

**ANTH 1: Introduction to Biological Anthropology- Ticket 18805**  
**Saddleback College, Fall 2009**

**INSTRUCTOR:**

Meredith Dorner  
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Office Hours: by appointment

**MEETING PLACE & TIME:**

BGS 340  
Tues/Thurs 7:30-8:50 am

**COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES:**

This course explores what it means to be human through study of modern human variation and genetics, the behavior and evolution of different species of primates, and the evolution of the human species. By the end of this course you should be familiar with the processes of evolution, the basics of genetics, the characteristics of the different groups of primates, and current theories about the evolution of different hominid species. The primary goal of this course is to introduce students to the fundamental concepts of biological anthropology, focusing on understanding modern human variation and the evolution of *Homo sapiens*. Further goals are to improve students' oral, written, and critical thinking skills, through class discussions, individual presentations, and writing assignments.

**STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES**

Students will learn scientific method and its application in biological anthropology particularly as it relates to human evolution. Students will also learn how species adapt and change through the process of natural selection.

**REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS:**

*Exploring Biological Anthropology: The Essentials*, 2007, by Stanford, Allen and Anton.  
*Annual Editions: Physical Anthropology*, 07/08

**CLASSROOM POLICIES:**

Students will be graded on class participation, exams, and assignments. Class attendance is important and will be taken at the beginning of each class meeting. A student who misses more than the equivalent of one week of classes without prior arrangement with the instructor may be dropped from the course. Late arrivals and early departures from class without prior arrangement may result in penalties reflected in the student participation grade. Smoking, eating, and drinking are not permitted in the classroom, and all pagers and cell phones must be turned off prior to the start of class. Behavior that is respectful of the class is expected of all students; any student behaving inappropriately may be dismissed from that class meeting or the course in general. **Students who miss either or both of the first two class meetings without speaking with me ahead of time will automatically be dropped from the class.**

A student with a verified disability may be entitled to appropriate academic accommodations. Please contact me and/or the Special Services Program.

**ASSIGNMENTS & EXAMS**

Exams (3): 1<sup>st</sup>- 15%, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> 20% each  
Discussion Leadership: 10%  
Primate Research project: 10%  
Paper: 15%  
Participation: 10%

Exams will be a combination of objective questions (multiple choice, true/false, and problem-solving, etc.) and short-answer / essay questions. Exams may include a take-home essay portion. More information on the research project and paper assignments will be distributed in class. Each student will be required lead a class

discussion, with a student group, on some of the articles found in the “Annual Editions”. The participation grade will be based on the student’s participation in class exercises and class discussion.

### **GRADING POLICIES:**

100-90%: A 89-80%: B 79-70%: C 69-60%: D 59% and below: F  
Final grades will be assigned using the above percentage scale.

**Under very special circumstances (such as a documented medical emergency), students may be allowed to make up a missed examination no later than one class meeting after the actual test date. THIS ALLOWANCE WILL ONLY BE MADE IF THE STUDENT CONTACTS ME AHEAD OF TIME!** Late submission of assignments will result in a 10% penalty **per day** unless alternate arrangements have been made with the instructor ahead of time. All students should look over any exams or papers that have been graded and, if necessary, should resolve any grading issues within two weeks after the return of that particular assignment or exam. Students seeking an “incomplete” grade in the course must file a petition with the instructor citing unforeseeable, emergency, and justifiable reasons.

Plagiarism and cheating constitute violations of academic honesty whether perpetrated actively or passively. All violations and suspected violations of academic honesty will result in action taken against the parties involved, and will be documented in writing with the Dean. Sanctions may include no-credit on the assignment in question, course failure, or formal charges of student misconduct. Formal charges can result in academic probation, suspension, or expulsion.

### **EXTRA CREDIT**

There two opportunities for extra credit in this course. The first is to attend and event or visit a museum that closely relates to biological anthropology (e.g. Museum of Man in Balboa Park) and turn in a typed, 1-2 page description of the human evolution exhibit accompanied by your admission ticket. This can add up to 6 points to your final exam, but it must be submitted on or before the last class prior to the final exam. The second opportunity is to bring in one recent news article that has relevance to our course material and turn in a written summary (1-2 paragraphs) for an additional 3 points.

### **SCHEDULE OF LECTURE TOPICS AND READINGS**

Please note that the following schedule is **tentative** and **subject to change**. Changes will be announced in class and will be updated on the announcements page on the course blackboard website. It is the student’s responsibility to keep up with any changes to the syllabus. “Chapter” refers to the Stanford et al. Text while “AE” refers to Annual Editions.

Week 1 reading: Chapters 1 & 2, AE: 1, 2  
8/25 Introduction, The scientific method  
8/27 Brief history of evolutionary thought, Natural selection

Week 2 reading: Chapters 3 & 4, AE: 5, 9, 33, 42  
9/1 Mendelian genetics  
9/3 The cell, Protein synthesis

Week 3 reading: review Chapters 4 & 6  
9/8 Cell division, mutation  
9/10 Human genetics and biology

Week 4 reading: Chapter 6 & 14, AE: 35, 36, 43, 44  
9/15 Modern human variation  
9/17 The forces of evolution

Week 5 reading: Chapter 5 & 14, AE: 37, 38, 39

9/22 Film

9/24 **EXAM 1**

Week 6 reading: Chapter 7, AE: 3, 21

9/29 Introduction to primates

10/1 Primate groups

Week 7 reading: Chapter 8, AE: 17, 18, 19, 20

10/6 Primate social behavior

10/8 Film

Week 8 reading: Chapter 14, AE: 13, 16

10/13 Primate social behavior, cont

10/15 The evolution of behavior **Research Project due**

Week 9: Chapters 8 & 14, AE: 10, 11, 12

10/20 The evolution of behavior, cont

10/22 Primate cognition

Week 10 reading: Chapter 9

10/27 Phylogenetics

10/29 Primate evolution

Week 11 reading: Chapter 9

**11/3 EXAM 2**

11/5 Comparative anatomy & Dating techniques

Week 12 reading: Chapter 10, AE: 23, 24, 25

11/10 Hominid origins

11/12 Early & Gracile australopithecines

Week 13: reading: Chapter 10, AE: 26, 27, 28

11/17 Robust australopithecines **Paper Outline Due**

11/19 *Homo habilis* & *Homo erectus*

Week 14 reading: Chapter 11, AE: 29, 31, 32

11/24 Early archaic *Homo sapiens*

11/26 NO CLASS- Thanksgiving Break

Week 15 reading: Chapters 12

12/1 Neandertals

12/3 Anatomically modern *H. sapiens*

Week 16 reading: Chapters 13 & 15, AE: 40, 41

12/8 Film **Paper due**

12/10 Biocultural evolution

**EXAM 3 will be held during our scheduled final**