

A1 Biological Anthropology -21265

Saddleback College

Fall 2009

Texts: Stanford, C., Allen, J. & Antón, S. (Eds.) (2008) *Exploring Biological Anthropology*. (4th ed). New Jersey, NY: Prentice Hall.

Office Hours: Monday online 7:30-10pm; Tues.: 10am-12pm; Thurs.: 8-8:30am

Student Learning Outcomes:

Students will learn the 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. Use of required reading assignments will provide students with an understanding of America's position with regard to science. Students will participate in discussions that will include human evolution and variation, the human and primate fossil records, their phylogenetic positions, and Primatology.

Students who apply themselves will have a comprehensive foundation for upper division work in biological anthropology at a four-year institution.

Course Requirements:

There are three primary requirements for this course. Online chapter quizzes must be completed and emailed to me by the due date. Students must participate in online discussions again, by the due date to receive credit. Finally, there are two exams, though not cumulative, the exams do include several essay questions that must be completed with thorough essay responses. The following are more detailed descriptions of the requirements.

Online Multiple Choice Quizzes (OMC): You must have access to the internet in order to complete these assignments. If you do not have a computer, you can use those in the library or student resource center. They will take you approximately 10 minutes to complete. I would advise doing them after your first read of the text chapter. The quizzes are linked in your assignments folder on Blackboard and are due on the same date as your corresponding discussion boards. No late quizzes will be accepted.

Here is the **required** protocol to email the results to me. Once the 20 questions are completed

1. Press "Submit Answers for Grading" button at the bottom of the page
 2. You will be directed to a "Results" page
 3. Press "Email Your Results"
 4. Email them to yourselves
 5. Once you have received your results **forward** them to ***rgarcia43@saddleback.edu*** and in the ***subject*** space make sure to put **your first and last name** and the **course ticket number**.
10. You're done!

Online Discussion Participation: It is important to be respectful and courteous (see Online Etiquette section). This class requires discussion, which can sometimes be "heated" this is good, but must always remain respectful. Be tactful in your disagreement, be open minded and please, edit your message before sending. No rude, obnoxious, or disrespectful behavior toward the instructor or fellow students will be tolerated. I absolutely reserve the right to drop students who do not choose to comply. Students are required to participate in weekly discussion sessions. There will be threads for each week regarding the lecture and link assignments. Questions will be provided that must be answered in your first entry. Thereafter, you are required to respond to your fellow students' entries. Discussion entries will be tracked for grading purposes. **Four posts minimum are required per discussion board.** Please see "Rubric for online discussions" in "Course Information". Participation in the discussion boards is required. We can all learn from the beliefs, opinions, and experiences that each of us brings to this class. However, I reserve the right to take over and redirect a discussion that is becoming too "heated" or "personal" as well as ban the individual from posting.

Exams: There will be two timed 1.5 hour online exams, each covering half of the course. This means that after 1.5 hours every additional minute will cost you 1 point. Exams will be comprised of multiple choice and short answer essay questions. A study guide will be posted before the scheduled exam. Although lectures will remain open until the exam due date, any indication that they are being used directly to respond to exam questions will result in an "F" for the exam. Blackboard allows us to check when another page is being accessed as well as usually bumping you out of the exam.

Important: Students must participate in the discussion threads in order to receive credit for the exam. Exams are not open book nor open notes. Any evidence of either will result in an "F" for the exam. Not only is it prohibited, but it is counter productive as students will loose time searching for answers.

NO MAKE UP EXAMS WILL BE PERMITTED: The instructor is under no obligation to give makeup examinations. In the event of a **medical emergency**, you must provide **written proof** from a physician or medical practitioner. In the case of avoidable technical problems, a make-up will not be given. However, if it is a technical issue that is due to Blackboard, I will provide a make-up opportunity. Forgetting to take an exam is not a valid reason to allow a make-up, neither is vacation or other trip. Therefore, mark your calendars well in advance so that you will not miss the time frame.

Be sure NOT to use a wireless computer when taking your exam as you may be dropped from the exam. If you are dropped, let me know ASAP and thoroughly explain what took place before you were dropped, I will determine whether you will be allowed to re-take the exam based on your explanation.

Work Quality: You have enrolled in a college course, therefore your work should be at this level. I have a certain level of expectation regarding your writing. Writing is necessary in almost every career and people always notice someone who does it well. Therefore, take time to edit your discussion entries before submitting them. You will be graded on content, spelling and punctuation.

Academic Dishonesty: Academic dishonesty including plagiarism, cheating on exams and submitting similar work to that of another classmate will be dealt with by the student receiving an automatic "F" grade for the course.

Drops: Students who do not log-on within the first 10 days may be dropped from the course. Please be sure to contact me if you are unable to access the course site for any extended period of time and do not want to be dropped. Always contact me if you need help. But, please do not rely on me to drop you from the course. This must be done via MySite.

Accessing the Course:

Consistent computer capabilities are essential. Your computer should have at least 32 megabytes or RAM (64 is optimal), a 2GB hard drive (4GB is optimal), and a modem that is 33.6 BPS or faster. A broadband or DSL connection is recommended. I urge you to evaluate the feasibility of taking an online course without consistent computer access.

Blackboard: The Blackboard system is our virtual classroom. The system includes such features as: class announcements, e-mail, discussion board (our class discussion forum), lectures, links to additional readings, study guides, exams, assignments, and grades. You access the course by typing in the following URL address: <http://soccdd.blackboard.com> and <http://www.saddleback.edu/itc/user/blackboardfaq.html> or linking to it from MySite or the college's main web page. Your user name is the same as your Saddleback email address up to but not including the @ sign (generally your first initial, last name and one or two digits). Your password is the same as your email account, generally your pin number plus two zeros or the last four digits of your social security number plus two zero's.. If you have changed your email password, you will not be able to enter the site until you reset your password. Please contact Sheri Nelson, our Distance Education Coordinator, at snelson@saddleback.edu or (949) 582-4515, if you have

any problems logging onto the site. She will also be your source if you have technical difficulty at any point except for exams.

Being able to access a computer capable of using Blackboard is a technical requirement for this course. In the case you have a problem however, you may use those on campus. The following are a list of times for the computer lab in the village, note they are open on Saturdays.

Technology Issues: To ensure that there are no TECHNICAL DIFFICULTIES while taking the online exams you will need to **close all OTHER BROWSERS, block all POP-UPS, and DO NOT click on "Refresh" or the "Back" button** as this can cause the website and the exam to freeze up and kick you out of the system. In this instance it will show that you have completed the exam and any questions you have not answered or saved will be marked incorrect. Please make sure you **click on "submit"** once you have completed the exam (if you only chose "save" the exam is not submitted to me). Please note that the questions on the exam will show one at a time and backtracking is prohibited. When you move on to the next question the previous question is automatically saved. **Make-up exams will not be allowed for such avoidable technical difficulties.** Also, make sure your internet connection is not moving slower than usual before you take the exam as this could cause your exam to not be processed upon submitting it. **Make sure you do not wait until the last minute to take the exam as technical difficulties will not be considered if it is within the last three hours allotted to complete the exam.** *It is best if you have downloaded "Firefox" (go to firefox.com) on your computer and use this as your browser to access the website.* Note that **"Vista"** is not compatible with Blackboard and causes considerable problems when taking online exams. These issues can also effect what you see in the discussion board, so do be sure to download Firefox.

Online Etiquette:

Please remember that although you are talking through the computer, a living, breathing, person is reading your message. Please consider yourself to be in an academic community of people who wish to be treated with kindness and respect. No rude, obnoxious, or disrespectful behavior toward your fellow students or the instructor will be tolerated. I absolutely reserve the right to drop students who do not choose to comply.

Things to Remember:

1. Choose your words carefully. Be sure to review your messages before posting.
2. Capital letters is considered shouting. Think of other ways to emphasize a point.
3. Use smiley faces and other emoticons to express yourself.

Any images or links you would like to include with your discussion entry that may be questionable, in terms of content, should be pre-approved by me. If you are not certain what this means be sure to ask BEFORE submitting with your discussion entry.

Course Grading:

A students perform at an exceptional level. Overall participation and attitude are exemplary. Discussions and exams are completed above and beyond what is required. It is not the number of entries one makes to the discussion boards, but the content of those entries.

B students demonstrate a complete level of understanding of the subject with some minor flaws. A noticeable effort is evident in the discussions and exams. Participation is very active. Seeking advice for room for improvement distinguishes the "A" student from the "B" student.

C students have an average understanding of the class material. Participation, discussions, and exams are at a standard level of requirement. A "good enough" attitude dominates, but they have sought help from me. This effort will separate the "D" student from the "C" student.

D students have a lower than average understanding of class assignments. Discussions are usually not well thought out or even completed. Exam scores are low and minimal study time is allotted. Participation is almost completely lacking and the student when called upon has not done the reading.

F students should have dropped from day one after reading this syllabus. Little to no effort is put into discussions, exams, and participation. No fulfillment of student learning outcomes is predicted. These students are uninterested in the course and in working toward a positive class experience.

You know what kind of student you are by this point. If you are new to a college, you are going to need a great deal of motivation and self-discipline. These efforts will be rewarded by receiving grades corresponding to your dedication. Make an effort and I will take note, clearly disregarding requirements will result in a poor grade or by my dropping you from class.

You can determine your grade by taking the total points accrued and dividing that by the total points possible. You will get a value equal to the percentage. The following is the percentage distribution and the corresponding grade.

A= 100%-90 **B**= 89-80 **C**= 79-70 **D**= 69-60 **F**= 59% and below

Point Distribution:

Midterm and Final Exams:	200 (100 each)
OMC quizzes:	60 (5 pts each)
Discussion Assignments:	120 (15 pts each)
Total:	380 points

Students with Disabilities:

Students who have a documented disability are advised to contact me. You may email and provide me with required information regarding accommodations. If you feel you may need assistance, but have no confirmed diagnosis, contact me or the Special Services office: (949)582-4249; Office location: SSC113 (Student Services Center 113; first floor); Website: www.saddleback.edu/serv/couns/dsps/

Village Computer Lab Information:

VIL4-05
M-TH 9:00 a.m. – 10:00 p.m.
F 9:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.
Sat 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Scientific Method and Science Viewpoint:

This class satisfies the general education requirement in Biological/Life Sciences. As such, the class is taught from a scientific point of view, using the scientific method (hypotheses building and testing) and scientific facts (having gone through the scientific method). We will be examining biological relationships and behavioral similarities between nonhuman primates (monkeys and apes) and humans, in addition to studying the evolution of hominids (bipedal primates) from the common ancestor we share with chimpanzees and bonobos. While I realize that some of you have a belief system regarding how humans were created that may contradict the scientific theory of evolution, in this class you are required to base all of your answers to assignments and test questions on the scientific evidence of evolution, not on your religious ideology. If you find it impossible to segregate your religious beliefs in the context of this course, I would suggest that you drop the class. If you do include your religious ideology in your answer, rather than the course required responses, you will receive a zero on the assignment or test answer.

Personal Statement:

I will always answer your email and voice messages. It may take me a day or two at the most, but I will. I encourage you to email me and schedule an appointment if you need personal time. However, be sure

to take the time to look through the syllabus before contacting me as your question is probably answered there.

My goal is to provide you with any information that will help you in your academic career goals. My scope of experience includes human evolution, human osteology, archaeology, and forensic anthropology as well as bioarchaeology and growth and development.

I encourage you to contact me if you are transferring as an Anthropology major particularly if you are interested in the above topics.

All dates and information contained in this syllabus are tentative and subject to change at my discretion. Changes will be discussed in class; therefore it is your responsibility to be aware of the changes.

Fall 2009 Online Assignment Schedule- 21230

Dates	Assignments
Week 1 08/24 – 08/30	Natural Selection & the Forces of Evolution Read: Ch.2 (18-35); Ch.5 (90-111) Discussion: "Lamarckian vs. Darwinian evolution" Articles: "The Inheritance of Acquired Characteristics" and "Natural Selection"
Week 2 08/28 – 09/06	Genetics & Heredity Read: Ch. 3 and Ch. 4 Discussion: "Heritability and Success" Article: "Curse and Blessing of the Ghetto"
Week 3 09/04 – 09/13	History of Anthropology and Racism Read: Ch. 6 (118-120) and Ethics, Race, and Racism ppt. Discussion: "How is the modern concept of race and racism different from the historical perspective or is it?" Article: "Does Race Exist?"
Week 4 09/11 – 09/20 Exam 1	Primates & Becoming Human Read: Ch. 7 and Ch. 8 Discussion: "The Human Primate" Article: "Exploring Our Basic Human Nature: Are Humans Inherently Violent?" Exam 1: 2-8
Week 5 09/18 – 09/27	Early Hominids to <i>Homo erectus</i> Read: Ch. 10 and Ch. 11 Discussion: "The Innovators"
Week 6 09/25 – 10/04	Archaic <i>Homo sapiens</i> & Neandertals Read: Ch. 12 Discussion: "Cousins?"
Week 7 10/02 – 10/11	Emergence of Modern Humans Read: Ch. 13 and Ch. 6 (112-114; 126-139) Discussion: "Cultural or Natural Selection: what drives biological change in modern humans." Article: A late Neanderthal associated with Upper Paleolithic artefacts
Week 8 10/09 – 10/18 Exam 2	Evolution of the Brain, Language, & Behavior Read: Ch. 14 Discussion: "The Evolution of Human Behavior" Article: A Biological Understanding of Human Nature Final exam: chapters 6, 10 - 14