

Human Variation, Behavior

Anthropology Department; SJSU

ANTH 153 Section 1
Tuesdays & Thursdays 1330-1445

Spring 2008
Washington Square 04

Dr. Elizabeth Weiss

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If you have any concerns about your class performance or comprehension, please come by my office during office hours or schedule an appointment. I am always willing to help students and I care about whether students are grasping the material and enjoying the class.

COURSE WEB PAGE: http://www.sjsu.edu/faculty_and_staff/course_detail.jsp?id=1577

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Human variation and behavior is the study of the nature and extent of heritable biological and behavioral differences and similarities among human populations in an evolutionary perspective. Data drawn from non-human primates, medical fields, the fossil record and genetics will be reviewed. The role of genetics and environment in the formation of these differences is considered.

Major topics will include:

- Classification systems
- Genetics
- Universals versus Cultural Specifics
- Growth and Nutrition
- Climate Adaptations
- Disease and Culture
- Reproduction and Culture
- Sex and Age Differences in Behavior
- Nature vs. Nurture
- Intelligence

PREREQUISITES: Any lower division anthropology or psychology course or instructor consent.

ANTH 153 GOALS

By the completion of this course, students should be able to:

- Think critically;
- Recognize how evolution has shaped human variation;
- Recognize biases in science and media;
- Know the historical development of Western classification systems;
- Distinguish and understand the primary factors influencing human biological and behavioral variation and similarities;
- Understand the relationships between human adaptations and their environment;
- Understand how biology and culture interact.

Departmental Learning Objectives and Skills:

The department of anthropology also has key learning objectives and skills that we wish students to obtain. By the completion of this course, students should have an increased ability to:

- 1) Understanding culture as the distinguishing phenomenon of human life, and the relationships of human biology and cultural processes in human behavior and evolution.
- 2) Awareness of human diversity and the ways in which humans categorize diversity.
- 3) Knowledge of the significant findings of archaeology, cultural anthropology, and physical anthropology, and familiarity of the important issues in each sub-discipline.
- 4) Knowledge of the history of anthropological thought and its place in modern intellectual history.
- 5) Comprehension of migration, colonialism, and economic integration as significant phenomena shaping

- global society.
- 6) Ability to access various forms of anthropological data and literature.
 - 7) Awareness of the importance and value of anthropological knowledge in contemporary society, and the ability to apply it to social issues.
 - 8) Knowledge of the research methods of the sub-disciplines of anthropology, and ability to apply appropriate research methods in at least one sub-discipline.
 - 9) Ability to present and communicate anthropological knowledge and the results of anthropological research to different audiences.
 - 10) Knowledge of political and ethical implications of social research.

Attaining the Course Objectives/Goals

At a general level, this course is primarily about human biological and behavioral variation and the evolutionary processes that play a key role in human traits. Information relating to genes, evolutionary processes, nonhuman primates, and earlier hominids are used to explain the large variety of differences (and some surprising similarities as well) we see in people today. In addressing these fundamental questions relating to human variation, you will be challenged to think critically, apply sound scientific methodologies, understand and assess quantitative data, and communicate your knowledge.

At SJSU students are encouraged to recognize that education is participatory experience. Thus, each student is expected to contribute to further refining the course objectives (so better to articulate your individual expectations and needs), to give feedback to the instructor regarding the adequacy of your learning and how well the course assessment measures that learning (and how these assessment tools can be improved). Finally, each student is challenged to be engaged in the exploration of the fascinating material covered this semester and to participate in class discussions and to relate in assignments and exercises how you can apply these concepts to your everyday life.

The most important contribution this course can make to your education is to provide you with greater ability to think critically. As a result, this skill will contribute permanently to your further education, that it, for the remainder of your lifetime.

REQUIRED TEXT:

- Molnar S. **Human Variation : Races, Types, and Ethnic Groups, 6th Ed.** Prentice Hall, 2006.
- **Course reader obtained through University Readers.**

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

EXAMS: There will be a three (3) quizzes and a final exam. The final, which will be comprehensive, will be given on the scheduled final day.

PAPER: A research paper will due at the end of the term, May 13th. The paper can be a research paper with a focus on a specific trait or adaptation, a behavior and its evolutionary roots, a cultural adaptation to deal with environment stresses, etc. The papers should be 4 to 6 pages long, 1-inch margins, 12 pt font, and the references will either be APA or AJPA style. Each student is required to see me about their topic during my office hours (or at a scheduled time) before starting the paper.

PARTICIPATION: This will be based on in class assignments. I highly recommend students to attend class as often as possible. In-class assignments are meant to help you perform well on quizzes and the final, and give you an opportunity to discuss topics with other classmates.

GRADING POLICY AND PROCEDURES

Assignments are graded on a scale of 100.

Quizzes (Each worth 10%)	30%	97% and Above	A+	77-79%	C+
Final	30%	91-96%	A	71-76%	C
Paper	30%	90%	A-	70%	C-
Participation	10%	87-89%	B+	67-69%	D+
		81-86%	B	61-66%	D
		80%	B-	60%	D-
				59% and Below	F

MAKE-UP QUIZZES AND EXAMS

- If you know in advance that you should be unable to attend an exam due, it is your responsibility to contact me immediately by either e-mailing or telephoning me, leaving a message for me at the main department office, or coming by during my office hours.
- Only students with a valid documented excuse will be able to take a make-up exam or hand in a late assignment. Late assignments will not be accepted otherwise.

CLASS BEHAVIOR

- Newspaper reading is not allowed in class. If you read a newspaper in class, I will ask you to leave the classroom.
- No electronics (which include Ipods, Mp3 Players, Sidekicks, Cell phones, Laptops, etc.) will be allowed out in class. Before class begins, you should turn off all electronics and put them out of sight. Any student with a cell phone or other electronic device out during class will be asked to leave the classroom.

LATE ASSIGNMENTS AND PAPERS

- Papers are due at the beginning of class.
- No late papers without a documented valid excuse will be accepted.
 - Documents need to be official and verifiable, such as hospital receipts, police records, etc. and each case will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis.
 - Some valid excuses may include illnesses that include hospital stays, car accidents, and a parental death.
 - Some non-valid excuses may include weddings, computer problems, financial difficulties, and funerals of unrelated individuals.
 - These are examples; each case will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis.
 - Events that occur the night before the paper is due will not be accepted as an excuse since your paper should be done or nearly done by that time.
- No emailed papers, papers slid under my office door, or put in my office box will be accepted.
- Occurrences that involve family members or friends will be considered only with documentation and collaborative evidence of relationships and the necessity of your attendance.
- AGAIN EACH EXCUSE WILL BE EVALUATED ON A CASE-BY-CASE BASIS AND ALL DECISIONS ARE FINAL.

CHEATING and PLAGIARISM

- I HAVE A ZERO-TOLERANCE ON CHEATING AND PLAGIARISM; IF YOU CHEAT OR PLAGIARIZE YOU WILL FAIL THE COURSE!
- FOR THE WRITING ASSIGNMENT, NO INTERNET REFERENCES MAY BE USED!

- Incidences of cheating and plagiarism will be turned into the academic integrity office; you have two (2) office hour periods to discuss the issue with me prior to my turning in the report.
- I will only discuss individual cases concerning academic integrity in my office.
- Students are responsible for understanding and adhering to the academic integrity policy.

MISCELLANEOUS

- E-mails will only be answered in order to make appointments to see me in my office.
 - I will not answer questions about what occurred in class due to an absence, paper topics, research, or missing assignments.
 - Please, proof-read your emails!
- You must sign up with the Disability Resource Center to get any special consideration regarding any disability. Just telling me that you have a disability will not be enough.
- Students are responsible for understanding policies about adding, dropping, academic renewal, and incompletes.
- Students are responsible for being aware of assignment due dates, midterm date, and the final exam schedule.
- Students who miss classes should keep up with course readings and obtain notes from a classmate.
- If you have any concerns about your class performance or comprehension, come by my office during office hours or schedule an appointment. I am always willing to help students and I care about whether students are grasping the material and enjoying the class.
- Library Liaison For Anthropology: Bernice Redfern; Librarian; (408) 808-2038; Bernice.Redfern@sjsu.edu

UNIVERSITY, COLLEGE, OR DEPARTMENTAL POLICY INFORMATION

Academic integrity statement (from Office of Judicial Affairs):

“Your own commitment to learning, as evidenced by your enrollment at San José State University and the University’s Academic Integrity Policy requires you to be honest in all your academic course work. Faculty are required to report all infractions to the Office of Judicial Affairs. The policy on academic integrity can be found at <http://www2.sjsu.edu/senate/S04-12.pdf>”

Campus policy in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act:

“If you need course adaptations or accommodations because of a disability, or if you need special arrangements in case the building must be evacuated, please make an appointment with me as soon as possible, or see me during office hours. Presidential Directive 97-03 requires that students with disabilities register with DRC to establish a record of their disability.”

COURSE OUTLINE

Date	Date	Topic	Assigned Reading
Jan	1/24	Introduction	
	29	Classification of Human Variation	Molnar Chapter 1
	31	Classification of Human Variation	Molnar Chapter 1
Feb	05	Genetic Review (Feb. 4 th Last Day to Drop)	Molnar Chapter 2
	07	Genetics and Evolution	Molnar Chapter 2
	12	Mendelian Traits: PKU, CF, Tay Sachs (Feb. 11 th Last Day to Add)	Molnar pp. 119-122, 128-131; Reader Art. 1
	14	Mendelian Traits: Lactose Intolerance	Molnar pp. 124-126; Reader Art. 2
	19	Mendelian Traits: Sickle Cell & Malaria	Molnar pp. 137-148
	21	QUIZ 1	
	26	Environment & Gene Interactions: Stature	Molnar pp. 205-207, 210-211; Reader Art. 3
	28	Complex Inheritance/Phenotypes: Skin Color	Molnar pp. 175-193
Mar.	04	Complex Inheritance: Craniofacial Traits	Molnar pp. 193-203
	06	Complex Inheritance: Body Size & Shape	Molnar pp. 205-214; Reader Art. 4
	11	Complex Inheritance: Hot & Cold Climates	Molnar pp. 246-257; Reader Art. 5
	13	Complex Inheritance: High Altitude Adaptation	Molnar pp. 257-268
	18	Growth & Nutrition	Molnar pp. 215-246
	20	QUIZ 2	
	25	SPRING BREAK	
	27	SPRING BREAK	
Apr	01	Behavior & Evolution: Adaptive & Maladaptive	Reader Art. 6
	03	Nature vs. Nurture	Molnar pp. 292-295; 297-301
	08	Who Breeds with Whom: Universals & Cultural Specifics	Molnar Chapter 8; Reader Art. 7
	10	American Association of Physical Anthropologists	(No Class)
	15	Who Breeds with Whom: Mate Choice	Molnar Chapter 8; Reader Art. 8
	17	Who Breeds with Whom: Parental Investment	Molnar Chapter 8
	22	Intelligence: Brain size & other factors	Molnar pp. 195-197; 277-308
	24	Intelligence: Predictive validity	Molnar pp. 277-308; Reader Arts. 9 & 10
May	29	Health & Disease: Modern Culture and Disease	Molnar pp. 349-359
	01	Health & Disease: AIDS	Molnar pp. 360-364
	06	Population Changes: Fertility, Mortality & Culture	Molnar Chapter 10
	08	QUIZ 3	
	13	FINAL REVIEW & PAPER DUE	

FINAL EXAM: Thursday, May 15 1215-1430