

CUYAMACA COLLEGE
COURSE OUTLINE OF RECORD

ANTHROPOLOGY 130 – INTRODUCTION TO BIOLOGICAL ANTHROPOLOGY

3 hours lecture, 3 units

Catalog Description

People's place in nature; physical and behavioral characteristics of primates; principles of evolution and basic outline of human genetics; description of the record of early humans and explanation of fossils; present day variability among human populations.

Prerequisite

None

Course Content

- 1) Physical anthropology and other sciences
 - a. Definition of physical anthropology
 - b. Main subfields
 - c. Anthropological perspective
 - d. Application of the scientific method
- 2) Evolutionary theory
 - a. Development of evolutionary theory
 - b. Early Ideas
 - c. Notable scholars
- 3) Contemporary evolutionary theory
 - a. Natural selection
 - b. Differential reproductive fitness
- 4) The primate order and the emergence of hominids
 - a. Primate evolution
 - b. The living primates
 - c. Nonhuman primate adaptations
 - d. Social behavior of nonhuman primates
- 5) Hominid Evolution
 - a. Hominid Origins
 - b. *Homo erectus*
 - c. Premodern Humans
 - d. Neanderthals
 - e. Archaic *Homo sapiens*
- 6) Biological and cultural diversity of *Homo sapiens*
 - a. Changes in cranial capacity and skull shape
 - b. Skeletal adaptations to bipedalism
 - c. Open plain hunting strategies
 - d. Evolutionary significance of human variation

Course Objectives

Students will be able to:

- 1) Identify key terms and analyze perspectives in physical anthropology.
- 2) Distinguish evidence and issues pertaining to the scientific investigation of the human species.
- 3) Analyze the interaction of genetic and cultural factors as they relate to human behavior.

- 4) Differentiate between hypotheses relating to human evolution, extinct hominids and the fossil record.
- 5) Compare and contrast the physical and cultural variations among modern human populations.
- 6) Recognize and describe the similarities and differences between microevolution, macroevolution, and speciation.
- 7) Describe the importance of the concept of culture as it relates to adaptive strategies of non-human primates and humans.
- 8) Utilize critical thinking skills to analyze current breakthroughs, trends or discoveries pertaining to physical anthropology.

Method of Evaluation

A grading system will be established by the instructor and implemented uniformly. Grades will be based on demonstrated proficiency in subject matter determined by multiple measurements for evaluation, one of which must be essay exams, skills demonstration or, where appropriate, the symbol system.

- 1) Quizzes and exams that measure student's ability to recognize, describe, explain, and provide examples of the various topics, information, and issues related to the study of physical anthropology.
- 2) Write analytical papers that assess students' ability to recognize hypotheses, organize information, and interpret the major themes, issues, and perspectives of physical anthropology
- 3) Group activities and class discussions which evaluate students' ability to analyze key perspectives and current breakthroughs in physical anthropology.
- 4) Written exams that assess students' ability to compare and contrast microevolution, macroevolution and speciation and physical and cultural variations among human populations.

Special Materials Required of Student

None

Minimum Instructional Facilities

- 1) Smart classroom
- 2) Learning Resource Center
- 3) Casts of fossils and model of human skeleton

Method of Instruction

- 1) Lecture and discussion
- 2) Small and large group discussion
- 3) Guest speakers
- 4) Individual and group projects, structured in-class exercises
- 5) Library materials and Internet exploration; other computerized instruction
- 6) Auxiliary use of study groups, peer tutoring and/or instructor office hours

Out-of-Class Assignments

- 1) Field trips and written observations
- 2) Research papers
- 3) Reading and reviewing course material

Texts and References

- 1) Required (representative examples):
 - a. Park, Michael Alan. *Biological Anthropology*. 7th edition. McGraw-Hill, 2012.
 - b. Fuentes, Agustin. *Biological Anthropology: Concepts and Connections*. 3rd edition. McGraw-Hill, 2018.
 - c. Jurmain, et al. *Essentials of Physical Anthropology*. 10th edition. Cengage Learning, 2017.
- 2) Supplemental: None

Student Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- 1) Identify the various scientific methods used to the study of physical anthropological analysis of the human species.
- 2) Evaluate hypotheses pertaining to the exploration of extinct human populations and their evolution to modern humans.
- 3) Compare and contrast various scientific breakthroughs and how they have changed the understanding of adaptive strategies of early humans and primates leading to the development of modern human culture.