology (2011-2012) Jurmain, Kilgore, Trevathan, and Ciochon. Wadsworth. 2011-2012 Edition.

Other required readings:

Numerous articles are available online via the Blackboard course website (<http://courses.utexas.edu>)

Daily routine: Most weeks I will lecture on the assigned topic for the first half of the time period. The remaining time will be used for class discussion on the assigned readings. Please read all assigned readings before class meets each week, and be prepared to discuss them (25% of your grade is participation!).

Leading class discussion: Each student will be required to lead one class discussion. This will require you to be responsible for summarizing the essence of that day's reading assignments, as well as preparing leading questions to ask the class that will generate discussion.

Short papers and lab assignments: Please see separate information sheets on these.

Term project presentation: Each student will be required to conduct a small research project during the course of the semester and then present the results the last day of class in a 10-15 minute professional-style presentation. The goal of this assignment is to get your "feet wet" by doing original research and learning how to present your data as you would at a national conference (e.g. American Association of Physical Anthropologists). I will meet with each student individually to help you figure out your research topic, and to help you identify the resources you need to carry out your project. If you are unable to collect original data, as an alternative you may compile data from the literature to analyze in a new way.

Term project paper: You are also required to write a paper on your research project in journal article style. This paper should be approximately 15 pages long, but no more than 20.

Note on UT policies:

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/>

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COURSE SYLLABUS

- Aug 24 Organizational meeting
- Aug 31 Past, present and future of physical anthropology
- Sept 7 History of evolutionary theory, microevolutionary processes
- Sept 14 Macroevolution, classification, and phylogenetic reconstruction (**Paper 1 due today**)
- Sept 21 Primate Taxonomy, systematics and diversity (**plus in-class lab on primate anatomy**)
- Sept 28 Primate anatomy and adaptations I: Body size, locomotion, and postcranial anatomy
- Oct 5 Primate anatomy and adaptations II: Cranial anatomy and sensory ecology (*Guest lecture: Chris Kirk*)
- Oct 12 The primate fossil record I: Primate origins and early primates
(**Lab assignment on limb bone scaling due today**)
- Oct 19 The primate fossil record II: Anthropoid evolution
- Oct 26 The earliest hominins and the evolution of bipedalism
- Nov 2 The evolution of *Homo* I (**Paper 2 due**)
- Nov 9 The evolution of *Homo* II
- Nov 16 Origin and dispersal of anatomically modern *Homo sapiens*
- Nov 23 *Thanksgiving (no class)*
- Nov 30 **Student project presentations (Final paper due Dec 5)**

