

Anthropology 2503

Introduction to Biological Anthropology

Spring 2006

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Introduction: This course covers historical, theoretical and applied perspectives of biological anthropology. The major emphasis is on understanding modern humans as a product of biological, cultural, behavioral and environmental interactions throughout their evolutionary development.

Text:

- *How Humans Evolved* (4th edition 2006), by Robert Boyd and Joan B. Silk
- Occasional readings will be made available either through the class website on [Desire2Learn](#) or through the library's E-Reserve
- I will also assign several BBC radio programs on the topic of evolution; these will be made available as mp3 files through [Desire2Learn](#)

Course Requirements:

1) 3 exams (100 points each)	300 pts
2) 1 out-of-class writing assignment	70 pts
3) 8 in-class activities (7 points each)	56 pts
4) 1 online quiz on academic misconduct	10 pts
Total	436 pts

1) The exams are closed-note, closed-book, and are not cumulative. They will consist mostly of short answer questions and essays, with a smattering of fill-in-the-blank/true-false. The lectures and material covered by each exam are indicated in the schedule below. The final exam is simply another exam; it is not cumulative.

Please note that make-up exams will be given only when (a) there are exceptional circumstances preventing you from taking the exam on the scheduled day (e.g., a serious illness requiring hospitalization, death of a family member), (b) you can provide written proof of the exceptional circumstances (e.g., a note from a physician), and (c) you notify me of the situation prior to the time of the exam. Outside of these circumstances, you will receive a zero for a missed exam. Make-up exams are not granted for dental appointments, flat tires, etc.

2) The out-of-class writing assignment is a short paper (about 5-6 pages in length) that is due at the beginning of class on April 20. It is to be sole-authored, that is, written by you and you alone.

The assignment will involve you researching a specific “hot topic” question in human evolution. Further details will be given later, well in advance of the due date.

3) The in-class activities are, as the name implies, based on activities we will perform in class. These may consist of writing assignments following class discussion, group activities in which you will assist each other, brief exercises on a current topic, etc. They are to be handed in at the end of the class, and they cannot be made up if missed, except for officially excused absences. Each assignment is worth 7 points. I will collect 9 assignments, although only 8 will count towards your grade. This means that you may miss one in-class activity with no penalty against your grade.

4) The online quiz on academic misconduct is simply a short quiz, available on [Desire2Learn](#) that verifies that you are informed about academic misconduct, cheating, etc. You can retake the test until you get a perfect score.

There will be no extra credit. Your total point score, divided by the highest score achieved in the class, will determine your final grade. So for example if the highest score in the class is 430 points, your grade will be (your score)/430.

Other Requirements and Expectations:

- 1) Log in to [Desire2Learn](#) (D2L, <http://learn.ou.edu>) as soon as possible, and familiarize yourself with the site. You can always obtain a copy of this syllabus on D2L. Announcements, class notes, etc., will be posted on the site, and you are expected to check D2L on regularly.
- 2) You should read (or, in some cases, listen to) all assigned material **before** class meets. There is a substantial reading load for this course, and if you fall behind it will entail a large amount of work to catch up. The readings will form the basis of the class discussions and in-class assignments; additionally, each exam will contain questions based on material covered only in the readings.
- 3) You are expected to come to class and participate in class discussions. Attendance is graded indirectly, through the in-class assignments. Class participation is not explicitly graded, but it is expected that you will contribute to the discussions to the best of your ability. Lecture materials and videos presented during class time will form an important component of the exams; missing this material will disadvantage you. Lastly, the Faculty Handbook notes that “When absences seriously affect a student’s class work, the instructor will report this fact to the Admissions and Records Office, where the information will be directed to the dean concerned.”
- 4) You are expected to take notes in class. The lecture notes used in class will be made available on [Desire2Learn](#) (usually within 24 hours after class). However, the overheads may be sketchy and incomplete, and I always discuss material verbally in class that is not written down on the slides. This oral material is important, and will be included on the exams. Based on experience from previous semesters, students who rely solely on the overheads rather than taking notes in class receive lower grades on exams.
- 5) Please act respectfully and courteously toward the rest of the class, including the instructor. This means not reading newspapers during class, not using cell phones (cell phones and pagers should be turned off during class), not engaging in conversations with your classmates, and so forth. I reserve the option of deducting points for persistent disrespectful behavior.

- 6) Academic misconduct—cheating and plagiarism—will be treated as a serious offense. Cheating includes the use of notes or other materials during exams and discussion of exam questions with other students during the exam period. Plagiarism includes the presentation of the work or ideas of others as your own. You are expected to know and understand university policy regarding academic misconduct (see <http://www.ou.edu/provost/integrity>). Academic misconduct may result in severe penalties, including a zero on the assignment in question, as well as further sanctions from the provost such as censure, suspension, or expulsion.
- 7) The University of Oklahoma is committed to providing reasonable accommodation for all students with disabilities. Any student in this course who has a disability that may prevent him or her from fully demonstrating his or her abilities should contact me personally as soon as possible so we can discuss accommodations necessary to ensure full participation and facilitate your educational opportunities. Students with disabilities must be registered with the Office of Disability Services prior to receiving accommodations in this course. The Office of Disability Services is located in Goddard Health Center, Suite 166, phone 405/325-3852 or TDD only 405/325-4173. Students whose first language is not English should discuss any concerns or needs with me as soon as possible.
- 8) Students who need to miss a class because of a religious holiday, a university-sponsored activity (e.g., a scholarly competition, fine arts performances, an academic field trip) or a legally required activity (e.g., emergency military service, jury duty), should contact me in advance regarding their absence from class.
- 9) If you prefer to use a non-OU address for your e-mail: please either check your OU address regularly, or set your OU address to autoforward mail to your preferred address, so that you can receive important announcements and last-minute information.
- 10) A note on the timing of the final exam: this schedule is set by the University, and is beyond my power to change. Please do not ask me if you can take the final exam ahead early so you can leave town.

“An examination may be rescheduled for an individual student only in emergencies such as the illness of the student, a serious illness or death in the immediate family or an unavoidable academic conflict of compelling importance. For such a conflict to be considered as grounds for rescheduling a final examination, the activity must be directly related to the student’s academic work in the University.” (<http://www.ou.edu/bulletins/01catalog/HTML/policies.htm>)

Schedule and Readings

(The course schedule and readings are subject to change. You will be fully informed of any changes, and the updated syllabus will be available on [Desire2Learn](#).)

January 17/19/24: Adaptation by Natural Selection (Chapter 1)

January 26/31: Genetics (Chapter 2)

February 2/7: The Modern Synthesis (Chapter 3)

February 9: Speciation and Phylogeny (Chapter 4)

February 14/16: Introduction to the Primates (Chapter 5)

February 21: Exam #1

- Covers all lectures and readings from January 17 – February 16

February 23: Primate Ecology (Chapter 6)

February 28/March 2: Primate Mating Systems (Chapter 7)

March 7/9: The Evolution of Social Behavior (Chapter 8)

March 14/16: Spring Break

- No class!

March 21: Primate Life Histories and The Evolution of Intelligence (Chapter 9)

March 23: From Tree Shrew to Ape (Chapter 10)

March 28/30: From Hominoid to Hominin (Chapter 11)

April 4: Exam #2

- Covers all lectures and readings from February 23 – March 30

April 6: Oldowan Tool Makers and the Origins of Human Life History (Chapter 12)

April 11/13: From Hominin to Homo (Chapter 13)

April 18/20: *Homo sapiens* and the Evolution of Modern Human Behavior (Chapter 14)

- April 20: **out-of-class writing assignment due**

April 25: Human Genetic Diversity (Chapter 15)

April 27: Evolution and Human Behavior (Chapter 16)

May 2/4: Human Mate Choice and Parenting (Chapter 17)

Thursday, May 11: FINAL EXAM (1:30 – 3:30 PM)

- Covers all lectures and readings from April 6 – May 4