



Biological Anthropology Lab

ANTHR1L Fall 2009, Room 431

Sections 62735: Tu 2:20-5:25pm, 64367: Th 2:20-5:25pm, 62731: F 9:00am-12:10pm

Instructor: Michelle Y. Merrill

Office: Room 429C

Office Hours: **M** 4:30 - 5:50pm in 429C and 9:05 - 9:15pm in 431 or 429C

Tu 5:30 – 6:30 pm in 429C **Th** noon – 12:15 pm and 5:30 – 6:15pm 429C

F 12:05-12:30pm in 431 or 429C & other times by appointment

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Cabrillo login/username: _____ Cabrillo password: _____

COURSE OVERVIEW

Biological Anthropology is the scientific study of humans as biological organisms: our biological diversity, our evolutionary relationships to other organisms, and our origins, including the study of living primates, human variation, and the fossils of human ancestors and related species.

The lab course will give you greater detail, giving you a better learning (or you have learned) in your to participate in discussions and simulation activities (games) with your classmates, and may even perform some measurements and tests on one another. You will get to carefully observe and *very carefully* handle skeletal material and casts of fossils.



opportunities to explore this science in understanding of the material you are lecture course. You will have opportunities

Course Objectives

This class provides opportunities to develop skills in all of Cabrillo's "Core Four" competencies:

- I. **Communication: Reading, Writing, Listening, Speaking and/or Conversing**
 - comprehending written and spoken laboratory instructions
 - noting observations, results or measurements
 - writing out responses to thought questions
- II. **Critical Thinking and Information Competency: Analysis, Computation, Research, Problem Solving**
 - careful observation and measurement
 - analyzing simulation results or observations of materials
 - solving problems by applying basic mathematics and careful reasoning
- III. **Global Awareness: An Appreciation of Scientific Complexities, Social Diversity and Civics, and Artistic Variety**
 - using the methods and practices of biological anthropology
 - learning biogeography of human ancestors and other primates
- IV. **Personal Responsibility and Professional Development: Self-Management and Self-Awareness, Social and Physical Wellness, Workplace Skills**
 - arriving on-time and prepared to do the assigned work
 - taking personal responsibility for completeness and accuracy of labsheets
 - working productively with peers to complete assignments
 - asking for clarification and assistance from the instructor

Specifically, students will be expected to:

1. apply the scientific method to the analysis of lab activity results or materials
2. demonstrate the principles of natural selection, inheritance and basic genetics
3. identify bones and bone elements of the skeleton in humans and other species
4. compare and evaluate non-human primate and human skeletal and dental features
5. classify primates according to diagnostic features of taxonomic groups
6. observe and evaluate primate behavior using anthropological practices
7. demonstrate and apply anthropometric techniques
8. identify key anatomical features of the hominids and other taxonomic groups
9. analyze and compare skeletal materials to determine or infer species, age, sex, stature and behavior of the living organism

Course Requirements

- ◆ You must be currently enrolled in, or have already passed ANTHR 1 (lecture).
- ◆ Bring your **printed lab sheet** for the week to each session. It is always a good idea to bring a calculator, and any lecture materials (e.g. textbook and notes) to lab.
- ◆ Work with your lab team, but do not copy answers without understanding the process through which they were determined.
- ◆ **Arrive on time** to lab and **do not leave** until you check out with the instructor or the instructor dismisses the class. Students are expected to participate in setting up and cleaning up lab materials.

Common Courtesy and Common Sense

Students frequently discover that not everyone shares their personal beliefs, experiences, and convictions. Respect for many points of view is required in this class. Disagreements are healthy and help us to learn, but students must maintain a respectful attitude and courteous conversation at all times. My goal as an instructor is not to convince you to hold a particular opinion on controversial issues, but to encourage you to think critically and with an open mind about the facts, evidence, ideas and theories presented in class.

Classroom etiquette regarding portable electronic devices is not unlike takeoff and landing on an airplane – they should be turned off and stowed away. Cell phones and pagers should be **OFF** at all times (an exception may be made for parents or caretakers who can keep their phones/pagers on vibrate for emergency situations, provided the instructor is notified ahead of time). You should have nothing in your ears other than hearing aid devices if needed.

Calculators, PDAs, and laptop computers are permitted provided they aren't making much noise; such devices are neither needed nor permitted during exams.

Other behavioral norms are expected to minimize classroom disruptions and avoid disturbing your fellow students. Arrive on time for class. Do not interrupt the instructor or your classmates while they are speaking, but by all means **DO** raise your hand when you have a question or comment. Basically, use a little common sense, try to imagine what is likely to annoy your instructor or your classmates, and then avoid doing those things if you wish to remain in class.

Grading

As with so many things, the essence of success in lab is showing up – not only being physically present, but being prepared, paying attention and actively engaging with the work at hand. Your grade will be based on your **participation** (25% – note that *you will lose partial credit for the day if you are more than a few minutes late, if you are unprepared, if you are disruptive or if you are not productively engaged with the work*), your completion of **lab assignment sheets** (50%), and your performance on the **mid-term** (10%) and **final** (15%) lab exams.

100-90% = A

89-80% = B

79-70% = C

69-60% = D

59-0% = F

Exams are open-note, so you are well advised to carefully and thoroughly complete all lab sheets, and keep them neat and in order. While your work in regular lab sessions will most often be in teams, you may need to work independently during the lab exams. Cheating on exams is grounds for an immediate failing grade in the class.

Labsheets will be accepted for review upon completion each week. If you need more time to finish answering thought questions, the labsheet will still count as on-time if submitted at the beginning of class the session after completion of the lab assignment. Please staple or clip sheets together to hand in for review. Labsheets are graded for completeness, not for accuracy. **Confirming the accuracy of your lab notes is your responsibility**; if you are in doubt about your answers on a labsheet, check with the instructor during the lab activity.

Each labsheet will be graded on a 10-point scale:

10: very thorough and complete, nothing missed

9 : left one or two small questions/blanks, or a response to a thought question was not very thorough

8 : left 3 or 4 blanks, multiple thought questions with weak responses, or a major thought question unanswered

7 : many blanks, multiple questions or page left incomplete

6 : 1/3 of the assignment undone

5 : 1/2 of the assignment undone

etc.

Make-Up Work and Extra Credit

Setting up for labs and exams takes a lot of time and effort, and many lab activities require the presence and participation of your classmates. Therefore there are **no make-ups for exams** without a verifiable excuse (e.g. note from doctor's office).

Only one make-up lab is allowed per student. Make-up labs will consist of completing related work in the *Human Evolution Coloring Book* as described on the class website (or other work to be determined by the instructor) and must be completed within two weeks of your absence. You will still be responsible for knowing what went on in lab and how to recognize materials for lab exams, so I strongly recommend contacting a classmate and

discussing the lab activity with them, and making notes on a copy of the lab sheet (available on website).

Extra-credit work may be available provided you request it **no later than November 20th**. The assignment, its value, and its due date are entirely up to the discretion of the instructor (whiners will receive less credit).

Course Schedule

Note: these dates and topics are subject to change. Changes will be announced in class and posted on the course website. It is *your* responsibility to make sure you are aware of any revisions.

<i>Week #</i>	<i>Tue. Dates</i>	<i>Thurs. Dates</i>	<i>Fri. Dates</i>	<i>Topic/Notes</i>
1	8-Sep	3-Sep	4-Sep	Intro; What Is Science?
2	15-Sep	10-Sep	11-Sep	Natural Selection
3	22-Sep	17-Sep	18-Sep	Skeletal Anatomy and Evidence for Evolution
4	29-Sep	24-Sep	25-Sep	Genetics
5	6-Oct	1-Oct	2-Oct	Creating Phylogenies, Primate Behavior Studies
6	13-Oct	8-Oct	9-Oct	Primate Classification and Morphology
7	20-Oct	15-Oct	16-Oct	Primate Behavior and Diversity (independent observation and research - no class meeting)
8	27-Oct	22-Oct	23-Oct	Primate Ecology and Behavior
9	3-Nov	29-Oct	30-Oct	Lab Exam; Anthropometry
10	10-Nov	5-Nov	6-Nov	Evolutionary History; Primate Evolution
11	17-Nov	12-Nov	13-Nov	Osteology & Forensics
12	24-Nov	19-Nov	20-Nov	Early Hominin Fossils; last day to request extra credit
13		26-Nov	27-Nov	Thanksgiving Break
14	1-Dec	3-Dec	4-Dec	Later Fossil Hominins
15	8-Dec	10-Dec	11-Dec	Fossil Review; extra credit due
Finals	17-Dec	17-Dec	18-Dec	FINAL EXAMS 62731: Friday, Dec. 18th 9:00am-11:50am



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