Introduction to Biological Anthropology

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| **C-ID Number** | ANTH 110 |
| **Discipline** | Anthropology |
| **Date Approved** | June 15, 2012 |

## General Course Description

This course introduces the concepts, methods of inquiry, and scientific explanations for biological evolution and their application to the human species. Issues and topics will include, but are not limited to, genetics, evolutionary theory, human variation and biocultural adaptations, comparative primate anatomy and behavior, and the fossil evidence for human evolution. The scientific method serves as foundation of the course. The course may include a lab component.

## Minimum Units

3.0

## Any rationale or comments

Biological anthropology is one of the core components of anthropology.

## Advisories/Recommendations

Eligibility for or completion of C-ID ENGL 100: College Composition.

## Course Content

Nature of scientific inquiry and the scientific method
Anthropological perspective
History and development of biological evolutionary thought
Molecular, Mendelian and population genetics
Mechanisms of evolution
Comparative primate taxonomy, anatomy and behavior
The nature of the fossil record including dating techniques
Fossil and genetic evidence of human evolution
Biocultural adaptations and modern human variation

## Laboratory Activities

The course may include a lab component.

## Course Objectives

At the conclusion of this course, the student should be able to:

Describe the scientific process as a methodology for understanding the natural world.
Define the scope of anthropology and discuss the role of biological anthropology within the discipline.
Identify the main contributors to the development of evolutionary theory.
Explain the basic principles of Mendelian, molecular and population genetics.
Evaluate how the forces of evolution produce genetic and phenotypic change over time.
Demonstrate an understanding of classification, morphology and behavior of living primates.
Summarize methods used in interpreting the fossil record, including dating techniques.
Recognize the major groups of hominin fossils and describe alternate phylogenies for human evolution.
Identify the biological and cultural factors responsible for human variation.

## Prerequisites

## Corequisites

None

## Methods of Evaluation

Multiple measures may include, but are not limited to:

In-class discussions and exercises
Individual/group writing projects
Written or oral quizzes
Field assignments
Journal reviews
Other writing assignments
Exams

## Sample Textbooks

Boyd, Robert and Joan B. Silk. How Humans Evolved.  Norton.
Fuentes, Agustin. Biological Anthropology: Concepts and Connections. McGraw-Hill.
Jurmain, Robert, Lynn Kilgore and Wenda Trevathan. Essentials of Physical Anthropology. Cengage.
Jurmain, Robert, Lynn Kilgore, Wenda Trevathan and Russel Ciochon.  Introduction to Physical Anthropology.  Cengage.
Larsen, Clark Spencer.  Our Origins:  Discovering Physical Anthropology. Norton.
Park, Michael Allen. Biological Anthropology.  McGraw-Hill.
Relethford, John.  The Human Species:  An Introduction to Biological Anthropology.  McGraw-Hill.
Stanford, Craig, John S. Allen and Susan C. Anton. Biological Anthropology. Pearson.
Stein, Philip L. and Bruce M. Rowe.  Physical Anthropology.  McGraw-Hill.
Supplementary readings:
Angeloni, Elvio. Annual Editions:  Physical Anthropology.  McGraw-Hill.
France, Diane. Lab Manual and Workbook for Physical Anthropology.  Cengage.
Hens, Samantha.  Method and Practice in Biological Anthropology: A Workbook and Lab Manual for Introductory Courses.  Pearson.
Park, Michael Allen. Biological Anthropology: An Introductory Reader. McGraw-Hill.
Walker-Pacheco, Suzanne.  Exploring Physical Anthropology: A Lab Manual and Workbook. Morton.
Whitehead, Paul, William Sacco and Susan Hochgraf.  A Photographic Atlas for Physical Anthropology.  Morton.
Or equivalent Open Educational Resource

## Notes