

Syllabus
INTRODUCTION TO PHYSICAL ANTHROPOLOGY
Spring 2011

Lecturer: Aida Abdykanova

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Office hours M. 13:00-14:00; W.: 13:00-14:00; and by appointment.

Class time: M.W.F:

Course Purpose and Goals:

This course offers a detailed introduction to the discipline of physical/biological anthropology through a presentation of the human evolutionary record and a consideration of the present diversity of *Homo sapiens sapiens*. It first traces human evolution from its earliest primate beginnings over four million years ago to the appearance of anatomically modern man, at least c. 40-35,000 B.C. After briefly sketching the birth and development of evolutionary thought, the course proceeds with a description of the advanced physical and behavioral characteristics of the primate order. In addition to the consideration of the fossil palaeontological record, archaeological materials and biochemical evidence are presented to document the story of our evolution. The course then discusses theories on the origin of contemporary human diversity and details the present variation of the human species in respect to physical features, such as blood types and body forms, and environmental adaptations.

Course structure/approach: weekly lecture/discussion/active learning activities.

Requirements:

ACADEMIC HONESTY: Cheating, plagiarism and other academic dishonesty are dealt with severely, according to AUCA policy. Respectful behavior in the classroom is required: do your errands, phone calls, and pit stops before class; turn off cell phones; do not arrive late, leave early, or otherwise disrupt the class.

CLASS PARTICIPATION: Attendance is mandatory. Each student is expected to come to class prepared and to contribute to class all discussions and activities. You can expect to lose some participation points if you miss more than one class for any reason.

PRESENTATION: present a five to ten minute to the whole class. Interpretation in this context means making the site or panel accessible and comprehensible to others; it does not imply "reading" the meaning of the rock art imagery. You might focus on age, style, function, or cultural affiliation and context of the art. If you worked with a partner, work out a way to share the work so you both get experience giving a presentation.

REVIEW: Review should be written for one of given articles by student's choice.

Required Textbook:

Noel T. Boaz, Alan J. Almquist (2002) Biological Anthropology

Francis E. Johnston (1982) Physical Anthropology

Harry Nelson, Robert Jurmain (1988) Introduction to Physical Antropology

Grading Policy:

Midterm Exam	20%
Final Exam	20%
Presentation	15%
Review	20%
Attendance	10%
Active participation	15%
Total	100%

A	96-100%
A-	88-95%
B+	84-87%
B	77-83%

B-	74-76%
C+	70-73%
C	64-69%
C-	61-63%
D+	56-60%
D	51-55%
D-	46-50%
F	<45%

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

1. Introduction. What is Physical Anthropology? Main subjects that Physical Anthropologists study
2. Principles of Evolution. Influences on Darwin. Darwin's Theory of Evolution
3. Development of the Theory of Inheritance. Mendel's Laws of Heredity. Biological Basis of Life.
4. Genetics and Evolution. DNA structure. Genetic Variation
5. Evolution in modern Populations. Main Factors of Evolution
6. Stages of Vertebrate Evolution.
7. What is Primate? Primate Evolution
8. Living Primates. Primate Behavior
9. What is Hominid? The Australopithecines.
10. The Genus Homo. Homo Erectus. Homo Neanderthalensis. Homo Sapiens
11. Human Biology and Variation.
12. Human Life Circle: Human Biology, Growth, and Adaptability
13. Human Ecology and Quality of Life