
ANTH 201 (LEC01)
Introduction to Biological Anthropology
GFC Hours 3-0
Spring 2024

Prerequisite(s): None

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is designed to introduce students to the diverse areas of study that comprise the field of biological anthropology. Topics include evolutionary processes, primate and human evolution, as well as modern human diversity. Students will gain an appreciation of what biological anthropology is and how it contributes to our understanding of who humans are as a species, when we emerged onto the global landscape, and what our bones, bodies and historical artifacts can tell us about how we came to be here. A number of interesting concepts are discussed throughout this class, and students should be prepared to memorise new terms.

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

The Department of Anthropology and Archaeology is committed to student knowledge and skill development.

Upon completion of this course, students should be able to:

1. Understand the development of evolutionary thought in the Western world, and our current understanding of the mechanisms of evolutionary change.
2. Be knowledgeable about our current understanding of the mechanisms of evolutionary change, including basic genetics and the processes involved in the evolution of new species.
3. Recognize our place in nature with respect to other animals in the order Primates, and appreciate why we study primates as biological anthropologists.

4. Be familiar with the complex path of human evolution and what led to the divergence of the line that ultimately led to modern humans.
5. Understand the biological diversity of modern humans and some of the modern applications of biological anthropology.
6. Be informed consumers of media releases related to biological anthropology.
7. Be able to engage in informed discussions about the legacy and prospects for our species.

READINGS AND TEXTBOOKS:

- Required: Shook, B., Braff, L., Nelson, K., & Aguilera, K. (2023) Explorations: An Open Invitation to Biological Anthropology. 2nd Edition. American Anthropological Association.
- This ebook is freely available at: <https://pressbooks.calstate.edu/explorationsbioanth2/>
 - I will post this link on D2L as well as copies assigned chapters in PDF format.

REQUIRED TECHNOLOGY and EQUIPMENT:

- A device (computer/tablet/smartphone) with a supported operating system, as well as the latest security and malware updates.
- A **Top Hat Account**: Accounts can be set up at <https://app.tophat.com/register/student/>. The join code and password for the course is TBA.
- There is a D2L site for this course which contains information on assignments and other relevant class resources and materials (see <https://d2l.ucalgary.ca>).

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND ASSESSMENT

Lecture Top Hat Questions – 10% – in-person throughout the semester

- 2-4 multiple-choice questions on Top Hat will be presented at each lecture based on content covered on days with assigned readings (see attached schedule).
- Scoring will be based 50% on answer correctness and 50% on completion.
- Each student's Top Hat score will be the average of their best 7 of 9 Top Hat scores throughout the term (i.e., the lowest 2 of 9 scores will be dropped from the gradebook at the end of the term).

Exam 1 – 30% – May 22nd

- This is a 75-minute exam that will take place in class. It is closed book.
- The exam will cover material from lectures and readings assigned in the first two weeks of the course (May 6th – May 15th, inclusive).
- The format will be a mixture of multiple-choice, true/false, and short-answer questions (written response and/or fill-in-the-blank).

Exam 2 – 25% – June 3rd

- This is a 75-minute exam that will take place in class. It is closed book.
- The exam will cover material from lectures, films, and assigned readings for Weeks 3-4 of the course (May 22nd – May 29th, inclusive).

- The format will be a mixture of multiple-choice, true/false, and short-answer questions (written response and/or fill-in-the-blank).

Final Exam – 35% – TBD by Registrar (June 19-22)

- This is a 90-minute exam that will be scheduled by the registrar.
- The exam will primarily cover material from lectures, films, and assigned readings for Weeks 5-7 of the course (approximately 80%). Some content on the final will be cumulative, covering material from the first four weeks of the course (~20%).
- The format will be a mixture of multiple-choice, true/false, and short-answer questions (written response and/or fill-in-the-blank).

Absence, Deferral, and Grading Policies

- Exams and Top Hat quizzes may only be deferred in the case of serious illness or medical emergency, religious observance, or domestic affliction (see: <https://calendar.ucalgary.ca/uofcregs/university-regulations/additional-regulations>)
- The instructor must be notified **before** the exam, if at all possible. In all cases, **the instructor must be contacted by email within 48 hours of the missed assessment.** Students who do not contact the instructor within this 48-hour period forfeit the right to a makeup assessment and will receive a mark of zero for that item.
- For students with approved make-ups, students will be given the option of transferring the weight of a missed exam to a remaining exam (note that this option does not apply to the registrar scheduled final exam).
- Alternatively, once approved by the instructor, the makeup exam must be written within two weeks of the missed exam at a time scheduled by the instructor. **Make-up exams will differ in format and content from the original in-class version of the exam; make-up exams are primarily short- and long-answer format** (written questions, fill-in-the-blank, etc.).
- For all students, Top Hat marks for the term will be based on the best 7 of 9 Top Hat scores. As such, students may miss up to 2 lectures with Top Hat questions during the term for any reason without penalty – **the instructor does not need to be notified for absences on these days.**
- Students may choose to provide supporting documentation for an exemption/special request. Students are encouraged to submit documentation that will best support their situation. Falsification of any supporting documentation will be taken very seriously and may result in disciplinary action through the Academic Discipline regulations or the Student Non-Academic Misconduct policy.
- Deferral of the registrar-scheduled final exam requires registrar approval. <https://calendar.ucalgary.ca/pages/OHUIvEJ5b8S4BwpcGFzW>
- Grades will be posted on D2L as quickly as possible. Exams will not be returned to students. If you wish to see your exam, please come to office hours (in person).
- If you have questions about the grading of your exam or assignment, please approach the instructor. After consultation, you may dispute a grade by submitting a written

statement within ten business days of receiving the grade, in keeping with the following university policies:

Reappraisal of Graded Term Work: <https://calendar.ucalgary.ca/uofcregs/university-regulations/reappraisal-term-work>

Reappraisal of Final Grade:

<https://calendar.ucalgary.ca/pages/030b5a67a21048c7b4e6a5d167c628d8>

Department of Anthropology and Archaeology Grading Scheme:

| | | | | | | | |
|----|------------|----|------------|----|------------|----|------------|
| A+ | 95 – 100% | B+ | 80 – 84.9% | C+ | 67 – 70.9% | D+ | 55 – 58.9% |
| A | 90 – 94.9% | B | 75 – 79.9% | C | 63 – 66.9% | D | 50 – 54.9% |
| A- | 85 – 89.9% | B- | 71 – 74.9% | C- | 59 – 62.9% | F | < 50% |

****Please note that no extra credit or ‘make up’ work is available in this class. You do not need to pass each course component to earn a passing grade in the class.****

Land Acknowledgement

The University of Calgary, located in the heart of Southern Alberta, both acknowledges and pays tribute to the traditional territories of the peoples of Treaty 7, which include the Blackfoot Confederacy (comprised of the Siksika, the Piikani, and the Kainai First Nations), the Tsuut’ina First Nation, and the Stoney Nakoda (including Chiniki, Bearspaw, and Goodstoney First Nations). The City of Calgary is also home to the Métis Nation of Alberta (Districts 5 and 6).

Acknowledgment and Respect for Diversity

The Department of Anthropology and Archaeology views diversity of identity as a strength and resource. Your experiences and different perspectives are encouraged and add to a rich learning environment that fosters critical thought through respectful discussion and inclusion.

COURSE POLICIES

Course Communication Policy

- All course communications should occur through your @ucalgary email. I will respond to emails within 48 hours (weekends and holidays excluded).
- **Please include “ANTH 201” in the subject line.**
- I reserve the right to share questions and answers transmitted over email on D2L or in class (with identifying information redacted) if the answers are pertinent to everyone in the class. This saves time and ensures that all students have access to the same information as they prepare for assessments.
- **Before emailing a question, please make sure that it has not already been addressed in the course outline, assignment handouts, or on D2L.**

Attendance and Participation Expectations

- Students are expected to attend in-person lectures regularly. Classroom materials missed due to absenteeism are the sole responsibility of the students.
- While attending lectures, please keep technology use limited to course activities and silence phone notifications and sound. If possible, the use of hand-written notetaking or flat surface devices with a stylus (i.e., no visual distraction to others) is encouraged over the use of laptops during class.
- Please refrain from conversing with classmates in side-conversations during lectures. If you are discussing lecture material, please raise your hand to share the comment or question, as that will benefit the whole class. Relevant interruptions are always welcome!

UNIVERSITY POLICIES

ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATIONS

Students seeking an accommodation based on disability or medical concerns should contact Student Accessibility Services; SAS will process the request and issue letters of accommodation to instructors. For additional information on support services and accommodations for students with disabilities, visit <https://live-ucalgary.ucalgary.ca/student-services/access>. Students who require an accommodation in relation to their coursework based on a protected ground other than disability should communicate this need in writing to their Instructor or the Department Head. The full policy on Student Accommodations is available at <https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/sites/default/files/teams/1/Policies-Student-Accommodation-Policy.pdf>

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY POLICY

Academic integrity is the foundation of the development and acquisition of knowledge and is based on values of honesty, trust, responsibility, and respect. We expect members of our community to act with integrity. The University Calendar includes a statement on the principles of conduct expected of all members of the university community (including students, faculty, administrators, any category of staff, practicum supervisors, and volunteers), whether on or off university property. This statement applies in all situations where members of the university community are acting in their university capacities. All members of the university community have a responsibility to familiarize themselves with the principles of conduct statement, which is available at: <https://calendar.ucalgary.ca/pages/eb50d7931bba4da5942de21f51d1f514>

ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT

The University of Calgary is committed to the highest standards of academic integrity and honesty. Students are expected to be familiar with these standards regarding academic honesty and to uphold the policies of the University in this respect.

Academic dishonesty is not an acceptable activity at the University of Calgary, and students are **strongly advised** to read the Student Misconduct section in the University Calendar at: <https://calendar.ucalgary.ca/pages/5cf94d4967644957aa0dcfad8a130432>.

Often, students are unaware of what constitutes academic dishonesty or plagiarism. The most common are (1) presenting another student's work as your own, (2) presenting an author's work or ideas as your own without adequate citation, and (3) using work completed for another course. Such activities will not be tolerated in this course, and students suspected of academic misconduct will be dealt with according to the procedures outlined in the calendar at: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/university-policies-procedures/student-academic-misconduct-procedure>

For students wishing to know more about what constitutes plagiarism and how to properly cite the work of others, the Department of Geography recommends that they attend Academic Integrity workshops offered through the Student Success Centre: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/student-services/student-success/learning/academic-integrity>

INSTRUCTOR INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

Course materials created by professor(s) (including course outlines, presentations and posted notes, labs, case studies, assignments and exams) remain the intellectual property of the professor(s). These materials may NOT be reproduced, redistributed or copied without the explicit consent of the professor. The posting of course materials to third party websites such as note-sharing sites without permission is prohibited. Sharing of extracts of these course materials with other students enrolled in the course at the same time may be allowed under fair dealing. Information on Instructor Intellectual Property can be found at <https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/university-policies-procedures/intellectual-property-policy>

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION AND PROTECTION OF PRIVACY ACT

Student information will be collected in accordance with typical (or usual) classroom practice. Students' assignments will be accessible only by the authorized course faculty. Private information related to the individual student is treated with the utmost regard by the faculty at the University of Calgary.

COPYRIGHT LEGISLATION

All students are required to read the University of Calgary policy on Acceptable Use of Material Protected by Copyright (<https://ucalgary.ca/legal-services/university-policies-procedures/acceptable-use-material-protected-copyright-policy>) and requirements of the copyright act (<https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/C-42/index.html>) to ensure they are aware of the consequences of unauthorized sharing of course materials (including instructor notes, electronic versions of textbooks, etc.). Students who use material protected by copyright in violation of this policy may be disciplined under the Non-Academic Misconduct Policy.

SUPPORTS FOR STUDENT LEARNING, SUCCESS, AND SAFETY

Please visit the Registrar's website at: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/registration/course-outlines> for additional important information on the following:

- Wellness and Mental Health Resources
- Student Success Centre
- Student Ombuds Office
- Student Union (SU) Information
- Graduate Students' Association (GSA) Information
- Emergency Evacuation/Assembly Points
- Safewalk

TENTATIVE CLASS SCHEDULE

**** Please note that lecture content and readings may be adjusted throughout the term.****

| Week | Date | Topic | Top Hat | Reading |
|------|----------|---|---------|--------------------|
| 1 | M May 6 | Course Overview, Intro to Biological Anthropology | | |
| | W May 8 | History of Evolutionary Theory | ✓ | Ch 1 & 2 |
| 2 | M May 13 | Molecular Biology & Genetics | ✓ | Ch 3 |
| | W May 15 | Forces of Evolution | ✓ | Ch 4 |
| 3 | M May 20 | <i>Victoria Day - No class</i> | | |
| | W May 22 | Exam 1, Film: BBC Life – Primates | | |
| 4 | M May 27 | Meet the Living Primates, Primate Ecology & Behavior | ✓ | Ch 5 & 6 |
| | W May 29 | Studying the Fossil Record, Primate Evolution | ✓ | Ch 7 & 8 |
| 5 | M Jun 3 | Exam 2, Film: Becoming Human, part 1 | | |
| | W Jun 5 | Early Hominins, Film: Becoming Human, part 2 | ✓ | Ch 9 & 10 |
| 6 | M Jun 10 | Genus <i>Homo</i> | ✓ | Ch 11 & 12 |
| | W Jun 12 | Human Variation & Race Film: The Biology of Skin Color | ✓ | Ch 13 & 14 |
| 7 | M Jun 17 | Human Biology & Health, Human Behavioral Ecology | ✓ | Ch 16 & Appendix C |
| | Date TBD | Registrar Scheduled Final Exam | | |

IMPORTANT DATES

| | |
|----------|--|
| W May 1 | Start of term |
| M May 6 | Start of Classes |
| R May 9 | Last day to drop a class without a financial penalty. Last day to add or swap a course |
| T May 14 | Fee payment deadline. |
| M May 20 | Victoria Day No Classes. |
| M Jun 17 | End of classes |

| | |
|-----------|-------------------------------------|
| | Last day to withdraw from a course. |
| W Jun 19 | Start of Exams |
| Sa Jun 22 | End of Exams |
| Su Jun 23 | End of term |

<https://calendar.ucalgary.ca/uofcregs/acadsched>