

San José State University Department of Anthropology
ANTH 12 - Human Evolution
Section 02 (21289), Spring 2021

Course and Contact Information:

Instructor(s):	Prof. Danae G. Khorasani
Office Location:	Online
Email:	danae.khorasani@sjsu.edu
Office Hours:	Online Mondays from 2:00-3:00pm PT, and/or by appointment via Zoom https://sjsu.zoom.us/my/professor.khorasani
Class Days/Time:	ASYNCHRONOUS, OL
Classroom:	SJSU Canvas http://sjsu.instructure.com
Prerequisites:	None
GE/SJSU Studies Category:	Core GE Area B2: Life Science
Scheduled Final Exam:	**Thursday, May 20 th available from 7:45pm to 10:00pm PT**

Canvas and MYSJSU Messaging:

Course materials such as syllabus, handouts, assignment instructions, etc. can be found on **Canvas Learning Management System** course website at: <http://sjsu.instructure.com>. As a student, you are responsible for regularly checking with the messaging system through Canvas (or other communication system as indicated by the professor) to learn of any updates.

Course Description:

Welcome to ANTH 12! This course is designed to familiarize students with a basic understanding of human evolution and biological anthropology from a bio-cultural perspective. This **online course** covers the evolutionary history of humans in which we explore important questions about the early, middle and later stages of human evolution, such as: What are humans? How did we form as a species? What happened to the Neanderthals? And, are humans still evolving? These questions encompass a vast range of perspectives and will be examined in the context of human evolutionary history, culture, and behavior. Students will leave this course with a better understanding of biological anthropology as a discipline and with a greater awareness of the humanity's origins.

SJSU Course Catalog 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.

Course Format:

This is a technology intensive, fully online asynchronous course. Internet connectivity and access to a laptop or computer are required in order to participate in the classroom activities and/or submit assignments. All assignments must be uploaded to Canvas in .doc or .docx and .pdf formats to be graded due to the limitations of the grading software in Canvas. Please save or export documents created in other formats to MS Word before submitting the assignment. Please be aware that the mobile Canvas App does

not include the full functionality of Canvas as seen on a computer and you will not be able to fully participate in the class if using the app only. See [University Policy F13-2](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/F13-2.pdf) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/F13-2.pdf> for more details.

GE/SJSU Studies Learning Objectives:

As an Area B2 (Life Science) course, the content and activities are designed to enable students to achieve the following learning outcomes upon successful completion:

- Use the methods of science and knowledge derived from current scientific inquiry in life or physical science to question existing explanations;
- Demonstrate ways in which science influences and is influenced by complex societies, including political and moral issues;
- Recognize methods of science, in which quantitative, analytical reasoning techniques are used.

SJSU Anthropology Department Course Learning Outcomes (CLO):

The goals of the anthropology department for this course include helping students to:

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

Required Texts/Readings:

In an effort to reduce the financial strain on students, this course will be using a free, open-sourced anthropology textbook written and produced by the American Anthropological Association.

Textbook: Shook, Beth, Katie Nelson, Kelsie Aguilera, and Lara Braff, Eds. 2019. *Explorations: An Open Invitation to Biological Anthropology*. 1st Edition. American Anthropological Association. ISBN- 978-1-931303-62-0

This text is available online for FREE download as a .pdf or online as a e-Book here:

<http://explorations.americananthro.org>

Purchase a printed copy here: https://www.amazon.com/Explorations-Open-Invitation-Biological-Anthropology/dp/1931303630/ref=sr_1_2?dchild=1&keywords=Explorations&qid=1596818923&s=book&sr=1-2

Additional Readings:

Additional readings are available on Canvas as free .pdf downloads. Readings from the textbook and supplementary materials will be assigned on a weekly basis and should be completed before the class session for which they are assigned. When reading, make sure to highlight important sections, take notes and write down your questions to share with the class.

Library Liaison:

The Anthropology Library Liaison is Silke Higgins, Silke.Higgins@sjsu.edu. Or visit the SJSU library website here: <https://libguides.sjsu.edu/anthropology>.

Course Requirements and Assignments:

The assignments for this course are designed to meet learning objectives and familiarize students with human evolution and bio-cultural approaches to understanding human origins in anthropology. 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. Your final grade will be determined by your performance on two exams (Midterm and Final), an osteology research paper, bi-weekly quizzes and discussion posts, and a final project. All of the assignments together **total to 300 points**.

Overview of Course Assignments and Total Points:

Eight (8) Quizzes (bi-weekly, every other week), $8 \times 6 = 48$ points

Eight (8) Discussion Posts & Comment (bi-weekly, every other week), $8 \times 12 = 96$ points

One (1) Osteology Assignment, 20 points

One (1) Non-traditional Final Project, 40 points

Two (2) Exams - Midterm and Final:

Midterm: Online on March 19th (Week 8) from 9:00am to 11:59pm PT, 40 points

Final Exam: Online on Thursday, May 20th (Week 17) from 7:45pm to 10:00pm PT, 56 points

Total: 300 points

1. Bi-Weekly Quizzes: The eight (8) bi-weekly quizzes (every other week, alternating weeks) will be available online through Canvas and based on the assigned lectures & readings. The quizzes are brief and will be **no more than 5 questions each quiz**. A single quiz question is worth between 1 to 2 points, depending on difficulty. These quizzes are designed to check that you've actually reviewed the materials and will be available on Canvas for the entire assigned week. The only exception is that there will be no quizzes during the mid-term and final exam weeks. The quizzes are graded and **worth 6 points each** and 48 points total.

- Quizzes are **due by 11:59pm PT on the Friday of the week it is assigned**.

2. Bi-Weekly Discussion Posts & Thoughtful Comment: Every other week students are expected to participate and post in a discussion forum online via the Canvas course discussion boards. Your post should be **between 150-200 words** in response to a human biology lab assignment or prompt based on the readings, lecture topic and additional video or audio media. Discussion post questions, rubric and requirements can be found in course modules. Please do not exceed 300 words per post.

- These discussion posts should be **well-crafted, miniature essays that directly responds to the lab prompt**. To receive full credit for your discussion, the posts must meet the minimum word requirements, demonstrate critical evaluation of the topic and be relevant to the lab questions. There will also be a final "reflection" discussion post at the end of the course.
- As part of this assignment, you are also expected to post **at least one (1) thoughtful response** (no word count) to discussion posts made by another classmate during the week that discussion posts are due. Your response is part of the discussion post grade. Students are encouraged to post as many times as they would like, but additional responses beyond the first post will not count towards your grade.
- This assignment is graded and **worth 12 points each** and 96 points total.
- **Discussion posts** should be posted by **11:59pm PT on the Thursday of the week it is due** unless otherwise stated.
 - ◇ **Responses to posts** should be made the following day, by **11:59pm PT on the Friday of the week it is due**.

3. Osteology Research Assignment/Essay: For this assignment, each student will write a **2-3 page** double-spaced in 12-point font or **approximately 600-650 words** research paper on an osteological

feature (i.e. a bone or skeletal structure) of their choice important to human evolution. Students should pick a feature that is both interesting to them and important for human evolution. In addition, students are expected to include a detailed drawing of their chosen osteology feature to accompany their research paper. A minimum of **3-4 scholarly references** are required; non-academic journal sources are categorically not appropriate references. All references should be parenthetically cited and included in a complete bibliography. Additional details and rubric for this assignment can be found in course modules. This assignment is graded and worth **20 points total**.

4. Non-traditional Final Project: For this final assignment, students are given the option to choose one of two (2) different final projects. Additional details and rubric for this assignment can be found in course modules. This assignment is graded and **worth 40 points**. The options are as follows (remember, **only pick one!**):

Option 1. Children's Book Or Comic Book - Students will write a fictional story about human evolution in the form of an illustrated Children's Book Or Comic Book format. The fictional story should include elements of conflict and resolution, sequential writing, action verbs, and descriptive language that utilizes multiple key terms from the course. The book should include only original artwork. Students may choose the dimensions of the size of their pictures, but in general each page should have **at least** four to six panels with related captions. The comic book or series should be approximately **3-5 pages** of educational and entertaining material, while applying human evolution concepts learned during coursework. For this assignment, you must also include a **descriptive paragraph** with **citations** explaining the anthropological merit and principles used in your book.

- **Example:** <https://www.imagineforest.com/blog/how-to-create-a-comic-strip/>

Option 2. Infographic Poster Series - Students create **3 digital infographic** or dioramic representations (depending on level of detail and complexity) of a topic in biological anthropology. Students are expected to create a visual representation of their research topic that is clever, engaging, presents a claim and is educational for the audience while communicating a topic important to biological anthropology. This may be direct, for example, a domain in which biological anthropology is applied or practiced, or indirect, for example as a PSA poster that utilizes evolutionary principles and key terms to communicate an important idea to the public. A good infographic is easy to grasp visually and does not overwhelm the reader with text and graphics. For this assignment, you must also include a **descriptive paragraph** with **citations** explaining the anthropological merit and principles used in your infographic.

5. Final Examination - Midterm and Final:

The Midterm and Final exams will utilize multiple choice, short answer and true/false questions to assess your ability to meet Area B2 Learning Objectives and your mastery of key topics in biological anthropology. The exams will be based on the readings, materials and lectures from the course. Both exams will be administered online through Canvas.

- The Midterm is graded and worth 40 points.
- The Final is graded and worth 56 points.
- See *University Policy S06-4* (<http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S06-4.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:

As stated earlier, this course is graded out of 300 points, which will be converted to a traditional grading scale with associated letter grades (e.g. roughly 70-72 = C-, 73-76 = C, and 77-79 = C+), please see table below and *University Grading System Policy F18-5* (<http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/F18-5.pdf>).

A	B	C	D	F
97-100% = A plus	87-89% = B plus	77-79% = C plus	67-69% = D plus	Below 60% = F
93-96% = A	83-86% = B	73-76% = C	63-66% = D	
90-92% = A minus	80-82% = B minus	70-72% = C minus	60-62% = D minus	

Grading Information for GE/100W:

- This course must be passed with a C- or better as a CSU graduation requirement.
- *More guidelines on grading information and class attendance can be found from the following university policies:*
- [University Syllabus Policy S16-9](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S16-9.pdf) (<http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S16-9.pdf>)
- [University Attendance and Participation Policy F15-12](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/F15-12.pdf) (<http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/F15-12.pdf>)
- [University Grading System Policy F18-5](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/F18-5.pdf) (<http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/F18-5.pdf>)

Late Assignments and Papers:

Late assignments/papers will only be accepted with **grade penalty** up to 2 days past the assignment due date, unless a genuine emergency arrives with documentation or you have received an extension from the instructor in advance. If you are having trouble getting assignments submitted on time, you should discuss your situation with the instructor.

Incompletes:

Incompletes will be granted only if the professor has been notified in a timely manner and has approved. Students with missing major assignments (over 50 points) will receive a WU (unauthorized withdrawal). **No work will be accepted after the final.**

Extra Credit:

Extra credit may be offered at the instructor's discretion.

Classroom Protocol:

Because this is an asynchronous, online course, attendance is not required. Participation is also not graded, except for your participation in the online forums as part of your discussion post grade. When participating online, make sure to practice netiquette when replying to others, purposefully inflammatory, hateful, sexist, racist and anti-black statements will not be tolerated. Group study before the midterm and final is permitted. Weekly lecture videos with slides will be available for viewing asynchronously through the Canvas course modules.

Covid-19:

In the event that you or an immediate family member contracts Covid-19, please notify the instructor **as soon as possible** and accommodations will be made for your situation.

Consent for Recording of Class and Public Sharing of Instructor Material:

[University Policy S12-7](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S12-7.pdf) (<http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S12-7.pdf>), requires students to obtain instructor's permission to electronically or digitally record the course:

"Course material developed by the instructor is the intellectual property of the instructor and cannot be shared publicly without his/her approval. You may not publicly share or upload instructor generated material for this course such as exam questions, lecture notes, or homework solutions without instructor consent."

University Policies:

Per [University Policy S16-9](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S16-9.pdf) (<http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S16-9.pdf>), relevant university policy concerning all courses, such as student responsibilities, academic integrity, accommodations, dropping and adding, consent for recording of class, etc. and available student services (e.g. learning assistance, counseling, and other resources) are listed on the 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 / Human Evolution, Spring 2021 Course Schedule

This schedule is subject to change with fair notice and notifications will be made online through Canvas announcements.

Course Schedule:

Week/Module	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
1	01/27 - 01/29	Read: Chapter 1: Introduction to Biological Anthropology In <i>Explorations: An Open Invitation to Biological Anthropology</i> by Shook et al. DUE: Introductory Discussion Post and Week 1 Quiz on the Syllabus **Wednesday, January 27th is the first day of instruction**
2	02/01 - 02/05	Chapter 2: Evolution DUE: Nothing
3	02/08 - 02/12	Chapter 3: Molecular Biology and Genetics DUE: Discussion Post and Week 3 Quiz
4	02/15 - 02/19	Chapter 4: Forces of Evolution DUE: Nothing
5	02/22 - 02/26	Chapter 5: Meet the Living Primates DUE: Discussion Post and Week 5 Quiz
6	03/01- 03/05	Chapter 6: Primate Ecology and Behavior DUE: Nothing
7	03/08 - 03/12	Chapter 7: Understanding the Fossil Context Film(s): <i>Nai! Story of a Kung Woman</i> (1980) DUE: Discussion Post and Week 7 Quiz
8	03/15 - 03/19	Chapter 8: Primate Evolution DUE: **Midterm Exam**
9	03/22 - 03/26	Chapter 9: Early Hominins DUE: Discussion Post and Week 9 Quiz
10	03/29 - 04/02	**Spring Recess - No Classes** *Campus Closed on Wednesday, March 31st for Cesar Chavez Day* DUE: Nothing
11	04/05 - 04/09	Chapter 10: Early Members of the Genus Homo DUE: Osteology Essay
12	04/12 - 04/16	Chapter 11: Archaic Homo Film(s): <i>Decoding Neanderthals</i> (2013) PBS Film DUE: Discussion Post and Week 12 Quiz
13	04/19 - 04/23	Chapter 12: Modern Homo sapiens DUE: Nothing
14	04/26 - 04/30	Chapter 13: Race and Human Variation Film(s): <i>Race: The Power of an Illusion</i> (2003) PBS Film DUE: Discussion Post and Week 14 Quiz
15	05/03 - 05/07	Chapter 14: Human Variation: An Adaptive Significance Approach DUE: Nothing, work on Final Project
16	05/10 - 05/14	Chapter 15: Bioarchaeology and Forensic Anthropology **Review for Final Exam and prepare Final Project** DUE: Non-traditional Final Project DUE: Discussion Post and Week 15 Review Quiz
Final Exam 17-18	05/17- 05/25	**No readings** DUE: **Final Exam** on Thursday, May 20 th available from 7:45pm to 10:00pm PT