



FUNDAMENTALS OF BIOLOGICAL ANTHROPOLOGY

Department of Anthropology, University of Notre Dame



COURSE: ANTH 30101
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This course provides an overview of biological anthropology, using the evolution of *Homo sapiens sapiens* as a model for discussing the myriad of topics within the subdiscipline. We will survey how the field synthesizes the biological & cultural processes at work in shaping human adaptation, past & present.

As part of the University's Green Initiative, all readings for the class are available on Concourse, as are all PowerPoint lectures and handouts. Your grades will likewise appear on Concourse as materials are completed.

The topics below usually cover several class periods. Dates are not specifically assigned per topic, to permit you to guide the depth of discussion. However, exam dates are set and will encompass the material covered up to that point. These dates will not change.



COURSE OBJECTIVES

- using primate evolution to *Homo sapiens sapiens* as a model to explore the subfields of biological anthropology;
- exploration of our evolution by means of natural selection using a form/function/adaptation approach;
- learning how to build models to understand our evolution, and our place in the natural world;
- review of major hominin fossil finds;
- development of a critical approach to the analysis of anthropology in the professional and popular press.



READINGS

All required readings appear together in Concourse, in a folder using the headings listed below. The articles provide a mix of material from the popular press (*Scientific American*, *Discover*, etc) and professional literature (*Science*, *American Journal of Physical Anthropology*, etc.). The "extras" folders are readings with further information for those interested in the topic (historic pieces, recent publications, articles you identify during the semester). You will not be responsible for these 'extras' on your exams.

FACEBOOK

Articles of interest to this class are regularly posted on the "**BioAnthropology News**" facebook group

(<http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=34315136474>)

Many of the authors of your required readings are members -- it is an excellent resource for keeping up with recent work across the broad range of topics in biological anthropology, with commentary from researchers active in the field. Information on this page will not be on your exams, but you will be responsible to keep up with the group for you article reviews (see below).



ATTENDANCE

Attendance is strongly advised and excessive absence for discussions, movies, and assignments will prove very detrimental to your final grade. Attendance will be taken randomly during the semester, as well as monitored by completion of In-Class Activities. You will fail the course after if you miss 5 classes, regardless of your grade in the class to that point.

The 3 accepted reasons for a University-sanctioned absence are (as per your Student Handbook): *"personal illness, death in the immediate family, and duties performed for the University. Under the three special circumstances noted, the assistant vice-president for residence life is responsible for verification of the reason for the absence. When an absence is approved, an official form is forwarded to the professor(s) and deans involved."*

If you miss an assignment ***you must present official documentation provided by the appropriate office on campus.*** ONLY documentation from Residential Life and/or Academic Services for Student Athletes and/or a Dean's Office will be accepted.

This **does not** include:

- job interviews
- Med/Law/Grad school interviews
- school-related exams
- early departures for Fall or Thanksgiving Break
- family reunions, weddings, birthdays, etc.

IN-CLASS ACTIVITIES

"In-class" activities will be completed during the course period. There will be several during the semester that you **will not be allowed to make-up** if you miss class; however, the assignments will be on Concourse so you can get the information for exams (ask a friend in class for the answers) – but you can not turn in the assignment after the class period for credit.

For clarity (at the risk of being redundant) – *only University accepted excused absences will be accepted.* These activities and the weekly article reviews (below) will make up 20% of your grade. In-class assignments are designed to facilitate discussion & class interaction. **No extra-credit is available to compensate for missed work.**

