

**COURSE DESCRIPTION ANTHROPOLOGY 1:
INTRODUCTION TO PHYSICAL ANTHROPOLOGY**

Allan Lönnberg

Fall 2009

Sec. # 62725, TTh, 12:40-2, Room 431

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Student Disabilities: I encourage students with disabilities, including invisible disabilities such as chronic disease, learning and psychological disabilities, to explain your needs and appropriate accommodations to me during my office hour. Please bring a verification of your disability from the Learning Skills or DSP&S office and a counselor's or specialist's recommendations for accommodating your needs.

Course Overview: Our intent in this course is to ask the central question of physical anthropology, namely, "what is human?" in various ways which, hopefully, will be meaningful to students in their everyday lives. We will ask ourselves, "what accounts for our unique place in nature?" and we will discuss the intimate and intricate role of human culture in our development as a species. Finally, we will ask, "what makes us different from each other and from other animals?" and will discover how variation is produced in human populations, and the importance of variation in evolution. Anthropology draws from many different disciplines; in order to answer these questions, we will call upon such diverse fields as genetics, molecular biology, paleontology, primatology, and archaeology.

Required Texts:

Angeloni, Elvio, ed.
2009

Annual Editions/ Physical Anthropology
09/10

Dettwyler, Katherine A.
2003

Dancing Skeletons. Waveland Press

Optional Text:

Park, Michael, I
2008

Biological Anthropology, 5th edition
(custom)

Overview of Class Activities:

1. The class will meet on the scheduled days in room 431. Students are expected to make every effort to attend all of the class meetings, and will be held responsible for obtaining lecture notes should a lecture be missed. You are encouraged to participate in class discussions.

2. Six **reading quizzes** will be administered during the semester. Of these, the one lowest (or missed) grade will be discounted, so that only five quizzes will be counted towards your final grade. The quizzes may – or may not – be announced ahead of time, and they will be held at the beginning of class. There will be no makeup for the quizzes. In addition, there will be **two midterms** and **one final exam**. They will consist of both essay and "objective" type questions. The final will be comprehensive, but will stress the material covered after the last midterm. **You will need to buy three Scantron A-200 (blue) forms and three bluebooks for the exams. Note: There will no make-up on the exams unless prior notification has been made or a really compelling, valid excuse given for missing the regularly scheduled exam. Similarly, no incomplete grades will be given. There may be some extra credit assignments.**

3. A **term project**, demonstrating or illustrating an aspect of physical anthropology, will be due from each student near the end of the semester. **No late projects will be accepted.**

Grading Policy: Grades will be based on the distribution of points achieved by the student at the end of the semester. The total number of points is 400, as follows:

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|----------------------------------|-------------------|
| Five reading quizzes @ 20 points | 100 points |
| Two midterms @ 100 points | 200 points |
| One project @ 100 points | 100 points |
| One final @ 100 points | <u>100 points</u> |
| TOTAL | 500 points |

Cheating on any class work or test, including plagiarizing on essays or projects, is grounds for an immediate failing grade in the class. Plagiarism is defined as presenting someone else's writing or ideas as if they were your own. To learn about what plagiarism means and how to avoid it, please see the description at: <http://www.cabrillo.edu/~sholt/MITPlagiarism.pdf> or http://www.plagiarism.org/learning_center/what_is_plagiarism.html and review the links provided by the Cabrillo College Library at <http://libwww.cabrillo.edu/depts/libraryinstruction.html>.

Attendance Policy: Attendance will be taken each class day. Students are expected to come to class unless unavoidably detained. **Attendance and punctuality may be factored in your grade, which could be reduced by one letter grade for each four late arrivals or early departures and/or two unexcused absences and major disruptions. (e.g. If you are late 4 times, are disruptive 2 times and are absent twice, you could be dropped 3 whole letter grades).**

Cell Phone Policy: Cell phones are to be turned **off** in the classroom.

Dates to Remember:

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|-----------------|--|
| September 1 | Class begins |
| September 29 | Midterm 1 and project topic due |
| November 3 | Midterm 2 |
| November 10 | Project outline due |
| December 8 & 10 | Term projects due |
| December 17 | Final exam (10am)) |

Tentative Reading Schedule):

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|-----------------------|---|
| Week 1, 9/1 | Introduction. Required reading: Syllabus. Begin Dettwyler and finish by first midterm. |
| Week 2, 9/8 | Evolutionary ideas. Required reading: AA #s 1, 2, 3 |
| Week 3, 9/15 | Evolutionary ideas. AA #s 5, 6, 7 |
| Week 4, 9/22 | Genetics. AA #s 4, 8 |
| Week 5, 9/29 | Midterm #1 and Project proposal due |
| Week 6, 10/6 | Medical Anthropology. AA #s 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42 |
| Week 7, 10/13 | Taxonomy. AA #s 15, 21 |
| Week 8, 10/20 | Introduction to Primates. AA #s 9, 11, 12, 13, 16 |
| Week 9, 10/27 | Primate Social Behavior. AA #s 17, 18, 19, 20 |
| Week 10, 11/3 | Midterm #2 |
| Week 11, 11/10 | Project outline, Primate Evolution. AA #s 22, 23 |
| Week 12, 11/17 | Introduction to Hominids. AA #s 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 30, 31 |
| Week 13, 11/24 | Forensic Anthropology. |
| Week 14, 12/1 | “Race” and Contemporary Human Variability. AA #s 32, 33, 34, 35, 36 |
| Week 15, 12/8 | Final Projects due. |
| Week 16, 12/17 | Final Exam, 12/17, 10 am |

Term Project:

The term project is equivalent to a research paper, which describes and analyzes a subject that is pertinent to any aspect of biological anthropology. But, instead of being a written paper, it is instead a visual product – a “show and tell” – which performs the same function as a research paper but in a different format. Which format is up to you – you have complete artistic license – but the topic has to be one directly related to the course content and subject to approval by me.

Moreover, you are encouraged to choose topics which haven’t been covered in class at all, or at any length. Your project should enhance understanding and knowledge, not repeat what has already been discussed. Formats have included posters, masks, board games, songs, raps, dances, poems, models, dioramas, animated cartoons, PowerPoint presentations and skits. If you can think of other, expressive ways of presenting your data, go for it! Again, the content of the

presentations is limited to topics we cover in class. Some examples include new applications of DNA, principles of stratigraphy, fresh examples of natural selection, dating techniques, non-human primate facial expressions and behavior, case studies in forensic anthropology, and detailed descriptions of particular primates and fossil hominids. Go through the text for ideas. Remember that this is a major assignment and your preparation should reflect this. Last minute scrambling will not produce a desirable grade! For this reason, I have insisted upon a tentative project topic statement on **Tuesday, September 29** (also the date of the first midterm), followed by a more comprehensive outline by **Tuesday, November 10**. This will mean that some possible subjects will not by then have been covered in class, so you may have to read ahead to come up with a project that interests you. And it is critically important that you do find a subject that interests you. If you do not, your disinterest will be conveyed to the rest of us and probably reflected in your grade. Similarly, use a format that you are skilled in or are comfortable with. If you are a musician, employ music! You will be graded on the depth, breadth and accuracy of your data and the overall creativity of the presentation. Each student will have a maximum of three minutes, but, again subject to my approval, you may work in teams of no more than two, which would be allocated six minutes.