Human Biological Evolution

(Anth 101)        Spring 2011
Thursdays 6:55 - 10:05pm    Section: 3000
NEA Rm #125

Instructor: Janaki Natalie Parikh
1st name pronounced (Jon-uh-key)
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Course description:

The field of Biological Anthropology is explored emphasizing the evolution and diversity of the human species. Topics include human heredity, mechanisms of evolutionary change, human variation, and the reconstruction of human evolutionary history through examination of the fossil record and comparative studies of our closest biological relatives, the living non-human primates.

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

- Define anthropology as a discipline, its subfields, and how they are integrated
- Analyze the scientific method and biocultural approach in the study of human beings
- Describe the processes of cell division (distinguishing between mitosis and meiosis) and DNA replication and protein synthesis.
- Understand and apply the vocabulary and principles of Mendelian genetics (i.e. gene, allele, homozygous, recessive).
- Recognize and describe natural selection, mutation, genetic drift and gene flow as explanations for evolutionary change.
- Define the concept of "race" and explain the failure of the concept to explain and describe human variation.
- Identify scientifically objective measures of human variation (i.e. DNA, blood types, complex traits).
- Compare and contrast human beings with other members of the Order
• Primates, using physical, biological, behavioral and mental characteristics
• Describe the taxonomy of the Order Primates and describe the common characteristics of all members of that order.
• Compare and contrast pongid fossils with hominid fossils clearly identifying the characteristics that make hominids distinctive among mammals.
• Compare and contrast hominid fossils and artifacts as evidence of human biological and cultural evolution.
• Analyze competing hypotheses about specific aspects of hominid evolution, the migration(s) of humanity and the peopling of the world.
• Students will apply their understanding of course concepts by analyzing major current issues through the lens of academic anthropology and presenting this background in a classroom debate presentation

Required Texts:


Student Course Requirements:
Readings: It is recommended that you read the assigned text prior to class lecture. Class lectures will not necessarily cover all of the material in your book, however, you may be tested on assigned readings even if they are not covered in class.

Films: Films will be shown throughout the course. The exam will include questions that are specific to the information covered in the films. Note-taking during films is advised.

Lectures: Lectures given in class will cover material from the assigned text and may also include material not found in the text. Overheads and handouts will elaborate on concepts brought forth in the readings. If you miss class, it is your responsibility to see the instructor for any handouts which may have been provided and to obtain notes from another student.

Attendance/Tardies: To successfully complete this class you must attend regularly. A portion of your grade is based on attendance and class participation, regular absences will adversely affect your course grade (see grading section for specific information.) Attendance will be recorded in class at the beginning of class. Students will be allowed 2 unexcused absences without grading penalty, you do not have to contact me regarding your absence so long as you are within your alloted number of “freebies” or if your absence will be extended. If a student is absent 3 or more times the attendance/class participation portion of the grade will be lowered accordingly. A maximum of 1 additional absence will be excused for medical or legal reasons with proper documentation.
Arriving late and/or leaving class before dismissal is disruptive to the class. If you must leave class early, as a courtesy, please notify me at the beginning of class and make arrangements to find a seat near the exit to minimize disruption as much as possible. While you are encouraged to come into class as long as we are in session, please be aware that arriving more than 20 minutes late or leaving more than 20 minutes early may be considered an absence for that class period & that habitual tardies will not be excused.

**Classroom Conduct:** Creating a positive classroom culture is a joint effort between the instructor and the students. We can all contribute to a positive learning environment by actively participating in class discussions and activities. Chatting with a classmate while instruction is taking place is distracting and impolite towards the instructor and your fellow classmates. Such conduct may result in you being asked to leave the class for the remainder of that session with no attendance credit for that meeting. Please be sure to silence or turn off all electronic devices during the class & put them away during class.

**Homework Assignments:** In addition to readings, students are expected to complete 2 out-of-class homework assignments. These assignments will be due at the beginning of class on the day they are due, refer to the class schedule for specific due dates, all typed submissions should be 1.5 or dbl spaced, single spacing may result in a points deduction. Homework will be graded primarily on correct completion of the assignment, although grammar & formatting of the assignment will be considered as well. **Late homework:** Homework is due on the date scheduled. Please do not email homework submissions, I do not accept assignments via email. Assignments will be accepted a maximum of 2 class meetings after the deadline, but one letter grade worth of points will be immediately deducted as a late penalty. Please be advised that grading of late homework receives a lower priority than on-time submissions and that the instructor offers no guarantees on the timely return of materials that are deemed late submissions.

**Exams:** There will be 3 in-class exams, consisting of multiple choice, fill-ins, true/false, and short answer/essay questions. For exams you will need an 882-E scantron form and a #2 pencil. Exam questions will be based on assigned readings (text and handouts), films, lecture, homework assignments and class discussions. Most of our course exams are not cumulative, though please check with the instructor for specific details per semester. **Students are expected to take the exam at the scheduled time, make-up exams will not be given. In extenuating circumstances, with proper documentation, a make-up may be scheduled at the instructor’s discretion & subject to the instructor’s availability.**

**Student Services:** Los Angeles Harbor College (LAHC) offers a variety of services to aid students in being successful. These services include: learning skills center, tutoring, and technology access & assistance. If you are struggling with the material, it is recommended that you seek out and utilize these support services. To learn more, look for info on the LAHC Learning Assistance Center in the Class Schedule, or visit the Learning Assistance Center website: [http://www.lahc.edu/lac/index.html](http://www.lahc.edu/lac/index.html)
**Academic Honesty Policy:** Students are expected to abide by ethical standards in preparing & presenting material which demonstrates their level of understanding & which is used to determine course grades. Students are expected to observe the following guidelines:

1) Students shall not plagiarize, this includes: claiming credit for the words or ideas or another as your own and/or utilizing another person’s creative production without crediting the source. You may study together, but you may not turn in the same work, use your own words in completing the assignments.

2) Students shall not cheat, this includes, using notes, aides or the help of other students on the exams or quizzes in ways other than those expressly permitted by the instructor.

I consider academic dishonesty a serious offense, and it will be treated accordingly should the situation arise. Academic dishonesty is a disservice to yourself and your peers. As your instructor I may deal with the situation in one of the following ways: assignment of an “F” grade on all or part of the exam, paper, or project, assignment of an “F” in the course, and/or reporting the student to the appropriate administrators for further disciplinary action.

The instructor reserves the right to submit student assignments to [www.turnitin.com](http://www.turnitin.com) to check for textural similarities between those assignments, Internet sources and the Turnitin.com assignment database. Assignments submitted to Turnitin.com will become part of their database and will be used only for plagiarism prevention and detection. **Any student found to have engaged in academic dishonesty in relation to this class will automatically be disqualified from any & all bonus/extra credit points earned during the course of the semester.**

**Services for Students with Disabilities:** LAHC is committed to providing reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities, upon request of the student and upon verification of a disability. If you have a disability and believe that you will need accommodations, you are encouraged to contact both your instructor and the Special Programs and Services Office as soon as possible, their website address is the following: [http://www.lahc.edu/student services/sps/index.html](http://www.lahc.edu/student services/sps/index.html)

**Dropping the class:** If you choose to drop the course, it is your responsibility to officially withdraw by the semester deadline for withdrawal. If you do not turn in a drop slip, an “F” grade will be submitted by the instructor.

**Class Schedule:**

*Schedule may be altered by instructor if necessary. Changes will be announced in class.*

**Week 1: 2/10**

Text: AE: 15 Answers to Creationist Nonsense (#5)

Intro & icebreaker (course outline). Begin Darwin

**Week 2: 2/17**

Text: Chap 2

AE: Darwin & natural selection, begin Mendelian genetics
Week 3: 2/24
Text: Chapter 3  
AE: no new readings
Cont. Mendelian genetics, begin Molecular structure & function of genetic material

Week 4: 3/3
Text: Chapter 4  
AE: Curse & Blessing of the Ghetto (#40)
Cont. Molecular structure & function of genetic material, human polymorphisms

Week 5: 3/10
Great Debates Groups Assigned
Text: Chapter 15  
AE: Viral Superhighway (#37)
Human polymorphisms cont’d & film

Week 6: 3/17
Exam 1 (3/17)
Text: no new readings  
AE: no new readings
Exam Review & Exam

Week 7: 3/24
Text: Chapter 16  
AE: Skin Deep(#32), How Real is Race (#34)
Race: a product of culture

Week 8: 3/31
No class mtg. this wk.-Cesar Chavez Holiday
Text: Chap 5  
AE: The Tall & Short of It (#36)
No class mtg.-campus holiday

Week 9: 4/7
Text: Chap 6  
AE: Why Are Some Animals so Smart? (#13)
Continue Race, Continue race unit, begin evolutionary scale & speciation

Week 10: 4/14
(Primate Hmwk Assigned)
Text: Chap 7 & 8  
AE: Guerillas in their Midst (#43)
primate shared traits, Living Primates

Week 11: 4/21
No Class mtg: Spring Break
Text: no new readings  
AE: no new readings
Have fun, Be Safe!!!

Week 12: 4/28
Exam #2 (4/28), Primate Hmwk Due (4/28)
Chapter 5  
AE: Cont. Living primates: diversity & socio-ecology

Week 13: 5/5
Exam #2 (5/5), Primate Hmwk Due (5/5)
Exam Review & Exam

Week 14: 5/12
Presentation Project Due-Gr. Debates (5/12)
Text: Chap 9  
AE: The Gift of Gab (#29)
Group Debates Presentations (Individual write-ups due 5/12)

Week 15: 5/19
Text: Chap 10 & 11  
AE: The Littlest Human (#31)  
Paleoanthropology & Geologic Time

Week 16: 5/26
Text: Chap 12 & 13  
AE: We Are All Africans (#32) (to be obtained from  
previous AE edition on library reserve)  
Skeletal features of bipedalism, Members of our Genus

Week 17: 6/2  
Final Exam (6/2)  
Final Exam Review & Final Exam, reg. class time & place

Course grading & Grading Scale:
Attendance/Class Participation: 50 pts= 5%
Primate Homework: 50 pts= 5%, Great Debates Group Project (HW #2): 150 pts: 15%
Exam #1, #2, & Final exam: 250 pts=25% each for a total of 75%

Final Grades will be determined utilizing the following scale
(900 pts) 90% & above: “A” grade
(800-899 pts) 80-89%: “B” grade
(700- 799 pts) 70-79%: “C” grade
(600-699 pts) 60-69%: “D” grade
(Below 600 pts) Below 60%: “F” grade

It is your responsibility to keep track of your prospective grade. I retain student exams, thus, when you have the opportunity to view your graded exam, be sure to make note of your score so that you can track your progress in the course. Keep all other graded papers until you have received your final grade. If you need help calculating your prospective grade, make an appointment to see me and I will gladly assist you.

Extra credit: Students will have the option of turning in one extra credit assignment, which will be worth approx. 5% of the course grade. Students may either read one of the Annual Editions articles other than the articles assigned for the class, or attend a museum, or view a film pertaining to physical anthropology; a critical response paper (not a movie review!) must be submitted for any of the options above. The format for the paper is as follows: 1) describe what you saw, 2) incorporate at least 3 concepts or terms learned in class, 3) provide personal analysis of your reaction to the experience. Papers should be typed, 3pgs. long, & double spaced, using 11 or 12 pt. font.

If you wish to choose a film or location not listed below, please obtain prior approval of the instructor. Papers that do not meet these criteria may not be eligible for extra credit points. Book papers will be graded out of 55 points, location visits & article papers out of 50 pts, while film papers will be graded out of 30 pts. Other opportunities to earn bonus points will be announced throughout the term & are
considered separate of this extra credit assignment. Extra credit is due by the date of the final exam but may be submitted early. **No late extra credit submissions will be accepted.**

**Recommended Locations for Museum option: (Please retain ticket stub or receipt to submit w/ write-up for full credit)**
California Science Center or Discovery Science Center  
Gibbon Center (Los Angeles)  
La Brea Tar Pits  
Museum of Natural History  
Museum of Tolerance (may be temp. closed due to renovation)  
Zoo for Primate Exhibit: LA, Santa Ana or San Diego

**Pre-approved Films for Biological/Physical Anthro:**
Avatar  
12 Monkeys  
28 Days Later  
2001: A Space Odyssey  
A.I. (Artificial Intelligence)  
Andromeda Strain  
Children of Men  
Congo  
Contagion  
Crash  
Equilibrium  
Gorillas In the Mist  
I Am Legend  
Jurassic Park (film or books, sequels acceptable)  
Mighty Joe Young  
Outbreak  
Planet of the Apes  
The Constant Gardener  
The Island  
Ultraviolet

**Books:** *(Please email me for a more complete list of recommended books for e.c.)*
Diamond, Jared. *The Third Chimpanzee,* or *Guns, Germs & Steel*  
Marks, Jonathan. *What It Means to Be 98% Chimpanzee.*  
Goodall, Jane. *Harvest for Hope*  
Gould, Stephen J. *The Mismeasure of Man* or *The Richness of Life*  
Graves, Joseph. *The Race Myth* or *The Emperor’s New Clothes: Biological Theories of Race at the Millenium*  
Shelley, Mary. *Frakenstein.*  
Washington, Harriet. *Medical Apartheid*

**LAHC Library Website E-Reserves Login info (To obtain course slides pdf files):**
Username: student  
Password: lahestudent111