

**Department of Anthropology**

**ANTHRO 2240B-001: Evolution, Ecology, and Human Health**

**BRIEF COURSE OUTLINE**

**Winter 2025**

*Date: August 12, 2024*

**Instructor and course information:**

Instructor: Dr. Jay Stock

Method of delivery: In person

Credit value: 0.5

Antirequisites: None.

Prerequisites: Completion of first year, including at least one course in Social Science, Science, or Health Sciences. Recommended: Anthropology 1020, Anthropology 1021A/B, Anthropology 1022A/B, Anthropology 1025F/G, Anthropology 1026F/G, Geography 1100, Geography 1300A/B, Geography 1400F/G, Geography 1500F/G, Biology 1225, Biology 1290B, Health Sciences 1001A/B or Health Sciences 1002A/B.

**Course Description:**

The biology and physiology of the human body evolved over the past seven million years. The legacy of this evolution has shaped the biology of our species, yet we live in a world characterized by rapid cultural and environmental change. In this course we consider the impact of these changes on human health. The course begins with an introduction to evolutionary theory and a brief evolutionary history of the human body, before considering how our species has constructed and modified our ecological niche through cultural change. We will consider a range of mismatch hypotheses that use evolutionary theory to interpret health in the 21st century. Specific issues covered will include: aging, mortality and cancer; parasites and pathogens; obstetrics and childbirth; diet, the microbiome and metabolic disease; activity and sport, and health in the Anthropocene. Readings will be assigned to supplement the material presented in the lectures.

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:**

Many readings in this course are drawn from the following book:

Lieberman, D. (2014) [The Story of the Human Body: Evolution, Health and Disease](#). Vintage Books.

Additional weekly readings have been selected from the academic literature and will be available on OWL. Readings have been chosen to represent either landmark reviews of earlier work in the field, or recent perspectives of topical interest. None of the readings can be considered to provide exhaustive coverage of the topics but will need to be considered in combination with the lecture material.

Registered students will be able to access course readings through the course site in OWL Brightspace before the first day of class.

**Evaluation:**

Grades will be based on the following:

Quizzes – 15%

Reflection Assignment 1 – 15%

Reflection Assignment 2 – 30%

Final Exam – 40%

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