

Department of Anthropology
ANTH 2236B - Human Aging: Bioanthropological Perspectives
Course Summary
Winter 2017-18

Instructor: Dr. Andrew Nelson

Classes: Wednesdays 2:30-5:30 pm Classroom: SEB-1059

Antirequisite: none.

Prerequisite: Any one of the following: Anthropology 1020E, 1026F/G, Sociology 1020, 1021E, Biology 1225, 1290B, Health Sciences 1001A/B and Health Sciences 1002A/B, or the former Health Sciences 1000.

Course description:

This course examines the growth, development and aging of the human body using evolutionary, comparative and cross-cultural approaches. Modern humans are unique among other primates in having very large brains, which have evolved through a complex process that required adaptations to gestation, delivery, the number and length of post-natal growth phases and in patterns of parental investment. Modern humans have also evolved long life spans, relative to our primate relatives. In addition, the growth and aging processes are also affected by cultural processes. Practical methods will be drawn from bioarchaeology and forensics, theoretical perspectives will be drawn from biological evolution and evolutionary ecology, cultural aspects will be drawn from cultural anthropology and clinical perspectives will be incorporated from modern medical studies. In order to be studied holistically, both the biological and cultural aspects of aging must be considered, making it an ideal subject for an anthropology course.

3 lecture hours, 0.5 course

Evaluation: This course will have a midterm, a final and a short written assignment.