Prin Physical Anthropology

ANT 670 Section 001
Fall 2013, Lecture
Dr. Jason DeCaro

Office Hours and Contact Information

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Prerequisites

UA Course Catalog Prerequisites

No prerequisites or none listed.

Course Description

UA Course Catalog Information

A series of seminars and lectures designed to refine the student's knowledge of research on nonhuman primates, fossil hominids, population genetics, and human variation and adaptation. Offered once a year.
Student Learning Outcomes

This course provides a survey of the major branches in physical (biological) anthropology. Following an introduction that focuses on the history of the discipline as a whole and basic principles of evolutionary history, the course divided into three parts. The first part is a survey of contemporary human biology research, including genetics, adaptation, energetics, growth & development, demography, and population health. The second part focuses on comparative research concerning the behavior and ecology of our nearest relatives, the non-human primates. The third part is a quick tour through human evolutionary history, beginning with the Miocene Hominoids and ending with the emergence of modern Homo sapiens. Students are expected to leave with an appreciation of the diversity of scholarship conducted under the banner of “physical anthropology,” and the importance of certain unifying concepts, particularly biocultural investigation and the central role of evolutionary theory.

At the end of this course students should be able to:

1. Outline the history of the discipline of physical anthropology, including major historical figures and their contributions, intellectual trends, and major controversies.
2. Understand evolutionary theory well enough to address new and unfamiliar evolutionary problems using “first principles.”
3. Outline and describe the major branches of contemporary human biology, and identify major applications of human biology research to contemporary issues or debates concerning health, social policy, and human behavior.
4. Identify both commonalities and diversity across non-human primate taxa in social behavior and ecology, and articulate the relevance of primatology to the broader anthropological enterprise.
5. Outline human evolutionary history based on the fossil record.

Required Texts

MUEHLENBEIN, MICHAEL / HUMAN EVOLUTIONARY BIOLOGY (Required)
CIOCHON / PRIMATE ANTHOLOGY (Required)
CIOCHON / HUMAN EVOLUTION SOURCE BOOK (Required)

Other Course Materials

Additionally, a variety of introductory Physical Anthropology textbooks will be made available for you to
borrow. Unless you have a recent textbook already (that is, published within the last 3 years or so), please select one of these. You will use the textbook to help fill in gaps in your general background knowledge of physical anthropology as needed. Since each textbook differs slightly in the organization of chapters, the readings listed under “Your Text” above are just general guidelines. Use your own judgment as to which sections of your intro text would be most helpful in comprehending the course material for any given class session.

All assigned readings that do not come from one the textbooks will be made available electronically.

Non textbook readings are:


Outline of Topics

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<tr>
<th>WK</th>
<th>DUE</th>
<th>TOPIC AND READINGS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>8/27</td>
<td>Introduction: History of the Discipline</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>Read: HEB Chapter 3 (Little)</td>
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<td>Washburn (1953)</td>
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<td>Spencer (1981)</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>9/3</td>
<td>Principles of Evolutionary Theory &amp; the Modern Synthesis; Demography</td>
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Read: HEB Chapter 1 (Futuyma)

HEB Chapter 5 (Jones)

Your Text: Evolutionary Theory, Genetics, Cell Biology Chapters

Part I. Contemporary Human Biology

3 9/10 Genetics & Genomics

Read: HEB Chapter 4 (Meier and Raff)

HEB Chapter 13 (Meier)

HEB Chapter 14 (Steiper)

Your Text: Human Variation Chapter

TERM PAPER TOPICS DUE

4 9/17 Adaptation & Energetics

Read: HEB Chapter 2 (Frisancho)

HEB Chapter 10 (Leonard and Katzmarzyk)

HEB Chapter 12 (Jablonksi)

Your Text: Human Adaptation Chapter

5 9/24 Growth & Development

Read: HEB Chapter 6 (Cameron and Jones)

HEB Chapter 22 (Bogin)

HEB Chapter 23 (Ulijascek)

TERM PAPER ABSTRACTS DUE
6 10/1 Reproduction

*Read:* HEB Chapter 19 (Jasienska)

HEB Chapter 20 (Pike)

HEB Chapter 21 (Muehlenbein and Bribiescas)

7 10/8 Epidemiology & Population Health

*Read:* HEB Chapter 28 (Eaton)

HEB Chapter 30 (Kuzawa)

HEB Chapter 34 (McDade and Nyberg)

8 10/15 Paleopathology, Bioarchaeology, and Paleodemography

*Read:* Wood et al. (1992)

Goodman (1993)

Cook and Powell (2006)

**TAKE HOME MIDTERM DISTRIBUTED**

9 10/22 Primate Social Behavior & Cognition

*Read:* Primate Anthology Part I Introduction & 2 assigned chapters that you will present to the class

Your Text: Primate Behavior/Ecology chapter(s)

**TAKE HOME MIDTERM DUE BY MIDNIGHT**

10* 10/29 Primate Ecology
Read: Primate Anthology Part II (intro & all chapters)

11  11/5  Primate Diet & Reproduction

Read: Primate Anthology Part III (intro & all chapters)

Part III. Primate & Human Evolution in the Fossil Record

12  11/12 Primate Evolution (& catch-up, as needed)

Read: Human Evolution Source Book Chapter 9

Your Text: Primate Evolution chapter

TERM PAPER DUE BY MIDNIGHT

13  11/19 Early Hominins through the Emergence of Genus Homo

Read: Human Evolution Source Book Parts II & III Introductions, Chapter 10, Chapter 16, and 2 assigned chapters that you will present to the class

Your Text: Early Hominins chapter(s)

14*  11/26 The Emergence of Genus Homo and Homo erectus

Read: Human Evolution Source Book Chapter 26, Chapter 34, Chapter 46, Parts IV, V, and VI Introductions, and 2 assigned chapters that you will present to the class

Your Text: Genus Homo chapter(s)

15  12/3 Neandertals and Homo sapiens

Read: Human Evolution Source Book Parts VII, VIII, and IX Introductions, Chapter 53, Chapter 59, Chapter 68, and 2 assigned chapters that you will present to the class

Your Text: Neandertal and Homo sapiens chapter(s)

TAKE HOME FINAL DISTRIBUTED
TAKE-HOME FINAL DUE 12/10 BY MIDNIGHT

* Weeks marked with an asterisk are short (one class session only), but readings are still due as assigned.

Exams and Assignments

1. **Reading Commentaries – PART I.** For each class when readings are due, post on Blackboard Learn a one-page typed commentary on the readings *no later than 9:00AM on the day of the class*. The commentary should include a brief summary of the most interesting or important points from the reading(s), and your own thoughts, such as questions that are raised, critiques that you may have, comparison with other readings, points of confusion you'd like cleared up, etc. These will be readable on Blackboard by everyone enrolled in the class so that you can see each other's perspectives on the readings. The purpose is to seed the class discussion and get you thinking about the various topics. Therefore, when there are multiple readings assigned for any given class day, you may but are not required to touch on all of them in your commentaries. (Although you should make sure to read them all.)

2. **Reading Commentaries – PART II.** For each class when readings are *not* due, post on Blackboard a brief extension of your previous remarks on that week's readings, or a response to someone else's commentary on those readings. This should reflect what you have learned based on class discussion, and/or reflections given the two additional days since you completed the reading. It is fine to focus on a different reading or readings than you emphasized in your earlier commentary.

3. **Class Discussion.** This is a seminar, and all students are expected to actively participate in classroom discussion. In some cases, not all students will be reading the same chapters, and you may be asked to present the material you read to the rest of the class.

4. **Term Paper.** You will select a topic on which to write a 15-20 page term paper. Please notify me of your selected topic by 9/10 (subject to approval). You'll provide a one-page abstract of your paper by 9/24. Final papers are due on 11/12, transmitted electronically, by midnight.

5. **Midterm Exam.** A take-home midterm exam distributed on 10/15 will be due one week later, on 10/22 by midnight. This exam will cover introductory material (history of the discipline/evolutionary history) and human biology.

6. **Final Exam.** A take-home final exam distributed on 12/3 will be due on 12/10 by midnight. This exam will cover primates & the fossil record.

Grading Policy

Participation: Reading commentaries 20%
Participation: Class Discussion 20%
Term Paper 20%
Midterm Exam 20%
Final Exam 20%

Policy on Missed Exams & Coursework

1. Reading commentaries posted after 9:00 am but before midnight on class day will be accepted for half credit. After that, no reading commentaries will be taken for any reason.
2. Term papers, midterm exams, and final exams will be accepted late only by prior approval. Approval to turn in an exam or paper late will be granted only under extraordinary circumstances, not as a matter of course. Even if you are granted prior approval, a late final exam may result in an Incomplete at least temporarily being on your record for the course, if I do not have time to read and grade it before the grade submission deadline.

Attendance Policy

This is a discussion-oriented class and attendance is required. Since 40% of your grade for this course is based on participation, any absences normally will lower your grade. Please contact Dr. DeCaro in advance if you have some urgent need to be absent from a class session.

Severe Weather Guidelines

The guiding principle at The University of Alabama is to promote the personal safety of our students, faculty and staff during severe weather events. It is impossible to develop policies which anticipate every weather-related emergency. These guidelines are intended to provide additional assistance for responding to severe weather on campus.

UA is a residential campus with many students living on or near campus. In general classes will remain in session until the National Weather Service issues safety warnings for the city of Tuscaloosa. Clearly, some students and faculty commute from adjacent counties. These counties may experience weather related problems not encountered in Tuscaloosa. Individuals should follow the advice of the National Weather Service for that area taking the necessary precautions to ensure personal safety. Whenever the National Weather Service and the Emergency Management Agency issue a warning, people in the path of the storm (tornado or severe thunderstorm) should take immediate life saving actions.

When West Alabama is under a severe weather advisory, conditions can change rapidly. It is imperative to get to where you can receive information from the National Weather Service and to follow the instructions.

http://syllabi.ua.edu/08viewsyllabus/201340/40094/c21b242fb26070e3aab348e9d115f8582c32cc2a?class=20134040094
provided. Personal safety should dictate the actions that faculty, staff and students take.

**The Office of University Relations will disseminate the latest information regarding conditions on campus in the following ways:**

- Weather advisory posted on the UA homepage
- Weather advisory sent out through UA Alerts to faculty, staff and students
- Weather advisory broadcast over WVUA at 90.7 FM
- Weather advisory broadcast over Alabama Public Radio (WUAL) at 91.5 FM
- Weather advisory broadcast over WVUA-TV/WUOA-TV, and on the website [http://wvuatv.com/content/weather](http://wvuatv.com/content/weather). WVUA-TV Home Team Weather provides a free service you can subscribe to which allows you to receive weather warnings for Tuscaloosa via e-mail or cell phone. Check [http://wvuatv.com/content/free-email-weather-alerts](http://wvuatv.com/content/free-email-weather-alerts) for more details and to sign up for weather alerts.

In the case of a tornado warning (tornado has been sighted or detected by radar; sirens activated), all university activities are automatically suspended, including all classes and laboratories. If you are in a building, please move immediately to the lowest level and toward the center of the building away from windows (interior classrooms, offices, or corridors) and remain there until the tornado warning has expired. Classes in session when the tornado warning is issued can resume immediately after the warning has expired at the discretion of the instructor. Classes that have not yet begun will resume 30 minutes after the tornado warning has expired provided at least half of the class period remains.

**Disability Statement**

If you are registered with the Office of Disability Services, please make an appointment with me as soon as possible to discuss any course accommodations that may be necessary.

If you have a disability, but have not contacted the Office of Disability Services, please call (205) 348-4285 (Voice) or (205) 348-3081 (TTY) or visit 133-B Martha Parham Hall East to register for services. Students who may need course adaptations because of a disability are welcome to make an appointment to see me during office hours. Students with disabilities must be registered with the Office of Disability Services, 133-B Martha Parham Hall East, before receiving academic adjustments.

**Policy on Academic Misconduct**

All students in attendance at The University of Alabama are expected to be honorable and to observe standards of conduct appropriate to a community of scholars. The University of Alabama expects from its students a higher standard of conduct than the minimum required to avoid discipline. At the beginning of each semester and on examinations and projects, the professor, department, or division may require that each student sign the following Academic Honor Pledge: "I promise or affirm that I will not at any time be
involved with cheating, plagiarism, fabrication, or misrepresentation while enrolled as a student at The University of Alabama. I have read the Academic Honor Code, which explains disciplinary procedure resulting from the aforementioned. I understand that violation of this code will result in penalties as severe as indefinite suspension from the University."

See the Code of Student Conduct for more information.