

San José State University
Anthropology Department
ANTH 12, Introduction to Human Evolution, Section 4, Spring 2018

Course and Contact Information

Instructor: Amanda Feldman
Office Location: CL 402G
Telephone: 408-924-4778
Email: amanda.feldman@sjsu.edu
Office Hours: M 3:15-4:15 pm
Class Days/Time: MW 4:30-5:45 pm
Classroom: CL 202
GE/SJSU Studies Category: B2/Life Science

Course Format

Faculty Web Page and MYSJSU Messaging

This course relies heavily on Canvas for updates and materials. Course materials such as syllabus, handouts, notes, assignment instructions, etc. can be found on [Canvas Learning Management System course login website](http://sjsu.instructure.com) at <http://sjsu.instructure.com>.

Course 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. Prerequisites: None.

Student Learning Goals

Students completing this course will achieve a fuller understanding of (a) how to think scientifically, (b) how evolution works, (c) humans as primates, (d) human evolutionary history, and (e) human variation.

GE Learning Outcomes (GELO)

The GE writing requirement will be fulfilled by the completion of two 3-page essays. A hard copy of each essay must be submitted in class and submitted to turnitin.com. All written assignments and exam questions will be used to assess the GE learning outcomes.

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

LO1: use methods of science and knowledge derived from current scientific inquiry in life or physical science to question existing explanations;

LO2: demonstrate ways in which science influences and is influenced by complex societies, including political and moral issues;

LO3: recognize methods of science, in which quantitative, analytical reasoning techniques are used.

Course Learning Outcomes (CLO)

In this course, students will learn the principles of evolutionary theory and how the study of human evolutionary history, adaptation, and variation plays a fundamental role in the evolutionary processes that affect the human species. In addressing our understanding of the human condition, students will be challenged to think critically, interpret and assess the validity of scientific methodologies, examine quantitative data, and engage in class discussions.

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

CLO 1: explain the evolutionary process, how it works, and how scientists have come to understand the process (specifically to understand ourselves).

CLO 2: describe the evolutionary history of our species and the biological bases that are at the foundation of this process.

CLO3: comprehend 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.

CLO4: explain from a comparative perspective how humans are related to other primates (and what this implies structurally, physiologically, and behaviorally).

Required Texts/Readings

Textbook

Biological Anthropology, 7th Edition

ISBN: 978-0078034954

Author(s): Michael Alan Park

Published by: McGraw Hill Publishing Company

Course Requirements and Assignments

Success in this course is based on the expectation that students will spend, for each unit of credit, a minimum of 45 hours over the length of the course (normally 3 hours per unit per week with 1 of the hours used for lecture) for instruction or preparation/studying or course related activities including but not limited to completing assignments, labs, clinical practica, and so on. Other course structures will have equivalent workload expectations as described in the syllabus. More details about student workload can be found in [University Policy S12-3](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S12-3.pdf) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S12-3.pdf>.

Exams: There are two in-class midterm exams for this course. All exams are based on the textbook and lecture material. Study guides and review sessions will be provided in class prior to each exam. The green 882-e Scantron is required for both midterms.

Fossil Quiz: There is one in-class fossil quiz where students are required to match fossil replicas with the species. The green 882-e Scantron is required.

Lab Practical - Forensic Case Study: There is no final exam for this class, but completion of a final project will be required. For this project, students will be solving a forensic case and conducting a mock trial using real-world anthropological techniques. The crime scene “evidence” will be analyzed in several lab activities

relevant to the course, including the examination of skeletal remains, genetics and DNA, primatology, and other factors of human variation.

Students will be grouped into categories and will submit their preferred choice of the following groups: prosecuting team (expert witness or lawyer), defense team (expert witness or lawyer). Groups can be viewed on Canvas under the “People” tab. More detailed instructions about the project will be provided in class and uploaded on Canvas.

Case Study Report: A paper of 12, double-spaced pages will be completed and submitted on Canvas. This paper will be based on the data examined for the forensic case study project. More detailed instructions will be provided in class and uploaded on Canvas. The following standards are required: 12 point Times New Roman font, double spacing, and 1-inch margins with a title page (no abstract) and references page in APA format. Failure to comply with these standards will result in a loss of points. The case study report must be turned in by the scheduled due date.

Grading Information

To pass this course, students must receive a grade of C or higher.

Grades will be based on the following (each is graded on a scale of 100):

Exams	2 X 20%	=	40%
Fossil Quiz	1 X 15%	=	15%
Case Study Report	1 X 20%	=	20%
Lab Practical	1 X 25%	=	25%
Total			100%

Grading is as followed:

A	B	C	D	F
97% - 100% = A+	87-89% = B+	77-79% = C+	67-69% = D+	Below 60% = F
91-96% = A	81-86% = B	71-76% = C	61-66% = D	
90% = A-	80% = B-	70% = C-	60% = D-	

Make-up Work

Only students with a valid, *documented* excuse will be able to take an exam or submit an assignment late. Contact me in advance to discuss make-up work.

Classroom Protocol

Your education is your responsibility! Success in this course requires that students keep up with the material and attend class as often as possible to prepare for assignments and exams. Cellphone use is prohibited in the classroom. Laptops are permitted for note-taking only.

University Policies

Per University Policy S16-9, university-wide policy information relevant to all courses, such as academic integrity, accommodations, etc. will be available on Office of Graduate and Undergraduate Programs' [Syllabus Information web page](http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo/) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo/>

ANTH 12 / Introduction to Human Evolution, Spring 2018, Course Schedule

This schedule is subject to change with fair notice; any changes will be announced and posted to Canvas.

Course Schedule

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
1	1/24	Topics: Introduction to Course; Biological Anthropology Reading: 1-21
2	1/29	Topic: History of Evolutionary Theory Reading: 23-40
2	1/31	Topic: Natural Selection and Evolution Reading: 23-40
3	2/5	Topic: Cells, DNA, and Protein Synthesis Reading: 43-58, 364-366
3	2/7	Topic: Mendelian Genetics Reading: 43-58
4	2/12	Topic: Modern Synthesis Reading: 61-79, 367-370
4	2/14	Topic: Evidence of Evolution: The Human Skeleton Reading: <i>No reading</i>
5	2/19	Exam 1 Review
5	2/21	Exam 1
6	2/26	Topic: General Primate Characteristics Reading: <i>No reading</i> Group preference submission due on Canvas
6	2/28	Topic: Strepsirrhines and Tarsiers Reading: 117-138
7	3/5	Topic: Anthropoids Reading: 117-138
7	3/7	Topic: Apes Reading: 138-146
8	3/12	Topic: Primates as Models for Human Evolution Reading: 149-167
8	3/14	Exam 2 Review
9	3/19	Exam 2
9	3/21	<i>Lab Day 1</i> Due: In-class assignments
10	3/26 – 3/30	Spring Recess No class

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
11	4/2	Topic: The Fossil Record Reading: 83-114, 171-196
11	4/4	Topic: Early Hominids Reading: 199-210
12	4/9	Topic: Australopithecines: Graciles Reading: 210-231
12	4/11	Topic: Australopithecines: Robusts Reading: 210-231
13	4/16	Topic: Early Homo species and Homo erectus Reading: 235-259
13	4/18	Topic: Sibling species of Homo erectus, Homo heidelbergensis Reading: 259-266
14	4/23	Topic: Archaic Homo sapiens: Neanderthals Reading: 266-276
14	4/25	Fossil Quiz Topic: Origins of Modern Humans Reading: 276-294
15	4/30	Topic: Becoming Human Reading: 309-317
15	5/2	Topic: Human Variation Reading: 297-308
16	5/7	Topic: Human Variation (II) Reading: 321-345
16	5/9	<i>Lab Day 2</i> Due: In-class assignments
17	5/14	Mock Trial
Final Exam	5/16	Case Study report due by final exam date