

SYLLABUS - ANT 301 - INTRODUCTION TO BIOLOGICAL ANTHROPOLOGY

Fall Semester 2017

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Office hours: Thursday 12:30 - 2:30 PM

TEACHING ASSISTANTS:

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Labs: Th 9-11, Th 5-7, F 3-5

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Labs: Tu 5-7, W 1-3, W 5-7

LECTURES: Monday and Wednesday, 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM **FAC 21**

LABS: **SAC 5.172** (check course schedule for meeting time)
NOTE: Labs begin the third week of class (Sep 11 - Sep 15).

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS:

How Humans Evolved by Boyd and Silk
W.W. Norton & Co., 2015
7th Edition.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Biological anthropology (also called physical or evolutionary anthropology) is the study of the behavior, ecology, and evolution of primates, including humans. As a scientific discipline, research in biological anthropology is (1) empirical and (2) grounded in the scientific method. ANT 301 is intended to provide an introduction to the field of biological 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 biological anthropology. The first 2 weeks of class focus on living primate diversity. The remaining lectures focus on three main topics: 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 to explore key concepts, osteological material, and fossil material discussed in lectures. Please be advised that you will be required to take measurements directly from human skeletal material for some labs.

This course may be used to fulfill the natural science and technology (Part II) component of the university core curriculum. 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 gain a detailed understanding of biological evolution and adaptation (considered foundational knowledge in all life sciences). Students are also introduced to a range of scientific concepts and methods that are central to biological anthropology and related scientific disciplines (e.g., biology, geology, and paleontology).

ON-LINE MATERIALS:

All lab documents will be made available online through Canvas at: <http://canvas.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.

Power Point files used in class and lab lectures will NOT be made available on-line.

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 that 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.). Any students arriving *after a lab exam has begun* will be penalized one letter grade (e.g., 10 points off the exam). Any student arriving *10 minutes or more after a lab exam has begun* will receive a grade of zero for the 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 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 employee who schedules your appointment for a note – get one from the physician, PA, or nurse practitioner 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. Please write out a short statement explaining your specific concerns (e.g., incorrect addition of the number of wrong answers on a page, why you think that a question was graded incorrectly and what you think the correct answer should have been, etc.). Then give your (1) written explanation & request for a re-grade and (2) your original exam to Prof. Kirk. You have 1 week 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 -----	25%
Lab Final (non-cumulative)--	25%
Lab Exercises -----	50%

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.
- Documentation of excused absences from an exam will not be considered more than 1 week 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. Please silence cell phones before an exam begins. If your cell phone rings during an exam, do not remove it from your pocket, backpack, or purse. *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, jackets, 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 the 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 student(s) using the information will receive 0% credit for the exam. Students who observe cheating via electronic media or other means 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 at least 7 days IN

ADVANCE of the exam 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. Each time a student wishes to use an approved accommodation for an exam, it is the student's responsibility to notify and make arrangements with his/her TA.

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 his/her TA.

OTHER POLICIES:

Please do not sleep, talk, or text 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. However, *no one* is allowed to make audio or video recordings of lectures under any circumstances. Similarly, *no one* is allowed to photograph the Power Point slides during lecture. Please inform your professor or TA if you see anyone photographing or 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.

GUNS: While I cannot legally ban concealed guns from my classroom, I can exercise my first amendment right to let you know that I would strongly prefer that you NOT bring them into my classroom. I CAN legally ban concealed guns from my faculty office. Thus, this (and my reading of this statement aloud in class) is my official notification that you may not bring any concealed guns into my faculty office.

COURSE OUTLINE AND READINGS:

Readings**

30 Aug (W) Introduction

Introduction to Primate Diversity

4 Sep (M) **LABOR DAY**

6 Sep (W) Primate Characteristics

B&S Ch. 5, Kirk 2013

11 Sep (M) Meet the Primates: Prosimians

B&S Ch. 5

13 Sep (W) Meet the Primates: Monkeys

B&S Ch. 5

18 Sep (M) Meet the Primates: Apes

B&S Ch. 5

Primate Behavior and Ecology

20 Sep (W) Primate Ecology

B&S Ch. 5

25 Sep (M) Group-Living and Mating Systems

B&S Ch. 6-7

27 Sep (W) Socioecology and Sociobiology

B&S Ch. 6-7, McGlynn, 2010

2 Oct (M) Social Behavior

B&S Ch. 6-7

4 Oct (W) **EXAM 1**

Evolution and Phylogeny

9 Oct (M) Evolutionary Thought Part 1

B&S Ch. 1-3

11 Oct (W) Evolutionary Thought Part 2

B&S Ch. 1-3; Forbes & Krimmel, 2010

16 Oct (M) Evolution and the Modern Synthesis

B&S Ch. 1-3; Safran & Nosil, 2012

18 Oct (W) Macroevolution Part 1

B&S Ch. 4

23 Oct (M) Macroevolution Part 2

B&S Ch. 4

Primate and Human Evolution

25 Oct (W) Primate Evolution Part 1

B&S Ch. 9; Peppe & Deino, 2013

30 Oct (M) Primate Evolution Part 2

B&S Ch. 9; Williams, 2016

1 Nov (W) Primate Evolution Part 3

B&S Ch. 9

6 Nov (M) **EXAM 2**

8 Nov (W) Australopithecines Part 1

B&S Ch. 10-11

13 Nov (M) Australopithecines Part 2

B&S Ch. 10-11

15 Nov (W) Australopithecines Part 3

B&S Ch. 10-11

20 Nov (M) *Homo* Part 1

B&S Ch. 12-13

22 Nov (W) **NO CLASS**

27 Nov (M) *Homo* Part 2

B&S Ch. 12-13

29 Nov (W) *Homo* Part 3

B&S Ch. 12-13

4 Dec (M) *Homo* Part 4

B&S Ch. 12-13

6 Dec (W) Modern *H. sapiens*

11 Dec (M) **EXAM 3**

****Note: Additional readings may be assigned**

LAB SCHEDULE

Week 1 (Aug 30 – Sep 1)	No Labs
Week 2 (Sep 4 – Sep 8)	No Labs
Week 3 (Sep 11 – Sep 15)	Lab 1 – Scientific Method and Skeletal Anatomy
Week 4 (Sep 18 – Sep 22)	Lab 2 – Taxonomy
Week 5 (Sep 25 – Sep 29)	Lab 3 – Primate Diets
Week 6 (Oct 2 – Oct 6)	Lab 4 – Primate Behavior
Week 7 (Oct 9 – Oct 13)	Lab 5 – Genetics
Week 8 (Oct 16 – Oct 20)	FIRST LAB PRACTICAL EXAM
Week 9 (Oct 23 – Oct 27)	Lab 6 – Cladistics
Week 10 (Oct 30 – Nov 3)	Lab 7 – Functional Morphology
Week 11 (Nov 6 – Nov 10)	Lab 8 – Fossil Primates
Week 12 (Nov 13 – Nov 17)	Lab 9 – Australopithecines
Week 13 (Nov 20 – Nov 24)	Thanksgiving – No Labs
Week 14 (Nov 27 – Dec 1)	Lab 10 – Genus <i>Homo</i>
Week 15 (Dec 4 – Dec 8)	SECOND LAB PRACTICAL EXAM