

Anthropology 2226B/001: Biological Anthropology



http://www.eclectic-eccentric.com/2010_11_01_archive.html

Instructor: Dr. Alexis Dolphin (adolphin@uwo.ca)

Class Time: Mondays 1:30-4:30pm

Office Hours: Mondays 10:00 to 11:00am, SSC 3421

Phone: 519-661-2111 x85074

TA: Jennifer Morgan (jmorgan8@uwo.ca)

Office Hours: TBA

Course Description:

The goal of this class is to achieve the scientific literacy needed to understand human evolution and human variation. This course will be divided into 4 major areas of discussion: 1) Genetics and Evolutionary Theory; 2) Primate Evolution; 3) Human Evolution; and 4) the Biocultural Modern Human. We begin with an overview of the history of evolutionary thought and the genetic basis of short-term and long-term evolutionary change. Then we will focus on our closest relatives, the non-human primates; learning about their biology, behaviour, and taxonomic relationships with humans. The third segment will address issues surrounding the fossil record of human evolution. The concluding portion of the course will explore the biocultural nature of modern human adaptation and variation.

This course is lecture and lab/discussion based. A significant portion of your course grade will be based on the work you complete during the lab/discussion components of your class time. The labs will include practical exercises allowing you to get some hands-on experience in the techniques of biological anthropology and to conduct, interpret, and report on your observations and quantitative measurements.

Required Texts:

A Human Voyage: Exploring Biological Anthropology (2011). Anne Keenleyside and Richard Lazenby, editors. Nelson Education Ltd.

*** a copy will also be place on 3-hour reserve at Weldon library***

Course Requirements:

25%	Mid-term exam
40%	Laboratory Exercises
35%	Final Exam

Laboratory Exercises:

Each student **must complete all FIVE laboratory exercises** during the allotted class time. In total these labs are **worth 40%** of your final grade. All laboratory exercises must be handed-in by the following class – please see the dates listed in the Course Schedule (above).

In order to ensure that students enjoy adequate hands-on time with the lab material the class will be split into two groups: Group A and Group B. Labs will run twice, first for Group A, and then again for Group B the following week. You will be assigned to either Group A or B and will not be permitted to switch back and forth – you must attend your lab when it is scheduled for your group. On lab days, lectures and discussion of readings will be limited so as to ensure that the last 1 hour of class will be free for holding labs. There will be no make-up labs unless you have documentation related to need of a medical or compassionate accommodation.

Exams:

There will be a **mid-term exam in class on February 27th which is worth 25%** of the final grade. *Please note that lab group A will meet directly after the exam and that lab group B will still hand in their second lab on that day.*

The **final exam** will be scheduled during the exam periods by the Office of the Registrar and will be **worth 35%** of your grade. The content of the exams will be derived primarily from lectures, labs and readings from class. The format of the exam may include multiple choice, short answer and short essay questions. Students who fail to attend an examination will not be allowed to write a make-up exam unless they bear a medical note or have made arrangements with Academic Counseling.

WebCT:

This course is supplemented by a WebCT component that you can access at: <https://owl.uwo.ca/webct/entryPage.dowebct> and logging in using your UWO username and password.

Once at the course site you will see a home page with basic information about this class as well as a series of icons which will connect you to course content such as this syllabus, lecture overviews, a discussion board, style guide, interesting links, etc.

WebCT content is meant to supplement your course experience and not to be used in lieu of doing assigned readings or attending lectures.

Deadlines and Accommodation:

Occasionally illness or other medical issues make it impossible to meet deadlines or to take exams as scheduled; in such cases adequate documentation must be submitted to Academic Counselling, according to the terms of the Senate policy regarding medical accommodation as specified at:

http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/accommodation_medical.pdf

You can read more about *Social Science Academic Counseling* at:

<http://counselling.ssc.uwo.ca/procedures/havingproblems.asp>

Providing such documentation is submitted, reasonable effort will be made to accommodate your situation.

If such documentation is not provided, a penalty of **5% per day** will be imposed on late laboratory exercises; missed exams will be given a mark of zero. Work submitted **more than 1 week late will not be accepted** and will receive a grade of zero. Note that if you are late in handing in a laboratory exercise, it is your responsibility to ensure that I receive it. The **only acceptable way** to submit late work is via the wooden Drop Box on the wall to the left of the Anthropology Main Office. Work placed in the box is date stamped by the departmental assistants each day and your work will be secure until I am able to come in and pick it up. Please make sure that the work includes a title page.

Please contact the course instructor if you require material in an alternate format or if you require any other arrangements to make this course more accessible to you. You may also wish to contact Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) at 661-2111 x 82147 for any specific question regarding an accommodation.

Use of Electronic Devices (including laptops):

No electronic devices of any kind (including but not limited to cell phones, Blackberries, iPods, other MP3 players, voice recorders, etc.) will be allowed during tests and examinations. Laptops may only be used during lectures for note taking or other course-related purposes; cell phones, iPods, MP3 players and other such devices are not to be used during class. Voice recorders (digital or tape) are not allowed without express permission. Disruptive use of electronic devices during class or laboratory time may result in a request that you leave the classroom.

A Brief Word on Plagiarism:

Students should remember that all class assignments must be written-up independently of their classmates, in their own words, and give credit where it is due using proper citations. Plagiarism is a serious offence, and students found guilty of having plagiarised the work of others will face severe penalties. Please see more details about the UWO policies here:

http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf

Course Schedule:

DATE	TOPIC	CHAPTERS	LAB GROUP	DUE
Jan 9	Introduction and Scientific Method	Preface + 1 + 2	-	-
Jan 16	Genes, Cells and Inheritance	3	A1	-
Jan 23	Variation, Selection & Adaptation	4	B1	A1
Jan 30	Primates and Their Evolution	5 + 7	A2	B1
Feb 6	Primate Behaviour	6	B2	A2
Feb 13	Early Hominins	8 + 9	A3	B2
Feb 20	READING WEEK	-	-	-
Feb 27	MID-TERM	-	B3	A3
Mar 5	The Genus <i>Homo</i>	10	A4	B3
Mar 12	Archaics and Modern <i>Homo sapiens</i>	11 + 12	B4	A4
Mar 19	Modern Human Diversity	13	A5	B4
Mar 26	Past Populations	14	B5	A5
Apr 2	Applied Biological Anthropology	15 + 16	-	B5
Apr 9	Ethical Issues & Exam Review	-	-	-

Laboratory Exercises:

A1 and B1 = Genetics

A2 and B2 = Primate Anatomy

A3 and B3 = Early Hominins

A4 and B4 = The Genus *Homo*

A5 and B5 = Human Adaptation