



**ARKY 617**  
**Theory and its Application in Biological Anthropology, Fall 2023**  
**GFC Hours 3-0**

<b>Instructor:</b>	Dr. Vivek V. Venkataraman	<b>Lecture Location:</b>	ES 614
<b>Phone:</b>	403-220-2665	<b>Lecture Days/Time:</b>	Wed 2:00-4:45pm
<b>Email:</b>	vivek.venkataraman@ucalgary.ca		
<b>Office:</b>	ES 852		
<b>Office Hours:</b>	Thurs 1-2pm		

---

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

Biological anthropology in the 21st century is multi-disciplinary, often drawing on theoretical frameworks from other fields such as biology and economics. This course explores the diverse theoretical underpinnings of research in biological anthropology. We will read primary literature on both human and nonhuman primates using a biocultural approach, striving to identify how empirical work connects to theoretical concepts, and to explore commonalities and differences in how evolutionary theory is applied across the primate order.

**Prerequisite(s):** None

**READINGS AND TEXTBOOKS:**

There is no textbook. Required readings include a mix of free online resources and articles from scientific journals. You can find these readings on D2L.

**REQUIRED TECHNOLOGY and EQUIPMENT:**

Students will need an internet connection to access course materials on D2L.

**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. Describe the history and status of evolutionary theory in biological anthropology
2. Engage with, construct, and critique formal models in various branches of biological anthropology
3. Apply evolutionary theory and models in their own research topic in a compelling and rigorous manner
4. Improve presentation and discussion skills.

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND ASSESSMENT**

**Response papers - 50%** - Response papers are due one day before class each week. These papers should be no longer than one single page. These response papers should demonstrate not only that you have done the reading, but also that you have grappled deeply with the issues

at hand. The response paper should not be a summary but should instead articulate some thesis or opinion about the work that is supported with evidence from the assigned readings. These papers will form the basis for class discussions. At the end of the semester, your lowest grade will be dropped.

**Participation - 20%** - All students are expected to read the assigned material and be ready to engage in thoughtful discussion and debate. One student is expected to lead the discussion each week; students are encouraged to consult with the instructor during preparation to lead class.

**Final paper - 30%** - Due Dec 15; 10-page double-spaced research paper on topic approved by instructor.

**Department of Anthropology and Archaeology Grading Scheme:**

A+	95 – 100%	B	75 – 79.9%	C-	59 – 62.9%
A	90 – 94.9%	B-	71 – 74.9%	D+	55 – 58.9%
A-	85 – 89.9%	C+	67 – 70.9%	D	50 – 54.9%
B+	80– 84.9%	C	63 – 66.9%	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 Region 3.

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT 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.

**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: [www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k.html](http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k.html).

## **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: [www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k-3.html](http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k-3.html). 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
- Emergency Evacuation/Assembly Points
- Safewalk

### **TENTATIVE CLASS SCHEDULE**

Class topics (topics may change at instructor's discretion)	
Sep 6	Introduction
Sep 13	Theory and models
Sep 20	Adaptation I
Sep 27	Adaptation II
Oct 4	Primate socioecology
Oct 11	Primate models in human evolution
Oct 18	Behavioral ecology and foraging theory
Oct 25	Hominin origins
Nov 1	Life history
Nov 8	Cooperation I
Nov 12-18	Term Break; No Classes
Nov 22	Cooperation II
Nov 29	Cultural evolution and group selection
Dec 6	Course summary

### **IMPORTANT DATES**

M Sept 4	Labour Day, No Classes
T Sept 5	Start of Classes
R Sept 14	Last day to drop a class without a financial penalty
F Sept 15	Last day to add or swap a course
F Sept 22	Fee payment deadline for Fall Term full and half courses.
S Sept 30	National Truth and Reconciliation Day
M Oct 9	Thanksgiving Day, No Classes.
M Nov 13	Remembrance Day Observance
Nov 12-18	Reading Break. No classes.
W Dec 6	Fall Term Lectures End. Last day to withdraw with permission from Fall Term half courses.

Dec 9-20	Fall Final Exam Period.
Dec 25-31	Holiday Observance, University Closed.

<https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/academic-schedule.html#fall2017>