

San José State University Department of Anthropology
ANTH 12 - Human Evolution
Section 80 (22078OL), Spring 2023

Course and Contact Information:

Instructor(s): Danae G. Khorasani
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Office Hours: Online Mondays from 12:00-1:00pm PT, and/or by appointment via Zoom <https://sjsu.zoom.us/my/professor.khorasani>
Class Days/Time: ASYNCHRONOUS, OL
Zoom Link: <https://sjsu.zoom.us/my/professor.khorasani>
Personal Meeting ID: 664 654 1802
GE/SJSU Studies Category: Core GE Area B2: Life Science
Scheduled Final Exam: Friday, May 19th, from 9am to 11:59pm PT

Course Description

Welcome to ANTH 12 – Introduction to Human Evolution. This course is designed to familiarize students with a basic understanding of human evolution and biological anthropology from a biocultural perspective. This **online asynchronous course** covers the evolutionary history of humans in which we explore important questions about the early, middle, and later stages of hominin evolution, such as: What are humans? How are we different from other primates? What happened to the Neanderthals? Are humans still evolving? etc. These questions encompass a vast range of perspectives and will be examined in the context of 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

Technology Intensive, Hybrid, and Online Courses

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. Please save or export documents created in other formats to MS Word or similar before submitting the assignment. Please be aware that the mobile phone Canvas App does not include the full functionality of Canvas as seen on a computer. See *University Policy F13-2* at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/F13-2.pdf> for more details.

Faculty Web Page 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 Goals

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 successfully completion:

- demonstrate knowledge of scientific theories, concepts, and data used in the physical and life sciences;
- apply scientific principles and communicate in ways appropriate to the discipline about the process and results of scientific discovery;
- access, critically evaluate, and represent scientific information in various forms and draw appropriate conclusions; and
- use methods derived from current scientific inquiry to form evidence-based opinions about science-related matters of personal, public, and ethical concern.

SJSU Anthropology Department Course Learning Outcomes (CLO)

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

- CLO1 explain the evolutionary process, how it works, and how scientists have come to understand the process (specifically to understand ourselves).
- CLO2 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

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 an e-Book here:

<http://explorations.americananthro.org>

Students can also 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=books&sr=1-2

Other Readings

Additional readings will be made available on Canvas as .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.

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 evolution and biocultural approaches to understanding human origins. 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, discussion posts, and a final project. All the assignments together **total to 300 points**.

Overview of Course Assignments and Total Points

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

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

One (1) Osteology Essay, 20 points

One (1) Final Project, 40 points

Two (2) Exams - Midterm and Final:

Midterm: Online Friday, March 24th (Week 9) by 11:59pm PT, 40 points

Final Exam: Online Friday, May 19th (Week 17) by 11:59pm 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 6 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 the Canvas modules for the entire assigned week. 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 written in response to a lab assignment or prompt based on the readings, lecture topic and additional video or audio media. The post should be approximately to **200-250 words** in length. 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. Additional information about the discussion post questions, rubric and requirements can be found in course modules.

- 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.
- **Discussions** should be posted by **11:59pm PT on the Friday of the week it is assigned** unless otherwise stated.
 - ◊ **Responses to posts** should be made by **11:59pm PT on the Friday of the week it is assigned**.

3. Osteology Research Essay: For this assignment, each student will write a research paper on an osteological feature (i.e. a bone or skeletal structure) of their choice that is also 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 feature to accompany their research essay. The essay should be **3-pages**, double-spaced in 12-point font or **approximately 650-700 words**. A minimum of **3-4 scholarly references** is 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. Final Project: For this final assignment, students are given the option to choose one of three (3) different final projects. Additional details and rubrics for this assignment can be found in the course modules. This assignment is graded and **worth 40 points**. The options are as follows (remember, **only pick one!**):

Option 1. Traditional Research Essay- Students write a traditional research paper structured around the themes of the course. For this option, students are expected to pick a debated topic within human evolution and explain its cultural and biological significance from the perspective of an anthropologist. Your topic should be interesting, demonstrate analytic thinking and include specific references to key terms and concepts learned during coursework. Your paper should be about 6 pages double-spaced in a **12-point** font, or **approximately 1,500+ words**. Your research essay should also include in-text citations and a bibliography at the end of your paper with at least **3-4 scholarly citations**. The bibliography should not be applied towards your total word count.

Option 2. Podcast- Students create a podcast episode based on a topic in human evolution/biological anthropology. Your podcast should be a brief (about 10 mins) exploration of a topic in human origins that examines your chosen topic using narrative, storytelling, and auditory effects. Your podcast should address the topic from an educational standpoint, but also detail the possible conversations around it while applying key terms

learned during coursework. Your podcast should also have an intro, outro, and an official name, similar to a real podcast. Bonus points if you can add an opening theme song (sometimes also called “bumper music”). I suggest to students choosing this option to include another person (i.e. co-host or interviewee) in their segment to enhance the listening experience for the audience. In addition to the podcast, you must also include a long descriptive paragraph with **2-3 scholarly citations** explaining the scientific merit and principles used.

Option 3. Graphic Novel/Comic Book - Students will write a fictional graphic novel/comic book story about a topic in biological anthropology. In your graphic novel, you should include elements of conflict and resolution, applying sequential writing, using action verbs, and descriptive language, similar to a real comic book format and you must include *original artwork*. You may choose the dimensions of the pictures, but in general each page should have *at least* four to six panels with related captions/text. The book should be approximately **8 pages long** and include entertaining material while also applying key evolution terms and concepts learned during coursework. In addition to the comic book, you must also include one descriptive paragraph with **2-3 scholarly citations** explaining the anthropological merit and principles used in your novel.

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 will only be accepted with **grade penalty** up to 2 days past the assignment due date, unless a genuine emergency arises with documentation, or you have received an extension 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

Online participation will be part of your final grade; this includes your participation and activity in the online forums. When participating online, make sure to practice netiquette when replying to others. Purposefully inflammatory and hateful statements will not be tolerated. Group study before the midterm and final is encouraged. Weekly lecture videos with slides will be available for viewing asynchronously through the Canvas course modules.

Covid-19

If 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>), 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 at <http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo/>

ANTH 12 / Human Evolution, Fall 2022 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	01/25 - 01/27/2 3	Read Chapter 1: Introduction to Biological Anthropology In <i>Explorations: An Open Invitation to Biological Anthropology</i> by Shook et al. **Wednesday, January 25th is the First Day of Instruction**
2	01/30- 02/03	Chapter 2: Evolution DUE: Introductory Discussion Post and Week 2 Quiz
3	02/06 - 02/10	Chapter 3: Molecular Biology and Genetics DUE: Nothing
4	02/13 - 02/17	Chapter 4: Forces of Evolution DUE: Discussion Post and Week 4 Quiz
5	02/20 – 02/24	Chapter 5: Meet the Living Primates DUE: Nothing
6	02/27- 03/03	Chapter 6: Primate Ecology and Behavior DUE: Discussion Post and Week 6 Quiz
7	03/06 - 03/10	Chapter 7: Understanding the Fossil Context DUE: Nothing, start reviewing for Midterm Exam
8	03/13 - 03/17	Chapter 8: Primate Evolution DUE: Discussion Post and Week 8 Quiz
9	03/20 - 03/24	Chapter 9: Early Hominins DUE: **Midterm Exam**
10	03/27 - 03/31	**Spring Break: March 27, 2023 - March 31, 2023** ** March 31 st is Cesar Chavez Day**
11	04/03 - 04/07	Chapter 10: Early Members of the Genus Homo DUE: Osteology Essay
12	04/10 – 04/14	Chapter 11: Archaic Homo Film(s): <i>Decoding Neanderthals</i> (2013) PBS Film DUE: Discussion Post and Week 12 Quiz
13	04/17 - 04/21	Chapter 12: Modern <i>Homo sapiens</i> DUE: Nothing
14	04/24 - 04/28	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	05/01 - 05/05	Chapter 14: Human Variation: An Adaptive Significance Approach DUE: Nothing, start working on Final Project
16	05/08 - 05/12	Chapter 15: Bioarchaeology and Forensic Anthropology DUE: Final Reflection Post and Week 16 Review Quiz
Final Exam 17-18	05/15 - 05/23	**No Readings** Review for Final Exam

Week/Module	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
		DUE: Final Project Final Exam scheduled for Friday, May 19 th , available from 9:00am to 11:59pm PT **Monday, May 15 th is the Last Day of Instruction** **Final Examinations Period is from May 17 th to 23 rd **