

**San José State University**  
**Department of Anthropology**  
**Anth 012, Introduction to Human Evolution**  
**Code 43771, AU09**

**INSTRUCTOR: Marin Pilloud**  
**CONTACT**

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Office Hours: Tuesdays 11:00 – 13:00, CL 465

**Class Time and Location:** MW 13:30 – 14:45, WSQ 0004

**Faculty Web Page and MYSJSU Messaging**

Copies of the course materials such as the syllabus, major assignment handouts, etc. may be found on my faculty web page accessible through the Quick Links>Faculty Web Page links on the SJSU home page. You are responsible for regularly checking with the messaging system through MySJSU.

**Course Description**

Catalogue Description: The human organism from an evolutionary perspective. The foundations of life and evolutionary theory. Introduction to primate behavior and the fossil record. Human biocultural evolution over the last sixty million years.

Detailed Course Description: Introduction to Human Evolution is a course designed to allow students to appreciate the evolutionary history of our species and the biological bases that are at the foundation of this process. The course is an introductory one; thus, no specific prior knowledge is assumed. There are no prerequisites to take this course.

During the semester, students will acquire basic biological knowledge relating to molecular biology, cell reproduction, fundamental principles of micro- and macro-evolutionary theory (especially the role of natural selection), and the intellectual background leading to the development of evolutionary theory.

This foundation will then be used to explore the specific evolutionary history of major groups of organisms with a specific focus on human evolutionary history. Comparative perspectives will be incorporated so to provide a basis for understanding how humans are related to other primates (and what this implies structurally, physiologically, and behaviorally). Furthermore, data provided directly by the fossil and molecular records will be comprehensively reviewed in tracing the major features of human evolution. In summary, this course attempts to place our species in a clear evolutionary context and to ask basic questions relating to human origins, such as what kind of creature are we, how did we get to be this way, and where did we come from.

Major topics will include:

- The history of evolutionary theory
- Biological basis of life: cells, DNA, and genes
- Evolution and heredity
- Overview of primates
- Hominid/human origins
- Modern human origins
- Human variation and adaptation

ANTH 012 as a General Education Course: Anth 012 is a Science GE offering (core GE, B2/Life Science). Basic objectives for student learning in all science core GE courses are the abilities to:

- 1) use methods of science and knowledge derived from current scientific inquiry in life or physical science to question existing explanations;
- 2) demonstrate ways in which science influences and is influenced by complex societies, including political and moral issues; and
- 3) recognize methods of science, in which quantitative, analytical reasoning techniques are used.

More specifically, life science courses, such as Anth 012, focus on:

- Structure and functions of living organisms;
- Levels of organization of living systems;
- Strategies of survival and reproduction;
- Patterns of evolution;
- Principles of genetics, including the basis for variation; and
- Interaction of organisms and their natural environment.

**Departmental Learning Objectives and Skills: The department of anthropology also has key learning objectives and skills that we wish students to obtain. By the completion of this course, students should have an increased:**

- 1) Understanding of culture as the distinguishing phenomenon of human life, and the relationships of human biology and cultural processes in human behavior and evolution.
- 2) Awareness of human diversity and the ways in which humans categorize diversity.
- 3) Knowledge of the significant findings of archaeology, cultural anthropology, and physical anthropology, and familiarity of the important issues in each sub-discipline.
- 4) Knowledge of the history of anthropological thought and its place in modern intellectual history.
- 5) Comprehension of migration, colonialism, and economic integration as significant phenomena shaping global society.
- 6) Ability to access various forms of anthropological data and literature.
- 7) Awareness of the importance and value of anthropological knowledge in contemporary society, and the ability to apply it to social issues.
- 8) Knowledge of the research methods of the sub-disciplines of anthropology, and ability to apply appropriate research methods in at least one sub-discipline.
- 9) Ability to present and communicate anthropological knowledge and the results of anthropological research to different audiences.
- 10) Knowledge of political and ethical implications of social research.

**Attaining the Course Objectives/Goals: At a general level, this course is primarily about the nature of the evolutionary process, how it works, and how scientists have**

**come to understand the process (specifically to understand ourselves). The evidence relating to human evolution is used to illustrate evolutionary and biological processes (such as natural selection, reproduction, heredity, etc). In addressing the fundamental questions relating to human origins, you will be challenged to think critically, apply sound scientific methodologies, understand and assess quantitative data, and communicate your knowledge.**

At SJSU, students are encouraged to recognize that education is participatory experience. Thus, each student is expected to contribute to further refining the course objectives (so better to articulate your individual expectations and needs), to give feedback to the instructor regarding the adequacy of your learning and how well the course assessment measures that learning (and how these assessment tools can be improved). Finally, each student is challenged to be engaged in the exploration of the fascinating material covered this semester, to participate in class discussions, and to relate in assignments and exercises how you can apply these concepts to your everyday life.

The most important contribution this course can make to your education is to provide you with greater ability to think critically. As a result, this skill will contribute permanently to your further education, that is, for the remainder of your lifetime.

## **Required Texts/Readings**

### **Textbook**

- 1) Our Origins: Discovering Physical Anthropology by C. S. Larsen, 2008. ISBN: 978-0-393-97737-0
- This book is also available as an e-Book at a much reduced price – visit [nortonebooks.com](http://nortonebooks.com)

## **Library Liaison**

- Library Liaison For Anthropology: Bernice Redfern; Librarian; (408) 808-2038; [Bernice.Redfern@sjsu.edu](mailto:Bernice.Redfern@sjsu.edu)

## **Classroom Protocol**

Some lecture material will not be in the text; it is important to attend class regularly to do well in the course. Arriving to class late or leaving early is not acceptable, UNLESS discussed with the instructor ahead of time. Such behavior is disruptive and disrespectful to the instructor and the other students in the class. As attendance and participation are part of your grade, it is important to be on time and stay until the end of class. Attending class also means being present in class. Cell phone disruptions, sending text messages, sleeping, listening to headphones, and chit-chatting in class is unacceptable behavior. Please help to maintain a pleasant learning environment for all involved. Should you miss class, or plan on missing a class, get the notes from a classmate. I will not give out copies of lectures or powerpoints to students. However, I will be happy to go over any course material with you should you have any questions, either in person during office hours or via e-mail.

No early exams or quizzes will be given. Make-up exams will be at the instructor's discretion. If you miss an exam you have 24 hours to contact the instructor via e-mail or the department. Official

documentation is required (doctor's excuse, accident report, etc.) for make-ups. All make-up exams will be essay and must be taken within 1 week after the exam. Otherwise, the student will receive a "0" for that exam. Exams are based on course lectures, the textbook, films, and handouts. Refer to the course outline for the chapters and dates of the exams. If you have any conflicts with the exam dates, see the instructor immediately.

All assignments due, are due **IN CLASS**. No late assignments or e-mailed assignments will be accepted, there are no exceptions to this rule.

## Dropping and Adding

Students are responsible for understanding the policies and procedures about add/drops, academic renewal, etc. [Information on add/drops are available at http://info.sjsu.edu/web-dbgen/narr/soc-fall/rec-298.html](http://info.sjsu.edu/web-dbgen/narr/soc-fall/rec-298.html). [Information about late drop is available at http://www.sjsu.edu/sac/advising/latedrops/policy/](http://www.sjsu.edu/sac/advising/latedrops/policy/). Students should be aware of the current deadlines and penalties for adding and dropping classes.

## Assignments and Grading Policy

### Course Requirements:

- There is 1 midterm and 1 final exam, each equally weighted. The final exam will not be comprehensive. Details of exam format will be provided in advance. Generally, exams will consist of multiple choice, fill-in-the blank, short answer, and other appropriate types of questions.
- There will be two quizzes given in class, 1 during each section of the course. These quizzes will be short answer, matching, and fill-in-the blank. Students will be allowed one sheet of notes for these quizzes. Details will be provided in class.
- There will also be several in-class assignments that will require your attendance in the class and will also count towards your final grade.
- Writing Assignments: include **three (3)** take home assignments each of which will consist of 2 pages for a minimum of 500 words per assignment. The topics will be discussed in detail in class; they are designed to address the GE learning objectives (with each writing assignment covering one of the learning objectives and incorporating the content objectives in these assignments as well). **Writing assignments cannot be re-written after they have been graded.**
  - I am happy to read rough drafts and help students with their papers if they come to my office hours.
  - **Failure to turn in any of the writing assignments will result in an F in the class, regardless of achievement on other portions of the course (this is a university policy on GE courses).**

**Extra Credit:** Throughout the quarter you can accrue 20 points of extra credit by sharing with the class current media examples of evolution or biological anthropology. Newspaper articles, magazines, movie clips, or tapes from TV are all examples of sources to share. Before you can share your findings with the course it must first be approved by the instructor, and then during the next meeting time you can share what you found with the rest of the class. When you present you must also turn in a 1-page, double-spaced review of what you are sharing and why it is relevant to the course. There is a 5 minute time limit for each presentation. You may present twice in one quarter and will be awarded 10 points each time.

**Grading:**

Final grades are based on the following point scale (in percentages of total points):  
 (+/- system) A = 100-90%, B = 80-89%, C = 70-79%, D = 60-69%, F = <60%

The total points for the class are as follows:

<u>Points:</u>	
Exam 1	100
Final Exam	100
Quizzes	100
In Class Assignments	50
<u>Writing Assignments</u>	<u>3 @ 50 each = 150</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>500</b>

All the information you need to keep track of your own grade is provided in this syllabus. There are no surprises and you should at all times have a clear idea of where you stand in this class. **I WILL NOT** give out student grades via e-mail, do not ask me. E-mail is not considered a secure enough source, therefore information regarding your grade sent via e-mail is a violation of FERPA.

**Philosophy of Grading:** I do not give grades; students earn their grades. Your final grade is your responsibility. The only legitimate reason to change a grade is if there was a mistake in grading. Any questions about grading must be discussed with the instructor within the first week following the return of any graded material.

## University Policies

### Academic integrity

Students should know that the University's [Academic Integrity Policy is available at http://www.sa.sjsu.edu/download/judicial\\_affairs/Academic\\_Integrity\\_Policy\\_S07-2.pdf](http://www.sa.sjsu.edu/download/judicial_affairs/Academic_Integrity_Policy_S07-2.pdf). Your own commitment to learning, as evidenced by your enrollment at San Jose State University and the University's integrity policy, require you to be honest in all your academic course work. Faculty members are required to report all infractions to the office of Student Conduct and Ethical Development. The website for [Student Conduct and Ethical Development is available at http://www.sa.sjsu.edu/judicial\\_affairs/index.html](http://www.sa.sjsu.edu/judicial_affairs/index.html).

Instances of academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Cheating on exams or plagiarism (presenting the work of another as your own, or the use of another person's ideas without giving proper credit) will result in a failing grade and sanctions by the University. For this class, all assignments are to be completed by the individual student unless otherwise specified. If you would like to include in your assignment any material you have submitted, or plan to submit for another class, please note that SJSU's Academic Policy F06-1 requires approval of instructors.

## **CHEATING and PLAGIARISM**

- I HAVE ZERO-TOLERANCE FOR CHEATING AND PLAGIARISM; IF YOU CHEAT OR PLAGIARIZE, YOU WILL FAIL THE COURSE.
- Incidences of cheating and plagiarism will be turned into the academic integrity office.
- Students are responsible for understanding and adhering to the academic integrity policy.
- I will only discuss individual cases concerning academic integrity in my office.
- In-Class assignments and quizzes must be done in class and each student will turn in their own work.

## **Campus Policy in Compliance with the American Disabilities Act**

If you need course adaptations or accommodations because of a disability, or if you need to make special arrangements in case the building must be evacuated, please make an appointment with me as soon as possible, or see me during office hours. Presidential Directive 97-03 requires that students with disabilities requesting accommodations must register with the DRC (Disability Resource Center) to establish a record of their disability.

## **Student Technology Resources**

Computer labs for student use are available in the Academic Success Center located on the 1<sup>st</sup> floor of Clark Hall and on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of the Student Union. Additional computer labs may be available in your department/college. Computers are also available in the Martin Luther King Library.

A wide variety of audio-visual equipment is available for student checkout from Media Services located in IRC 112. These items include digital and VHS camcorders, VHS and Beta video players, 16 mm, slide, overhead, DVD, CD, and audiotape players, sound systems, wireless microphones, projection screens and monitors.

## **Learning Assistance Resource Center**

The Learning Assistance Resource Center (LARC) is located in Room 600 in the Student Services Center. It is designed to assist students in the development of their full academic potential and to motivate them to become self-directed learners. The center provides support services, such as skills assessment, individual or group tutorials, subject advising, learning assistance, summer academic preparation and basic skills development. [The LARC website is located at http://www.sjsu.edu/larc/.](http://www.sjsu.edu/larc/)

## **SJSU Writing Center**

The SJSU Writing Center is located in Room 126 in Clark Hall. It is staffed by professional instructors and upper-division or graduate-level writing specialists from each of the seven

SJSU colleges. Our writing specialists have met a rigorous GPA requirement, and they are well trained to assist all students at all levels within all disciplines to become better writers. [The Writing Center website is located at http://www.sjsu.edu/writingcenter/about/staff/](http://www.sjsu.edu/writingcenter/about/staff/).

### **Peer Mentor Center**

The Peer Mentor Center is located on the 1<sup>st</sup> floor of Clark Hall in the Academic Success Center. The Peer Mentor Center is staffed with Peer Mentors who excel in helping students manage university life, tackling problems that range from academic challenges to interpersonal struggles. On the road to graduation, Peer Mentors are navigators, offering “roadside assistance” to peers who feel a bit lost or simply need help mapping out the locations of campus resources. Peer Mentor services are free and available on a drop –in basis, no reservation required. [Website of Peer Mentor Center is located at http://www.sjsu.edu/muse/peermentor/](http://www.sjsu.edu/muse/peermentor/).

## Course Outline

This is a rough outline of what we will cover this quarter. Any changes to this schedule will be announced in class and e-mailed to students.

Week	Topics	Readings Larsen	Assignment Due
1 Aug 24	Course Introduction What is Physical Anthropology?	Ch 1	
2 Aug 31	History of Evolutionary Theory	Ch 2	
3 Sept 7	Biological Basis of Life	Ch 3	
<b>Sept 7</b>	<b>NO CLASS</b>		
4 Sept 14	continued...		<b>Sept 16 – Writing Assignment #1</b>
5 Sept 21	Population Genetics	Ch 4	
6 Sept 28	<b>QUIZ #1</b>	Ch 5	
Sept 30	Biology in the Present - Humans		
7 Oct 5	Biology in the Present – Non-human Primates	Ch 6	
<b>8 Oct 14</b>	<b>MID-TERM</b>		
9 Oct 19	Fossils	Ch 7	
10 Oct 26	Primate Evolution	Ch 8	<b>Oct 28 – Writing Assignment #2</b>
11 Nov 2	Early Hominids	Ch 9	
12 Nov 9	<b>QUIZ #2</b>		
<b>Nov 11</b>	<b>NO CLASS</b>		
13 Nov 16	Early Homo	Ch 10	
14 Nov 23	Modern Humans	Ch 11	
15 Nov 30	Farming and its Consequences	Ch 12	<b>Dec 2 – Writing Assignment #3</b>
16 Dec 7	Conclusions	Ch 13	

**FINAL EXAM: Monday December 14<sup>th</sup> 12:15 – 1:30**