

Syllabus
Anthropology 101
Physical Anthropology
Fall 2009 T/Th

Instructor Information

Name: Margaret Streeter, Ph.D.
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Course Information

Course Title: Anthropology 101 - Physical Anthropology
Section 001
Cat. #70249
Room: ILC 118
T/Th 9:15 am - 10:30 am
Credit: 3 hrs.
Office hours: T and Th 10:40 to 11:30 or by appointment
Room 115 Hemingway Western Studies Center

Graduate Assistants

Bridget Denny – bridgetdenny@u.boisestate.edu
Meghan Eastman – meghaneastman@u.boisestate.edu

Course Description

This course is a survey of physical anthropology. It is designed to provide students with an understanding of the basic principles of physical/biological anthropology, including the scientific method, the genetic basis of human evolution, primate biology, and the primate and human fossil record.

Course Objectives

- Know the four subfields of anthropology
- Understand the scientific method
- Understand the genetic basis of evolution
- Understand human population variation and adaptation
- Develop an understanding of basic evolutionary theory and how it applies to humans
- Explore primate evolution with special attention to human evolution
- Develop a familiarity with the human fossil record

Core Goals

- Critically evaluate an argument to determine the difference between the scientific method and faith based explanations for speciation
- Analyze hominid fossils to evaluate species differences
- Critically evaluate behavior in closely related primate species to identify cultural behavior

At the end of this course, you will have a better understanding of and a greater appreciation for the processes of evolution, the place of humans in nature, how humans are similar and how they differ from other primates and how humans evolved morphologically.

Prerequisites none

Textbook

Our Origins: discovering physical anthropology
(2008) 1st edition, Norton Press
Clark Spencer Larsen

EVALUATION Four blackboard exams (multiple choice)

Exam 1 - 4th week

Exam 2 - 8th week

Exam 3 - 12th week

Final exam – **Dec 17, 8:00-10:00 in classroom**

Your grade will be based on accumulated points from tests, movies and extra credit. The exams will be on blackboard. All test questions will be from lectures, assigned readings, films, handouts, and class assignments. Regular attendance is expected of all students and attendance will be taken randomly. If you must be absent it is your responsibility to obtain information, notes, or handouts from another student. There is no makeup for missed movies, labs, or power point lectures.

Don't ask me for notes or my power point lectures!!

All make-up exams are essay.

GRADING SCALE

A = 90%-100%

B = 80%-89%

C = 70%-79%

D = 60%-69%

F = 59% or less

Exams = ±50pts each

Movies = 10pts each

Review sessions/labs = 10pts optional

Topics:

Introduction

What is anthropology?

The Scientific method

Development of evolutionary thought

Molecular basis of heredity

Patterns of inheritance

Forces of Evolution

Human Variation/Adaptation

Paleontology

Taxonomy

Primate characteristics

Primate evolution

Early hominids

Australopithecine

Early Homo

Archaic Homo

Neandertals

Homo sapiens

THIS IS A PRELIMINARY SCHEDULE ONLY. THE INSTRUCTOR RESERVES THE RIGHT TO MAKE CHANGES TO THIS SCHEDULE AS NEEDED.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

As a courtesy to your instructor and classmates please turn off all cell phones during class. You are expected to attend all classes and arrive on time. Take advantage of my office hours to ask questions and for clarification of information. If you have a conflict with my office hours you may set up an appointment.

EXPECTATIONS

You will need to do the reading, attend class, and study for the test to pass this class. If this is not your intention, please drop out now!! If you know you need to get a particular grade in this class (e.g. C), do not wait until the last one or two weeks of the semester to ask for help.

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY:

I expect students to fulfill their academic obligations through honest and independent effort. Academic dishonesty is considered a serious offense subject to strong disciplinary actions, including being dropped from the course with a grade of "F." Be cool, be honest, and don't cheat. It is just not worth it.

Disabilities:

Students with disabilities are referred to the office of special student services.