

Anthropology 1

BIOLOGICAL ANTHROPOLOGY

Spring 2020

Sec. 4086: MW 10:30 pm to 12:00 pm, Classroom: 4246 Doyle Library

Instructor: Kent Wisniewski, Ph.D.

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Office: 1539A Emeritus Hall

Office Hours: MW 12:15 pm to 1:15 pm, TTH. 3 to 3:30 pm., or by appointment

Course Description:

In this course, we will survey the human fossil record, primate social behavior and comparative anatomy, human biology and genetics as well as human diversity more generally. We will also explore the impact of human evolution on early and future global environments and examine issues surrounding the future adaptation of our species. We will do this through lectures, readings, and documentary films.

Course Texts:

Our Origins: Discovering Physical Anthropology (4th edition) by Clark Spencer Larsen is the main text for the course and it offers a comprehensive and informative introduction to the core concepts of biological (physical) anthropology. It is available at the SRJC campus bookstores. There will also be several additional required readings listed on the course schedule and these will be available in electronic form via the course management website for the course called Canvas. You can access Canvas through your SRJC portal or via the following link: [Canvas Login](#).

Course Requirements:

Final grades will depend on full participation in classes, completion of papers and assignments as well as exams. This means that consistent attendance, completion of readings and class exercises, and a willingness to contribute to class discussions are all part of achieving a good grade. The assignments for the course include three hourly exams and a final exam, one research-based written assignment and two map quizzes. The requirements break down as follows with 1000 total points for the course:

- 175 pts - Exam #1
- 175 pts - Exam #2
- 175 pts - Exam #3
- 175 pts - Final Exam
- 200 pts - Article Review Paper
- 100 pts - 2 Map Quizzes

Grading: All assignments are graded on the following scale:

- 90-100% – A
- 80-89% – B
- 70-79% – C
- 60-69% – D

59% and below – F

I give each assignment a numerical score that I later use to make the final grade calculations at the end of the course. When a student's score falls on the border between two grades the score will be rounded up. (i.e. 89.5% rounded to 90%).

Map Quizzes: During the semester we will have two Map Quizzes that make-up 10% or 100 points of your overall grade for the course. You will find the maps and information on which these quizzes will be based posted as electronic files on the Canvas site well before the quiz is scheduled in class.

Article Review Paper (worth 20% or 200 points): Your assignment is to choose, read, and write a review of a **scholarly, research-based** article that covers a topic of interest to physical anthropologists (and of interest to you!). Topics include (but are not limited to):

1. Human biological variation (genetics) past and present
2. The study of living and fossil primates as our closest evolutionary relatives.
3. The theories of human evolutionary origins.
4. The biological and cultural adaptations of our hominin ancestors and early modern humans.
5. Human forensic science.

The list of possible topics is truly long. Looking through the textbook or doing an internet search might help you find an interesting topic. However, once you identify a topic that holds your interest, **the SRJC libraries website is the best place to start.** There you can access a large number of powerful electronic databases that you can use to locate a **scholarly, research-based article** on your topic of interest. A good place to start your search is the database called *Academic Search Complete*.

A scholarly, researched-based article must come from a **peer-reviewed journal** and **not** a popular magazine (For example: *National Geographic*, *Scientific American*, and *Discover Magazine* are great science magazines, but they are **not** peer-reviewed journals). If you are not certain if an article qualifies check with me. You can send it to me as an email attachment or show it to me in office hours for prior approval.

Paper Structure: The purpose of your paper is NOT to simply rewrite what is already stated. Instead, your paper should do the following:

1. Introduce the article by stating the title and the authors' names at some point and then briefly describe how the topic is relevant to the field of biological anthropology.
2. Identify the central or critical problem(s) or issue(s) addressed by the authors of the article.
3. Identify and evaluate the kinds of evidence that the authors use to support their arguments. In other words, what kinds of data are they using to support their conclusions?
4. Evaluate the author's conclusions (Are you convinced by their arguments?) AND describe **the value** of the article to the field of biological anthropology (Is this

information important? Why? Or Why not?). In this section, give your opinion based on what has been presented to you in the article.

Note: For this assignment, do not use extensive quotes from authors. Write in your own words.

Paper Format:

1. Papers will be **typed, double-spaced, with numbered pages** (do not use fonts greater than 12 point).
2. The **text length** of your paper will be a **minimum of three pages**.
3. You are to upload an electronic copy of the article you review on the Canvas site along with your paper. A link to the article is NOT acceptable. Since you are providing a copy of the article, no “Works Cited” page is necessary.

Due Dates: The Article Review Paper is due on Canvas, W 4/30 by 11:59 pm. You will find the full assignment prompt on the Canvas site as well.

Grading: Papers will be graded on how well the above instructions are followed in both **TOPIC** and **FORMAT**. Failure to follow instructions will result in a lower or failing grade.

Plagiarism: Plagiarism will not be tolerated! **Your work must be your own!**

- You will not use or copy other students’ work, nor do you offer your work to another student.
- You will not copy authors’ statements and use them as your own. What you write must be in your own words.
- Plagiarism will result in a **failing grade!**

Classroom Expectations and Policies

1. I do my best to treat the students in my classroom with respect and I expect them to do the same for me and their fellow classmates. Therefore, using cell phones, text-messaging, reading newspapers, checking your social media account or performing other extraneous activities or disruptive behaviors (such as chatting with your neighbor or habitual tardiness) **are not acceptable in class and may result in expulsion from the class session.**
2. I do not share lecture notes or slide presentations. However, you are certainly welcome to ask classmates for notes and I am happy to answer any questions during my office hours.
3. There are no make-up sessions for films. If you miss a film, you should ask a classmate for notes.
4. I do not give make-up exams unless there is a documented necessity for the absence.

5. I accept late written assignments up to one week after the due date. However, any late work will only be eligible for 90% of the total possible points for the assignment.

Attendance: At SRJC it is expected that students will attend every class session and be on time for the courses in which they are enrolled. Furthermore, it is SRJC policy that students with excessive absences be dropped from the course. Thus, it is my policy that any student who **exceeds three absences** (that are not excused) by our last class of Week Eight (Wednesday 3/4) shall be dropped from the course. In addition, any student who reaches **seven overall absences** in the course will automatically earn a failing grade for the course.

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities:

Please provide the Authorization for Academic Accommodations letter from the DRD to me as soon as possible if you need a disability-related accommodation for this class.

Academic Honesty:

Students are expected to abide by the code of ethics established by SRJC which states, *"Academic dishonesty is regarded as any act of deception, benign or malicious in nature, in the completion of any academic exercise. Examples of academic dishonesty include cheating, plagiarism, impersonation, misrepresentation of idea or fact for the purpose of defrauding, use of unauthorized aids or devices, falsifying attendance records, violation of testing protocol, inappropriate course assignment collaboration, and any other acts that are prohibited by the instructor of record."*

Students caught doing any of the above will receive a failing grade for the affected assignment or exam. Any further violations of this policy will result in a failing grade for the course.

Student Learning Outcomes:

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

1. Discuss the fundamental concepts of evolutionary theory, including the various mechanisms of evolution, including natural selection, genetic mutation, gene flow, genetic drift and emerging studies of epi-genetic influences.
2. Apply anthropological vocabulary and concepts to evaluate alternate phylogenies of ancient primates within a framework of evolutionary theory.
3. Analyze contemporary issues of primate evolution and survival; human health and medicine; human impacts on environments and future primate adaptation.

Course Schedule: I reserve the right to adjust the course schedule as necessary and will inform students when I do so. The password for the online readings is **DNA**.

Please bring a scantron form and a #2 pencil to class for all quizzes and exams.

Topics and Readings

- Week 1 Course Introduction/ What is Biological Anthropology?**
 M 1/13 Course Introduction
 W 1/15 Readings due: Larsen, Chap. 1
- Week 2 Epistemology, Evolution, and the Scientific Method**
 M 1/20 *Martin Luther King Jr. Day Holiday* (no class meeting)
 W 1/22 Readings due: *Shermer, "The Facts of Evolution"*
- Week 3 Darwin and Evolution / Mendel and Biological Inheritance**
 M 1/27 Readings due: Larsen, Chap. 2
 W 1/29 No readings due
- Week 4 DNA, Genes, and Evolution**
 M 2/3 Readings due: Larsen, Chap. 3
 W 2/5 Readings due: *Nesse and Williams, "Evolution and the Origins of Disease"*
- Week 5 DNA, Epigenetics, and Genetic Frontiers / Exam #1**
 M 2/10 Readings due: *Plumer et al., "A Simple Guide to CRISPR, One of the Biggest Science Stories of the Decade"*
 W 2/12 **Exam #1** (Please bring a pencil and scantron form to class.)
- Week 6 Washington's Day Holiday / Population Genetics**
 M 2/17 *Washington's Day Holiday* (no class meeting)
 W 2/19 Readings due: Larsen, Chap. 4
- Week 7 Biology and Living People**
 M 2/24 Readings due: Larsen, Chap. 5
 W 2/26 Readings due: *Marks: "Black, White, Other"*
MAP QUIZ #1 (W 2/26) see Canvas for study materials
- Week 8 Biology and Other Primates**
 M 3/2 Readings due: Larsen, Chap. 6
 W 3/4 Readings due: *Milton, Joseph, "Going Ape: An Interview with Jane Goodall"*
- Week 9 Primate Social Behavior / Exam #2**
 M 3/9 Readings due: Larsen, Chap. 7 and *de Waal, "How Animals do Business"*
 W 3/11 **Exam #2** (Please bring a scantron form and pencil to class)
- Week 10 Spring Break! (No class meetings)**
 M 3/16
 W 3/18

Week 11 Understanding the Fossil Record / Dating the Past

M 3/23 Readings due: Larsen, Chap. 8

W 3/25 No readings due

Week 12 Primate Origins and Evolution / Hominin Origins and Evolution

M 3/30 Readings due: Larsen, Chap. 9

W 4/1 Readings due: Larsen, Chap. 10

Week 13 Hominin Origins and Evolution / Homo Origins

M 4/6 Readings due: Gibbons, "Ardipithecus ramidus"

W 4/8 Readings due: Larsen, Chap. 11

*MAP QUIZ #2 (W 4/8) see Canvas Module for study materials***Week 14 Homo Origins and Evolution**

M 4/13 Readings due: Greshko, "Did This Mysterious Ape Once Live Alongside our Ancestors?"

W 4/15 No readings due

Week 15 Exam #3 / Modern People: Origins and EvolutionM 4/20 **Exam #3** (please bring a scantron and pencil to class)

W 4/22 Readings due: Larsen, Chap. 12

Week 16 Peopling of the World

M 4/27 Readings due: Zimmer, "In Neanderthal DNA, Signs of a Mysterious Human Migration"

W 4/29 No readings due

Article Review Paper due on Canvas by 11:59 pm on W (4/29)**Week 17 Agricultural Revolution / Farming and its Consequences**

M 5/4 Readings due: Larsen, Chap. 13

W 5/6 No readings due

Week 18 Humans and the Future

M 5/11 Readings due: Larsen, Chap. 14

W 5/13 Readings due: German and Pine, "The Rise of the Megacities"

Final Exam: Wednesday, 5/20 at 1 pm