SYLLABUS

ANT 301 - INTRODUCTION TO PHYSICAL ANTHROPOLOGY

Spring Semester 2014

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TEACHING ASSISTANTS:

Laura Abondano
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Labs: Mon 5-7 PM, Wed 8-10 AM, Wed 5-7 PM

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Labs: Tue 3-5 PM, Tue 5-7 PM, Thu 5-7 PM

LECTURES: Monday and Wednesday, 10:00 - 11:00 AM **FAC 21**

LABS: **SAC 5.172** (check course schedule for meeting time)
NOTE: Labs begin the third week of class (Jan 27 – Jan 31).

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS:

How Humans Evolved by Boyd and Silk
W.W. Norton & Co., 2012
6th Edition.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Physical anthropology (also called biological or evolutionary anthropology) is the study of the behavior, ecology, and evolution of primates, including humans. As a scientific academic discipline, research in physical anthropology is (1) empirical and (2) grounded in the scientific method. ANT 301 is intended to provide an introduction to the field of physical anthropology and an overview of its sub-disciplines. ANT 301 is also designed to provide the necessary foundational knowledge needed for all upper division courses in physical anthropology. The first 2 weeks of class focus on living primate diversity. The remaining lectures focus on three main areas: 1) primate behavior and ecology, 2) micro- and macroevolution, and 3) primate and human evolution. Labs focus on the collection and analysis of quantitative data, and provide an opportunity for in-depth exploration of key concepts, osteological material, and fossil material discussed in lectures. During lab exercises, students will engage in a variety of different quantitative methods for data collection and analysis, including (but not limited to) (1) osteological morphometrics for biomechanical analysis of skeletal material and (2) the comparative method as a tool for making quantitative inferences about the fossil record. Please be advised that you will be required to take measurements directly from human skeletal material for some labs. Lab exercises will also include a mixed proportion of individual work and collaborative work in pairs or groups.

This course may be used to fulfill the natural science and technology (Part II) component of the university core curriculum and addresses the following four core objectives established by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board: communication skills, critical thinking skills, teamwork, and empirical and quantitative skills. Courses meeting this requirement are designed to give students an appreciation of the current state of knowledge in two or more areas of natural science and technology, and to help students understand the methods, approaches and theories that scientists use to answer questions about the natural world. To meet these core objectives, students taking ANT 301 are expected to learn the principles of biological evolution and adaptation, which are considered foundational knowledge in all life sciences. Throughout the course, students are introduced to the broad range of scientific methods used in physical anthropology, including behavioral studies, genetics, biomechanics, anatomy, geology and paleontology.

ON-LINE MATERIALS:

All lab documents will be made available on-line through Blackboard at: **http://courses.utexas.edu/** . You are required to download and print out your lab documents and bring them to class. NOTE: Students arriving without appropriate materials will not receive credit for lab. CLASS LECTURES WILL NOT BE MADE AVAILABLE ON-LINE, AND WILL NOT BE PROVIDED TO STUDENTS WHO HAVE MISSED LECTURES.

LABS:

You may go to any TA's office hours to ask questions, but you must attend the lab section for which you are enrolled. If you have an excused absence from lab due to sickness or other legitimate reasons, you must provide your TA with appropriate documentation (e.g., doctor's note) and make arrangements to attend another lab section **that week**. To schedule an alternate time, you must contact both your TA and the instructor of the lab section you wish to attend **in advance**. Students abusing this privilege will have the option revoked and will receive a score of zero for any missed lab.

Please note that documentation of an excused lab absence will NOT be accepted if provided more than 7 days after the missed lab.

GRADING:

There will be three general exams covering all lectures and reading assignments. All general exam questions will be objective format (e.g., true/false, matching, fill-in-the-blank, and short answer). All exams will be non-cumulative. THERE IS NO FINAL EXAM.

There will also be two lab practical exams in which you will be required to identify or describe objects (bones, fossils, stone tools, etc.). Lab practical exams are timed and speed is one of the criteria being evaluated. Therefore, students with accommodations for extra time on exams may not be eligible to use this accommodation for lab exams. Please note also that students arriving late for a lab exam may not be allowed into the lab room. Any students arriving late for a lab exam will be penalized one letter grade (e.g., 10 points off the exam).

DO NOT MISS AN EXAM. Make-up exams will be given ONLY when medical or family emergencies (such as a death in the family) can be documented. If you miss an exam due to an emergency, you must contact your professor ASAP and provide documentation within 5 days of the exam. FYI: If you are sick on an exam day, don't ask the Student Health nurse who schedules your appointment for a note – get one from the physician who sees you.

Exam scores will not be curved during the term. If you have any questions about your grade on any exam, Prof. Kirk will be happy to recheck your whole exam if it was completed in indelible ink. Simple errors of grading (e.g., incorrect addition) will be corrected immediately. More complicated issues should be addressed in writing within 3 days after the return of the exams. Please write out a short statement explaining why you think that the exam question was graded incorrectly and what you think the correct answer should have been. Then give your (1) written explanation & request for a re-grade and (2) your original exam to Prof. Kirk. You have 3 days after the exams have been returned to you to notify Prof. Kirk of any errors or disagreements. After that, grades are final.

Your grade for the semester will be based on the following four components:

Exam 1 ---------- 25%
Exam 2 ---------- 25%
Exam 3 ---------- 25%
Cumulative Lab Score ------- 25%

Your cumulative lab score will be calculated based on the formula:

Lab Midterm ----------30%
Lab Final (non-cumulative)-- 30%
Lab Exercises ----------40%

Final Grade Ranges:

A = 100-90; **B** = 89-80; **C** = 79-70; **D** = 69-60; **F** = 59 and below

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE FOLLOWING GRADING POLICIES WILL BE ENFORCED:

- Final letter grades are assigned according to the integer ranges shown above. Pluses and minuses will not be assigned for final grades.

- All grades for the semester are final and non-negotiable. Students will not be provided with any opportunities for bonus work to increase their final grade. If your performance during the semester is adversely affected by personal problems (e.g., death of a family member, mental health issues, etc.), you are encouraged to contact your dean's office as soon as possible to discuss your options.

- Documentation of excused absences from an exam will not be considered more than 5 days after the date of the exam.

CHEATING POLICY:

During exams, students will not be permitted to wear hats or use electronic devices of any kind (including, but not limited to, cell phones and ipods). *All exams must be completed using a pen with indelible ink, or you will forfeit the opportunity to request a re-grade of your exam.* BE ADVISED that on exam days, students will only be allowed to take a pen to their seat. All backpacks, book bags, purses, drinks, food, etc. must be left on the dais at the front of the auditorium. If you're worried that someone might take your bag by mistake, don't bring it to class.

Without exception, any student found cheating on an exam or lab assignment will receive a grade of zero for the exam or lab assignment and will be referred to the Office of Student Judicial

Services for disciplinary action. Note that any attempt to alter a graded, returned exam in order to improve the score will be considered cheating and will result in a grade of zero for the exam.

Please note that sharing information about an exam with a student who has not yet taken an exam will be considered cheating, regardless of the means by which the information is shared (e.g., verbally, on a web page, via email, via text message, etc.). For example, a student with a Monday lab who shares information about a lab exam with students in a Thursday lab by posting lab questions on a Facebook page is cheating – both the student sharing the information and students using the information will receive 0% credit for the exam. Students who observe cheating via electronic media are encouraged to inform the professor or their TA.

SPECIAL ACCOMMODATIONS:

If you require special accommodations for exams (e.g., a reduced-distraction environment or extra time), you must contact your instructor and teaching assistant IN ADVANCE in order to discuss the necessary arrangements. There will be no exceptions to this rule. Proof of qualification for accommodations from the UT Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) office must be provided.

A student is free *not* to use an approved accommodation. However, if a student opts out of an accommodation for one exam and then decides to use it for another exam, it is the responsibility of the student to make advance arrangements with the professor and TAs.

OTHER POLICIES:

Please do not sleep, talk, text, or read the paper in class. Students engaging in disruptive behavior of any kind will be asked to leave the auditorium.

Feel free to take notes on a computer. <u>However, *no one* is allowed to make audio or video recordings of lectures under any circumstances.</u> Please inform your professor or TA if you see anyone making audio or video recordings of the lecture so that we may eject him/her from the lecture hall.

Please note also that students who text or use their computers for anything other than taking notes may be asked to turn off their phone or computer and/or to leave the classroom.

Due to the great potential for cell phones to disrupt large classes, all cell phone ringers must be turned off at the beginning of lecture. One warning will be given per class. After that, any student whose cell phone goes off will be asked to leave the auditorium.

If a student chooses to create and administer a web page for this course via social media (e.g., Facebook), Dr. Kirk and the teaching assistants must be granted access to the page.

COURSE OUTLINE AND READINGS:

		Readings
13 Jan (M)	Introduction	

Introduction to Primate Diversity

15 Jan (W)	Primate Characteristics	Ch. 5
20 Jan (M)	**MLK DAY - NO CLASS**	
22 Jan (W)	Survey and Taxonomy of Living Primates: Prosimians	Ch. 5
27 Jan (M)	Survey and Taxonomy of Living Primates: Monkeys	Ch. 5
29 Jan (W)	Survey and Taxonomy of Living Primates: Hominoids	Ch. 5

Primate Behavior and Ecology

3 Feb (M)	Intro to Primate Ecology	Ch. 5
5 Feb (W)	Group-Living and Mating Systems	Ch. 6-8
10 Feb (M)	Socioecology and Sociobiology	Ch. 6-8
12 Feb (W)	Social Behavior Part 1	Ch. 6-8
17 Feb (M)	Social Behavior Part 2	Ch. 6-8
19 Feb (W)	**EXAM 1**	

Evolution and Phylogeny

24 Feb (M)	History of Evolutionary Thought Part 1	Ch. 1-3
26 Feb (W)	History of Evolutionary Thought Part 2	Ch. 1-3
3 Mar (M)	Evolution and the Modern Synthesis	Ch. 1-3
5 Mar (W)	Macroevolution Part 1	Ch. 4
10-14 Mar	**SPRING BREAK - NO CLASS**	
17 Mar (M)	Macroevolution Part 2	Ch. 4

Primate and Human Evolution

19 Mar (W)	Primate Evolution Part 1	Ch. 9
24 Mar (M)	Primate Evolution Part 2	Ch. 9
26 Mar (W)	Primate Evolution Part 3	Ch. 9
31 Mar (M)	**EXAM 2**	
2 Apr (W)	Australopithecines Part 1	Ch. 10-11
7 Apr (M)	Australopithecines Part 2	Ch. 10-11
9 Apr (W)	**NO CLASS**	
14 Apr (M)	Australopithecines Part 3	Ch. 10-11
16 Apr (W)	Homo Part 1	Ch. 12-13
21 Apr (M)	Homo Part 2	Ch. 12-13
23 Apr (W)	Homo Part 3	Ch. 12-13
28 Apr (M)	Homo Part 4	Ch. 12-13
30 Apr (W)	**EXAM 3 (non-cumulative)**	

LAB SCHEDULE

Week 1 (Jan 13 – Jan 17)	**NO LABS**
Week 2 (Jan 20 – Jan 24)	**NO LABS**
Week 3 (Jan 27 – Jan 31)	Lab 1 – Scientific Method and Skeletal Anatomy
Week 4 (Feb 3 – Feb 7)	Lab 2 – Taxonomy
Week 5 (Feb 10 – Feb 14)	Lab 3 – Primate Diets
Week 6 (Feb 17 – Feb 21)	Lab 4 – Primate Behavior
Week 7 (Feb 24 – Feb 28)	Lab 5 – Genetics
Week 8 (Mar 3 – Mar 7)	**FIRST LAB PRACTICAL EXAM**
Week 9 (Mar 10 – Mar 14)	**SPRING BREAK**
Week 10 (Mar 17 – Mar 21)	Lab 6 – Cladistics
Week 11 (Mar 24 – Mar 28)	Lab 7 – Functional Morphology
Week 12 (Mar 31 – Apr 4)	Lab 8 – Fossil Primates
Week 13 (Apr 7 – Apr 11)	**NO LABS**
Week 14 (Apr 14 – Apr 18)	Lab 9 – Australopithecines
Week 15 (Apr 21 – Apr 25)	Lab 10 – Genus *Homo*
Week 16 (28 Apr – May 2)	**SECOND LAB PRACTICAL EXAM**