ANTH 12
Introduction to Human Evolution

Spring 2020, Section 2 (21464)
San José State University
Department of Anthropology/ College of Social Sciences

Course and Contact Information

Instructor:	Alicia Hedges
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Office Hours:	Tuesdays and Thursdays 1:00 – 2:30pm
Class Days/Time:	Tuesdays and Thursdays 3:00 – 4:15pm
Classroom:	Washington Square Hall 004
GE/SJSU Studies Category:	GE B2: Life Science

Canvas and MYSJSU Messaging

Course materials such as syllabus, handouts, notes, assignment instructions, etc. can be found on Canvas Learning Management System course login website at http://sjsu.instructure.com.

Course Description

This course examines the human organism from an evolutionary perspective. Topics to be covered include: four field anthropology and biological anthropology; genetics and species formation; fossil records and geology; primates and human variation; and the biology and behavior of modern humans.

General Education Learning Outcomes (GELO)

To fulfill the GE writing requirement students will write three 2-page (500 words) essays. Each writing assignment is a take-home assignment and will be submitted using Canvas and hand in a printed version in class. Both the writing assignments and exam questions will be utilized to assess GE learning outcomes. Students shall be able to:

1. use the 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;
3. recognize methods of science, in which quantitative, analytical reasoning techniques are used.

Course Learning Outcomes (CLO)

The most important contribution this course can make to your education is to provide you with greater ability to think critically. This skill will contribute permanently to your further education and for the rest of your life. Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. explain the evolutionary process, how it works, and how scientists have come to understand the process (specifically to understand ourselves).
2. describe the evolutionary history of our species and the biological bases that are at the foundation of this process.
3. 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.
4. explain from a comparative perspective how humans are related to other primates (and what this implies structurally, physiologically, and behaviorally).

Required Textbooks

Larsen, Clark Spencer
2019 *Essentials of Biological Anthropology*, Fourth Edition. W.W. Norton & Company, Inc.
ISBN: 978-0-393-66743-1

Other Readings

Supplementary course readings or handouts in PDF format. Available on the course Canvas page.

Course Requirements

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 at http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S12-3.pdf.

Course assignments and Grading Information

This course must be passed with a C- or better as an SJSU graduation requirement.

Library Liaison

Silke Higgins, MA, MSLS
Librarian for Anthropology Department
King Library
Phone: (408) 808-2118
Email: Silke.Higgins@sjsu.edu

Course Requirements and Assignments

Students will be evaluated on the basis of:

(1) **Weekly chapter reviews** will be completed on Canvas at the end of each week to test student knowledge of the material covered for that given week. These will be in the form of a multiple-choice quiz (5 points each). **[65 points]**

(2) There will be **three writing assignments** where students will will write three 2-page (500 words) essays. Writing assignments must be turned in both as a printed version at the beginning of class and to Canvas before class begins on the scheduled due date (25 points each). **[75 points]**

(3) There will be **three exams** throughout the semester, not including the final examination. Exam questions are designed to assess course and GE learning objectives (50 points each). **[150 points]**

(4) The **final exam** will be cumulative of all material covered throughout the semester and administered on the scheduled final exam date. **[100 points]**

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Final Examination or Evaluation

The final exam is a culminating exam on the major themes of the course. University policy S17-1 (http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S17-1.pdf) *states that* "Faculty members are required to have a culminating activity for their courses, which can include a final examination, a final research paper or project, a final creative work or performance, a final portfolio of work, or other appropriate assignment."

Grading Information

Weekly Chapter Reviews	**65 pts.**
Writing Assignments	**75 pts.**
Exams	**150 pts.**
Final Exam	**100 pts.**
Total	**390 pts.**

Below are basic guidelines for grading. Letter grades will be assigned based on score percentages, as follows:

Grade	*Percentage*
A plus	*96 to 100%*
A	*93 to 95%*
A minus	*90 to 92%*
B plus	*86 to 89 %*
B	*83 to 85%*
B minus	*80 to 82%*
C plus	*76 to 79%*
C	*73 to 75%*
C minus	*70 to 72%*
D plus	*66 to 69%*
D	*63 to 65%*
D minus	*60 to 62%*
F	*59% or less*

Classroom Protocol

Please do not use your laptop to browse the internet. Do not text or play games on your phone or laptop. I can see you and do not want to call you out in front of the class. Students should be aware that according to Title 5 of the California Code of Regulations, "Standards for Student Conduct," grounds for student discipline includes: "Participating in an activity that substantially and materially disrupts the normal operations of the University," {Section 41301(b)(4)} which could include use of unauthorized electronic devices in classroom settings.

I suggest you hand write your notes.

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 at http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo/"

This schedule is subject to change with fair notice, any changes will be announced in class or by Canvas email.

Course Schedule

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
1 2	01/23 01/28-01/30	Introduction to class, syllabus, and course expectations What is Biological (Physical) Anthropology? **Read:** Ch. 1
3	02/04-02/06	*Evolution* • How the Theory of Evolution Came to Be • Charles Darwin **Read:** Ch. 2
4	02/11-02/13	*Genetics & Genes* • The Genetic Code (DNA) • Genetic Basis for Human Variation **Read:** Ch. 3-4
5	02/18-02/20	(2/17) Exam 1 Review **(2/19) Exam 1**
6	02/25-02-27	*Biology in the Present: Primates* • The Study of Primates • Types of Primates **Read:** Ch. 6 **Due:** Writing Assignment #1 (02/24)
7	03/03-03/05	*Sociality of Primates* • Social Behavior • Communication & Culture **Read:** Ch. 7
8	03/10-03/12	*Fossils* • What Do Fossils Communicate? • How Do We Study Them? **Read:** Ch. 8
9	03/17-03/19	*Primate Origins* • The First 50 Million Years • Evolutionary Links from Past to Present **Read:** Ch. 9
10	03/24-03/26	(3/23) Exam 2 Review **(3/25) Exam 2**
11	03/31–04/02	******SPRING BREAK**** No class.**
12	04/07-04/09	*Human Adaptation & Early Hominin Origins* • Impetus of Evolution • The First Hominins **Read:** Ch. 5 & 10 **Due:** Writing Assignment #2 (04/06)

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
13	04/14-04/16	*The Genus "Homo"* • Origins and Evolution • Key Evolutionary Trends **Read:** Ch. 11
14	04/21-04/23	(4/20) Exam 3 Review **(4/22) Exam 3**
15	04/28-04/30	*Modern Homo Sapiens* • Defining 'Modern' • Variation in Fossils **Read:** Ch. 12 **Due:** Writing Assignment #3 (04/27)
16	05/05-05/07	*The Last 10,000 Years* • Agriculture, Population, Biology • The Affect of Agriculture on Human Biology **Read:** Ch. 13 Final Exam Review (TBD)
17	05/14	**FINAL EXAM:** 2:45 – 5:00pm