

**Department of Anthropology**  
**ANTHRO 2226A-001: Biological Anthropology**  
**BRIEF COURSE OUTLINE**  
**Fall 2024**

Date: July 26, 2024

**Instructor and course information:**

Instructor: Dr. Jo Motley

Method of delivery: In Person

Credit value: 0.5

Antirequisites: None.

Prerequisites: There are not any designated prerequisite courses to Anthro 2226A/B. However, students who have taken Anthro 1022A/B or 1026F/G should find they have a solid conceptual basis for the work in this course.

**Course Description:**

Biological anthropology is a subfield of the broader discipline of anthropology that studies the evolutionary history and biological diversity of humans and non-human primates. As biological anthropology is a subfield investigating human biology and evolutionary history, this course primarily draws on the synthetic theory of evolution and biocultural theory as a framework in conjunction with the contributions of primatology, human biology, paleoanthropology, and human osteology to better understand ourselves.

This course is comprised of four parts:

- What is “biological anthropology”? The philosophy of science, the history of evolutionary thought, genetics, and human heredity.
- What makes a primate? Primate evolution, behaviour, and biology.
- Why do anthropologists study bones? What makes a human *human*? What is “human nature”? The study of human evolution and human osteology
- When we study humans, we study people: Human variation and biocultural considerations

A full course schedule including a week-by-week breakdown of topics and assigned readings will be available on the course’s OWL Brightspace site before the first day of class.

**Course Materials:**

**Marks, Jonathan, 2017. *The Alternative Introduction to Biological Anthropology (2nd Edition)*. New York and Oxford: Oxford University Press.**

Additional required readings will be available through the course site on Brightspace.

**Supplementary Resource:** [Explorations: An Open Invitation to Biological Anthropology](#)

While not required, this free Open-Access online textbook provides an overview of introductory information for those that did not complete a recommended first year anthropology course.

**Evaluation:**

Grades will be based on the following:

3 Lab Assignments (3x10%)	30%
Mid-term Exam	35%
Final Exam	35%

- Lab Assignments (in-class exercises using provided materials)
- A Mid-term Exam (multiple-choice questions and true-and-false questions)
- Final Exam (multiple-choice questions, true-and-false questions, and a short essay; will take place during the December exam period)

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