

# ANTH 12

## Introduction to Human Evolution

Spring 2023, Section 81 (27928)  
San José State University  
Department of Anthropology/ College of Social Sciences

<b>Instructor:</b>	Viviana Bellifemine Sanchez-Chopitea
<b>Office Location:</b>	Clark 463
<b>Email:</b>	viviana.sanchezchopitea@sjsu.edu
<b>Office Hours:</b>	Tuesdays 4:30-5:30 or by appointment
<b>Class Days/Time:</b>	Online asynchronous
<b>GE/SJSU Studies Category:</b>	B2/Life Science

### Canvas and MYSJSU Messaging

Copies of the course materials such as the syllabus, major assignment handouts, and grades can be found on [Canvas Learning Management System course login website](#). You are responsible for regularly checking with the messaging system through [MySJSU](#) or [Canvas](#) to learn of any updates.

### 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.

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.

## GE B/SJSU Learning Outcomes (GELO)

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

- GELO1 demonstrate knowledge of scientific theories, concepts, and data used in the physical and life sciences;
- GELO2 apply scientific principles and communicate in ways appropriate to the discipline about the process and results of scientific discovery;
- GELO3 access, critically evaluate, and represent scientific information in various forms and draw appropriate conclusions; and
- GELO4 use methods derived from current scientific inquiry to form evidence-based opinions about science-related matters of personal, public, and ethical concern.

## Course Learning Outcome (CLO)

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able 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

- **Textbook**

*Essentials of Biological Anthropology*. Clark Spencer Larsen, W.W Norton & Company, 2019. 4th edition (earlier editions acceptable). ISBN: 9780393667431.

- **Other readings:**

Supplementary course readings, handouts in PDF format or any other additional material will be made available on the course Canvas page.

## Recommendations

“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 three hours per unit per week) for instruction, preparation/studying, or course related activities, including but not limited to internships, labs, and clinical practica. Other course structures will have equivalent workload expectations as described in the syllabus.” [University Syllabus Policy S16-9](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S16-9.pdf) (<http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S16-9.pdf>)

## Course Assignments and Grading Policy

Students will be graded on the following assignments:

- **Three Exams:** (each exam = 50pts). All exams are multiple-choice format.

*Failure to take any exam will result in a failing grade regardless of other completed work*

- **Term paper:** (120 pts) A research paper of 1500 words (approximately 6 pages, double spaced) of original work is required for this course. Additionally a proposal (10 points) and three preliminary citations with annotations (10 points) are components of this assignment.
- **Papers will not be accepted after the deadline (without a valid justification approved by the instructor) or with a Turnitin score greater than 20%.**

*Failure to complete this assignment will result in a failing grade regardless of other completed work.*

- **Exercises and Quizzes:** (130 pts). There will be a number of interactive exercises and discussions throughout the semester.

A grade of **Incomplete** will not be given to avoid an F in the class.

Assignments and Grade Break-down

Exam # 1	50	12.5%
Exam # 2	50	12.5%
Final	50	12.5%
Term Paper	120	30%
Exercises and Quizzes	130	32.5%
Total	400	100%

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

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	

**IMPORTANT:** Read the syllabus, familiarize yourself with Canvas, and keep up with the reading (must be up to date and ready to complete the quizzes). If you have any questions or issues do not hesitate to contact me or see me during office hours. Do not wait too long to communicate if you are having problems in class or with the class material. Your success in the class depends on your understanding of the material and completing the assignments on time. I strongly encourage you to reach me through email or zoom for any questions you may have that are not already addressed in the syllabus or Canvas.

## Classroom Protocol

- **Communication:** I will answer all emails during regular working hours (Monday through Fridays from 9am-6pm. I will not answer emails during the weekend or holidays, or after the official closing of the semester. Make use of office hours (or make an appointment) to chat about more complex (or any) issues. Office hours are by zoom.
- **All assignments are due the date specified in the Canvas schedule** unless the date has been officially changed by the instructor or there is a compelling and verifiable reason. **All written assignments are to be submitted through Canvas or as indicated by the instructor. Unexcused late written assignments will not be accepted after two weeks and will be subject to heavy penalties (see <https://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S22-2.pdf>).** All assignments are due before the last day of class.
- **Assignments described as mandatory (exams and term paper) are required to pass the course regardless of other accumulated points.**
- **Make-up exams** will be given only if 1) you know in advance that you are unable to complete it due to an important and verifiable reason and have arranged in advance with the instructor for an alternative date prior to its scheduled date, 2) if any reason arises beyond your control you need to notify the instructor by email and provide a verifiable reason (note from physician/nurse, etc.). Only students with a valid documented justification will be able to take a make-up a test (or turn in a late assignment). Make-up exams will only be scheduled within one week from the original due date.
- **The Final Exam cannot be made-up. Students must take the Final Exam at the scheduled time or earlier with the approval of the instructor. [University policy S17-1](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S17-1.pdf) (<http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S17-1.pdf>)**
- There will be **no Extra Credit** assignments in this class.
- **For all concerns regarding your grade, please see me before the last day of class. After the end of semester there will be no changing of grades or any further grade negotiation.** Canvas keeps you updated on your current grade; it is up to each student to calculate what is needed for the desired goal.
- Students are encouraged to take full advantage of scheduled office hours or to make appointments.
- **All lectures and course materials, including exams, assignments, quizzes, handouts, and exercises, are copyrighted and may not be distributed without written permission from the instructor.**

## University Policies

---

Per University Policy S16-9, university-wide policy information relevant to all courses, such as

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 [Syllabus Information web page](https://www.sjsu.edu/curriculum/courses/syllabus-info.php) (<https://www.sjsu.edu/curriculum/courses/syllabus-info.php>). Make sure to visit this page to review and be aware of these university policies and resources.

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

All students must obtain the instructor's permission if they wish to record lectures, meetings or distribute materials from the class.

[University Policy S12-7](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S12-7.pdf) <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S12-7.pdf>

## **Resources**

---

The university provides resources that can help you succeed academically. Just look here.

[Academic Success Center](http://www.sjsu.edu/at/asc/) <http://www.sjsu.edu/at/asc/>

[Peer Connections website](http://peerconnections.sjsu.edu) <http://peerconnections.sjsu.edu>

[Writing Center website](http://www.sjsu.edu/writingcenter) <http://www.sjsu.edu/writingcenter>

[Counseling Services website](http://www.sjsu.edu/counseling) <http://www.sjsu.edu/counseling>

## ANTH 12: Introduction to Human Evolution, Spring 2023, Tentative Course Schedule

*Schedule is subject to change with fair notice made available from the instructor by email and class announcements.*

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
1	Jan 25	Introduction to the course: Biological Anthropology.
2	Jan 30	<b>Module 1:</b> Anthropology and its subfields. Foundations of biological anthropology. Scientific method. Origins of Evolutionary Thought: Linnaeus, Wallace/Darwin: Theory of evolution by Natural Selection. <b>Reading:</b> Ch 1, 2
3	Feb 6	<b>Module 2:</b> Genetics: Cells and molecules. DNA and molecular anthropology. Genotype to phenotype. <b>Reading:</b> Ch 3
4	Feb 13	Mendelian genetics. The complexity of genetics. <b>Reading:</b> Ch 3
5	Feb 20	Genes and their evolution. Mutations. <b>Reading:</b> Ch 4
6	Feb 27	The forces of evolution and the formation of species. Natural selection, Genetic drift, Gene flow, Founder effect. <b>Reading:</b> Ch 4
7	Mar 6	Human variation and race. Human adaptation. Life History. <b>Reading:</b> Ch 5
8	Mar 13	<b>EXAM # 1</b> <b>Module 3:</b> Primates: classification <b>Reading:</b> Ch 6
9	Mar 20	Primate diversity. Strepsirrhines, Haplorhines. <b>Reading:</b> Ch 6
10	Mar 27	<b>SPRING RECESS</b> <b>NO CLASS</b>
11	April 3	Primate sociality, social behavior and culture: as an insight of the origin of sociality in humans. <b>Reading:</b> Ch 7
12	April 10	<b>EXAM # 2</b> <b>Module 4:</b> Fossils. Dating fossils, and evolutionary time. Climate change and early primate evolution. Dispersion of Anthropoids. <b>Reading:</b> Ch 8, 9
13	April 17	The hominin record. Early hominins and <i>Australopithecus</i> . <b>Reading:</b> Ch 10

14	April 24	Early <i>Homo</i> species and relatives. Origins of Modern Humans. <b>Reading:</b> Ch 11
15	May 1	Dispersal of Modern Humans. The Upper Paleolithic <b>Reading:</b> Ch 12
16	May 8	Evolution of Human behavior Neanderthals and contemporaries <b>Reading:</b> Ch 12
17	May 15	<b>Module 5:</b> The Holocene: Domestication and the evolution of human culture. <b>Reading:</b> Ch 13
<b>Final Exam</b>	<b>May 18 (Thur.)</b>	<b>All Day</b>