

# **ANTH 270: INTRODUCTION TO BIOLOGICAL ANTHROPOLOGY**

**Fall Quarter 2008**

**TTh 12:00-1:20pm 180 PLC**

**4 credit hours (Satisfies an SC requirement)**

## **Instructor: Dr. Josh Snodgrass**

Office Hours: T 2:00-3:00 & Th 3:00-4:00 (& by appointment); Office: 354 Condon Hall  
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## **Graduate Teaching Fellows (GTFs):**

**Tara Cepon (tcepon@uoregon.edu; 346-5109)**

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**Carley Smith (csmith15@uoregon.edu; 346-5109)**

Office Hours: T & Th 10:00-11:00 & by appointment; Office: 365-D Condon Hall

## **COURSE OVERVIEW**

This course examines the biological aspects of the human species from comparative and evolutionary perspectives. It is designed to be a comprehensive introduction to biological, or physical, anthropology. In brief, biological anthropology is the study of human biology within the framework of evolution. As one of the four subdisciplines of anthropology, biological anthropology is a critical component in the education of all students in the discipline. In this course, we will investigate human biology through the study of genetics, population biology, and the principles of evolution. Since the comparative method is a key method in biological anthropology and other sciences, we will review the evolution, ecology, and behavior of the living non-human primates. We will also evaluate the evolution of human adaptability and investigate the various ways in which the human species has adapted -- and is continuing to adapt -- to habitats around the world. Finally, we shall examine the fossil record of the evolution of the human lineage. After participating in this course, students will have an appreciation of key theoretical and methodological issues in this anthropological subdiscipline, and will be prepared to enter upper-level courses in biological anthropology.

## **COURSE MECHANICS**

This course is a required, core course for all undergraduate majors in anthropology and is comprised of both lecture and laboratory components. The required laboratory sections are a critical part of the course and are designed to develop the important practical skills of observing, measuring, recording, and interpreting bioanthropological data.

A Blackboard site will be maintained for this class. When you register for the class, you will automatically be enrolled in the site. The Blackboard site will contain essential course information such as the syllabus and lecture notes, and will also be the primary way with which we communicate with you outside of class. Therefore, it is crucial that you check both Blackboard and your university e-mail account regularly.

## REQUIRED TEXT

Jurmain R, Kilgore L, Trevathan W, Ciochon RL. 2008. Introduction to Physical Anthropology (11<sup>th</sup> edition), Thomson/Wadsworth. (Available at the UO Bookstore)

## EVALUATION METHOD

Requirements include two written midterm exams, one written, non-cumulative final exam, discussion section attendance and participation, a lab practical, and three short laboratory exercises.

2 Midterm Exams @ 20% each	40%
Final Exam	25%
Discussion Section (Attendance & Participation)	10%
Lab Practical	10%
3 Lab Exercises @ 5% each	15%

All exams **must** be taken at the scheduled time—**under no circumstances will make-up exams be given without a documented excuse** (e.g., signed note from your doctor). If you will not be able to take an exam, you **must** notify me in advance (preferably by e-mail).

Exams will be based on lectures, labs, videos, and reading assignments. The final exam will **not** be comprehensive but will be somewhat longer than the midterm exams. Material on the exams may be different than that presented in the textbook, and may only be covered during class lecture and discussion sections.

Appropriate accommodations will be provided for students with documented disabilities. If you have a documented disability and anticipate needing accommodations in this course, please make arrangements to meet with me. Please bring a notification letter from Disability Services outlining your accommodations.

## COURSE SCHEDULE

Week	Dates	Topics	Required Reading
1	9/30	Course Overview & Introduction to Anthropology	Chapter 1
	10/2	The Scientific Method; Evolution—History of an Idea; Darwin & Natural Selection <i>Lab 1: Introduction to Evolutionary Biology</i>	Chapter 2
2	10/7	Biological Basis of Life; Inheritance of Traits; Mendel; DNA	Chapter 3
	10/9	Basic Genetics; The Modern Synthesis; Evolutionary Biology Today <i>Lab 2: Genetics (Write-up of this lab is due by the end of your lab the following week)</i>	Chapter 4
3	10/14	Systems of Classification; Macroevolution; Our Heritage as Mammals	Chapter 5
	10/16	Introduction to the Primates; Classification; Primate Adaptations <i>Life in the Trees (Video)</i> <i>Lab 3: Primate Classification &amp; Adaptations</i>	Chapter 6

Week	Dates	Topics	Required Reading
4	10/21  10/23	Primate Behavior & Ecology; Reproductive Strategy; What We've Learned about Human Evolution from Living Primates  <b>Midterm Exam #1</b>  <i>Lab 4: Introduction to the Skeleton &amp; Ape/Human Differences</i>	Chapters 7 & 8 (covered on Midterm #1)
5	10/28  10/30	Introduction to Paleoanthropology; The Fossil Record; Dating Methods; Paleoecology  Hominid Origins; Evolution of Bipedalism; Anatomical Changes with Bipedalism; The Earliest Hominids; <i>Australopithecus</i>  <i>Lab 5: Australopithecus &amp; Homo (Write-up of this lab is due by the end of your lab the following week)</i>	Chapter 10 (pp. 234-254)  Chapter 10 (pp. 255-261) & Chapter 11 (pp. 262-279)
6	11/4  11/6	<i>Australopithecus</i> (cont'd); Origin & Evolution of the Genus <i>Homo</i>  <i>Homo erectus</i> ; Dispersal; Brain Evolution; The Evolution of Hominid Diets  <i>Lab Practical (Lab quiz: Human skeleton &amp; early hominid fossils)</i>	Chapter 11 (pp. 279-295)  Chapter 12
7	11/11  11/13	Later <i>Homo</i> ; Europe; The Neandertals  <b>Midterm Exam #2</b>  <i>Lab 6: Biological Variation among Living Humans</i>	Chapter 13 (covered on Midterm #2)
8	11/18  11/20	Origin & Dispersal of Modern Humans; The Human Revolution; Upper Paleolithic Culture; Defining What It Means to Be Human  Further Dispersals; Plant & Animal Domestication; A Great Leap Forward?  <i>Lab 7: Food &amp; Health (Write-up of this lab is due to your GTF by Wednesday, 11/26 @ 5:00 pm)</i>	Chapter 14
9	11/25  11/27	Contemporary Human Biological Variation; The Race Concept  <b>No Class—Thanksgiving Holiday</b>  <i>Thanksgiving Holiday – No Lab!!</i>	Chapter 15
10	12/2  12/4	Human Adaptation & Adaptability; Skin Color & Solar Radiation; High Altitude; Heat & Cold; Infectious Disease; Are Humans Still Evolving? Human Biocultural Evolution  Chronic Disease; Evolutionary Medicine; Human Nutritional Evolution  <i>Lab 8: Anthropometry Lab (Body Size, Proportions, &amp; Health)</i>	Chapter 16  Chapter 17
11	12/9	<b>Final Exam (Tuesday, 8:00-10:00 am)</b>	