

Introduction to Physical Anthropology

Anth001 & 001H





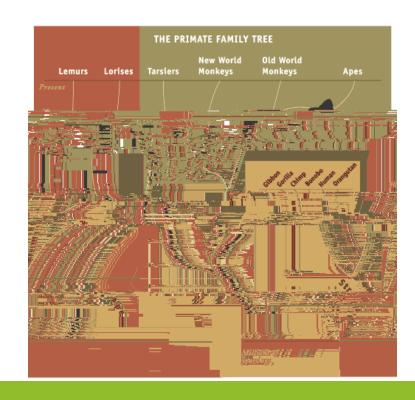
Office Hours

Mon./Wed.: 10:00 to 10:30AM PLEASE, PLEASE COME to my office hours I always enjoy your company.

Contact me

Email: wolfjohn@hda.edu
Or wolfj@stanford.edu

Office: 3102 OR 3103 (Lab)

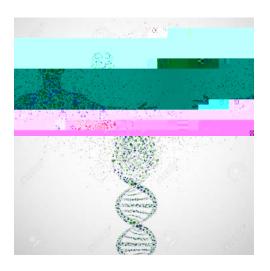


Instructor: John W. Wolf

Course Description

Anthropology, in the broadest sense, is concerned with the study of humanity. This study includes an examination of the place of humans in the animal kingdom, how we got to where we are today, and why we are unique among animals. The course focuses on humans as a biological species. As such, we will examine basic evolutionary processes and their application to the development of modern human beings, commencing with our earliest primate ancestors. This includes an overview of the forces of evolution and the process of genetic inheritance. A distinguishing characteristic of humans is their reliance on cultural rather than instinctive behaviors, so we will examine the fossil and archaeological records in order to understand the path and pattern of human biological evolution and the emergence of cultural behavior. The course includes an examination of physical anthropology's relevance to contemporary social issues (e.g., famine, diversity, racism, dimate change, and war).

Teaching Philosophy



All that is valuable in human society depends upon the opportunity for development accorded

~Albert Einstein

the individual.

In line with my student and teacher expectations, my teaching philosophy and methods are important to understand in order to succeed in this course.

- I believe in transparency, meaning I have nothing to hide from you and you have nothing to hide from me. I will explain the methods of grading. If you have any questions please respectfully ask. I expect the same honesty from you. Together we can build and maintain a successful quarter.
- Everyone has the right and ability to be successful in this course. I will provide you with multiple pathways to achieve success. You just have to follow through on them. Take charge of your learning, it is your responsibility.
- I try to infuse each course with diversity. The need for a diversified education is increasing with our growing multicultural society. In my courses, I promote a safe climate where we examine content from multiple cultural perspectives.

'Tis an ill wind that blows no minds.

~Malaclypse the Younger

Student Learning Objectives (SLOs)

- 1. Adopt the framework of Evolutionary Theory to evaluate biological change over time.
- 2. Define scientific inquiry and its methods.
- 3. Utilize a technical vocabulary to discuss the cornerstones of physical anthropology (genetics, primatology, the fossil record, and modern human variation).
- 4. Explain ancient and modern human variation in biocultural terms.
- 5. Evaluate the impact of human evolution on past, present, and future environments.

Web Page for Notes, Announcements, etc. - http://sites.google.com/site/wolf2009site/

Academic Integrity, Cheating, & Plagiarism

Most students do not fully understand what cheating is. Therefore, I have provided a description of what I view as cheating and plagiarizing. If you put an idea, statistics, or quote in your writing assignments that is from another source, absolutely cite the source. If you do not cite a direct quote or even a paraphrased quote, this will be considered plagiarism, you will receive an F on the paper, perhaps an F for the course, and your actions will be reported to Foothill College officials. The same applies to copying answers during an exam. It is my policy, and the college's policy that cheating and plagiarism are strictly prohibited. Any student that is caught cheating on an exam or plagiarizing on a paper will be reported to the academic dean. Moral of the story, cite and reference your work appropriately. For more information, consult the student handbook at http://www.foothill.edu/services/handbook/index.php.

Human Relations

I, as the instructor, and you, as the student, <u>will not</u> engage in any unfair discrimination based on age, gender, gender identity, race, ethnicity, culture, national origin, religion, sexual orientation, socioeconomic status, or any basis proscribed by law. In the content of this course, I will often address issues of gender, sexual orientation and culture. To promote a safe learning environment I will expect you to adhere strictly to the above code.

American Disabilities Act (ADA) Compliance

If there is any student who has special needs because of a disability, please go directly to the Disability Resource Center (DRC) located in Building 5400. Office hours are held between 8:00am and 7:00pm Monday and Tuesday; between 8:00am and 5:00pm Wednesday and Thursday; and between 8:00am and 3:00pm Friday.

Use *Clockwork* (http://www.foothill.edu/drc/clockwork.php) for accommodation requests and scheduling accommodation exams.

Textbook:

Essentials of Physical Anthropology, 3rd Edition (2015), Clark Spencer Larsen.

Primate Observation Paper

One of the ways that physical anthropologists approach the understanding of ancient and modern human social and cultural behavior is th

Grading Criteria & Policies (Regular) - 400 points

The primate observation paper is to be submitted in class. Late submissions will result in 5 points deducted for each class period the paper is late. This applies to Regular & Honors. See Honors points (500) on page 7.

		Learning	Final Point	Letter Grade
Assignments	Points	Objectives	Total	Equivalent
Midterm #1	100	1-5	400-360	A+ to A-
Midterm #2	100	1-5	359-320	B+ to B-
Final Exam	100	1-5	319-280	C+ to C-
Primate Observation Paper	100	2 and 3	279-240	D+ to D-

Any "curve" adjustments and plus-minus thresholds will be determined and explained as we progress. Class participation is important, but I am less concerned that you offer the "right answer" to every question in class (I have the exams for that measure) than I am in knowing

Week	Topic	Text Readings & Videos			
1. Sep. 24	Introduction: Physical Anthropology & Evolution	Chapters 1 & 2; Video: Why Sex?			
2. Oct. 1	Evolution and Heredity	Chapters 3 & 4			
3. Oct. 8	Macroevolution, Variation & Adaptation; Population Genetics	Chapters 5; Video: <i>Kuru</i>			
4. Oct. 15	Population Genetics continued; Bones/Skeleton	Chapter 6 & Appendix: "The Skeleton"			
5. Oct. 22	Modern Primates: Taxonomy, Morphology and Behavior	Chapters 6 continued & 7; Video: <i>Mountain Gorilla</i>			
OCTOBER 29th: MIDTERM #1					
6. Oct. 29	Fossils; Dating; Primate evolution	Chapter 8 & 9			
7. Nov. 5	Early "Hominin" Evolution	Chapter 10; Video: <i>Walking with Cavemen, Part 1</i>			
8. Nov. 12	Homo erectus and Homo heidelbergensis	Chapter 11; Video: <i>Walking with Cavemen, Part 2</i>			
NOVEMBER 21st: MIDTERM #2					
9. Nov. 19	Neanderthals and Anatomically Modern Humans	Chapter 12			
10. Nov. 26	Behaviorally Modern Humans; Upper Paleolithic; PAPER DUE: NOV 28 th	Continue Chapter 12; Video: <i>The Mind's Big Bang</i>			
11. Dec. 3	Peopling of the New World; Origins of Agriculture; Human Life: Present & Future	Chapters 13; Video: TBA			
FINAL EXAM: DECEMBER 10th 8:00AM - 10:00AM					
I reserve the right to revise the course schedule if necessary.					

REACTION PAPER SCHEDULE, READINGS, GRADING FOR HONORS STUDENTS:

CTD. SPECIFIC INSTRUION PS