

SYLLABUS - ANT 301 (30150)

HONORS INTRODUCTION TO PHYSICAL ANTHROPOLOGY

Spring Semester 2016

PROFESSOR: Dr. Chris Kirk
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Office hours: Wednesday 2:30 – 4:30 PM

LECTURES: Tuesday and Thursday, 12:30 – 2:00 PM SAC 5.172

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS:

1. *How Humans Evolved* - 7th Edition – by Robert Boyd and Joan Silk
WW Norton & Co., 2014
ISBN: 9780393936773 ; Available as paperback, looseleaf, or e-book

2. *The Hunt for the Dawn Monkey: Unearthing the Origins of Monkeys, Apes, and Humans* - by Christopher Beard
University of California Press, 2006
ISBN: 9780520249868 ; Paperback

3. *Among Orangutans: Red Apes and the Rise of Human Culture* - by Carel van Schaik
Belknap Press, 2004
ISBN: 9780674015777 ; Hardcover

PREREQUISITES: Admission to the Liberal Arts Honors Program, or consent of the LAH course director

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Physical (or biological) anthropology is the study of the behavior, ecology, and evolution of primates, including humans. This course is intended to provide an introduction to the field and an overview of its sub-disciplines. We will begin with a survey of living primates. The remaining course material will be divided between 1) primate behavior and ecology, 2) macroevolution, and 3) primate and human evolution. In-class lab exercises will generally expand on concepts presented in lectures, and will provide students with an opportunity for hands-on exploration of skeletal and fossil materials.

ON-LINE MATERIALS:

Some readings or lab materials may be made available on-line through Canvas at:

<http://canvas.utexas.edu>

Please note that class lectures will not be made available on-line, and will not be provided to students who have missed lectures.

GRADING:

There will be three exams covering all lectures, labs, and reading assignments. All exams will be non-cumulative. **THERE IS NO FINAL EXAM.**

DO NOT MISS AN EXAM. Make-up exams will be given only when medical or family emergencies can be documented. If you miss an exam due to an emergency, you must contact Dr. Kirk as soon as possible 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.

If you have any questions about your grade on an exam, I 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 1 week after the return of the exams. Please include the exam with your request. You have 1 week (2 class days) after the exams have been returned to you to notify Dr. 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 -----	30%
Exam 2 -----	30%
Exam 3 -----	30%
Attendance & participation in labs and discussions -----	10%

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:

- After one unexcused absence, one percentage point will be subtracted from your attendance and participation grade for each additional unexcused absence.
- One percentage point will be subtracted from your attendance and participation grade each time that you do not contribute to a reading discussion (presence in the room is not sufficient).
- One percentage point will be subtracted from your attendance and participation grade each time that you do not participate in or complete a lab assignment.
- 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. Students will not be provided with opportunities for “bonus work” to increase their final grade.
- 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 any 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, etc. must be left at the front of the classroom.

Students are welcome to participate in online forums for discussion and study (e.g., a Facebook page for this course). However, Dr. Kirk must be permitted to join any such forum in order to monitor content. *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.). Students who observe cheating via electronic media are encouraged to contact Dr. Kirk.

Without exception, any student found cheating on an exam will receive a grade of zero for the exam and will be referred to Student Judicial Services for further 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.

SPECIAL ACCOMMODATIONS:

If you require special accommodations for exams (e.g., a reduced-distraction environment or extra time), you must contact your instructor *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 Dr. Kirk.

OTHER CLASS POLICIES:

- 1. Please don't text in class.** I'll remind the class not to text 1 time per lecture or discussion; any student who continues to text in class after this reminder will be asked to leave the classroom.
- 2.** Feel free to take notes on a computer. However, no one is permitted to make audio or video recordings of lectures under any circumstances.
- 3.** If you want to send me a message, please use my email address and *not* the message function in Canvas. I generally do not see and therefore will not reply to messages sent in Canvas.

COURSE OUTLINE AND READINGS***

<u>DATE</u>	<u>TOPIC</u>	<u>READINGS</u>
19 Jan (Tu)	Primate Characteristics	B&S Ch. 5 (<i>start van Schaik</i>)
21 Jan (Th)	Prosimians	B&S Ch. 5
26 Jan (Tu)	Monkeys	B&S Ch. 5
28 Jan (Th)	Hominoids	B&S Ch. 5
2 Feb (Tu)	Intro to Primate Ecology	B&S Ch. 6-7
4 Feb (Th)	Group-Living and Mating Systems	B&S Ch. 6-7
9 Feb (Tu)	Socioecology and Sociobiology	B&S Ch. 6-7
11 Feb (Th)	Social Behavior	B&S Ch. 6-7
16 Feb (Tu)	<u>Discussion: <i>Among Orangutans</i></u>	
18 Feb (Th)	EXAM 1	
23 Feb (Tu)	History of Evolutionary Thought	B&S Ch. 1-3 (<i>start Beard</i>)
25 Feb (Th)	Darwin and the Modern Synthesis	B&S Ch. 1-3
1 Mar (Tu)	Macroevolution 1	B&S Ch. 4
3 Mar (Th)	Macroevolution 2	B&S Ch. 4
8 Mar (Tu)	Primate Evolution 1	B&S Ch. 9
10 Mar (Th)	Primate Evolution 2	B&S Ch. 9
14-18 Mar	Spring Break	
22 Mar (Tu)	Primate Evolution 3	B&S Ch. 9
24 Mar (Th)	<u>Discussion: <i>Hunt for the Dawn Monkey</i></u>	
29 Mar (Tu)	EXAM 2	
31 Mar (Th)	Australopithecines 1	B&S Ch. 10-11
5 Apr (Tu)	Australopithecines 2	B&S Ch. 10-11
7 Apr (Th)	Australopithecines 3	B&S Ch. 10-11
12 Apr (Tu)	Australopithecines 4	B&S Ch. 12-13
14 Apr (Th)	NO CLASS	
19 Apr (Tu)	Early Homo 1	B&S Ch. 12-13
21 Apr (Th)	Early Homo 2	B&S Ch. 12-13
26 Apr (Tu)	Early Homo 3	B&S Ch. 12-13
28 Apr (Th)	Neanderthals	B&S Ch. 12-13
3 May (Tu)	Modern Human Origins	B&S Ch. 12-13
5 May (Th)	EXAM 3	

***Note – This schedule of topics is approximate and may change.