Class day/time: Wednesdays, 1:30-4:30 pm

Classroom: SSC 2257
Instructor: Dr. Ian Colquhoun
Office: SSC 3428
Office hours: TBD
Email: colquhou@uwo.ca (contact me about anything concerning the course!)

Credit value: 0.5 credit

Requisites:
Antirequisites: None.

Prerequisites: Anthropology 1020 (formerly Anthropology 1020E), or one of Anthropology 1025F/G or Anthropology 1021A/B and one of Anthropology 1026F/G or Anthropology 1022A/B.

Unless you have either the requisites for this course or written special permission to enroll in it, you may be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites.

Mode of delivery: This course is conducted in-person. Beginning in the second week of the term, the course includes "hands-on" lab exercises -- the class will be divided into Lab Groups which will conduct their lab exercises in weekly rotation. The composition of the Lab Groups will be finalized in the first week of the F’21 term.

Course Description:
The course has a four-part structure, and will pursue an "issues-oriented" perspective. We begin with a consideration of the philosophy of science and an examination of the history of evolutionary thought. In this first segment of the course, we will consider the genetic basis of short-term and long-term evolutionary change. The second segment of the course deals with the evolution of the Order Primates; this segment also includes an overview of the taxonomy, biogeography, and socioecology of those mammalian species most closely related to humans, the living non-human primates. The third segment in the course focuses on the field of paleoanthropology -- the study of the fossil record of hominin evolution. The fourth, and concluding, segment of the course inspects the adaptations, biologic variation, and biocultural behaviour of contemporary human populations. Throughout the term, in keeping with an
“issues-oriented” perspective, attention will also be given to any material relevant to the course that may appear in the academic literature and/or be reported in the media as the term unfolds.

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

- appreciate, recognize, and communicate the breadth of material that constitutes the field of biological anthropology (much of which is often reported in the popular media, but not explicitly identified as being “biological anthropology”);
- identify and describe major theoretical issues in the various sub-areas of biological anthropology (i.e., evolutionary theory, primate biology and taxonomy, paleoanthropology, and human biology);
- Recognize active and promising research fronts in biological anthropology;
- Be familiar with basic quantitative methods employed in comparative osteology, paleoanthropology, and human skeletal biology; and,
- Predict the directions where future research is most promising for major advances in the field.

Course Materials:
The required text is:


Lab handouts will be distributed to each of the Lab Groups for the set of Lab Exercises that are part of the course requirements.

Evaluation:
The following is the tentative breakdown of this course’s evaluated work:

Mid-term Test (35%)

Three brief lab reports based on lab exercises (3 x 10% = 30%)

Final Exam (35% -- only covers material following the mid-term test)

END