PRINCIPLES OF PHYSICAL ANTHROPOLOGY

T 9:30 – 11:10 am, Storm Hall 255
TH 9:30 – 12:10 pm (Lab), Storm Hall 255

INSTRUCTOR: **Dr. Erin Riley**
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W 2 -3 pm

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PREREQUISITES: ANTH 101 (or equivalent)

COURSE OVERVIEW:
The goal of this course is to expand your knowledge and application of the principles of physical anthropology. To do so, we will cover both theory and technique in biological anthropology through two components: a lecture component (Tuesdays) and a laboratory component (Thursdays). The lecture component will involve lectures, videos, and in-class discussions and exercises. The laboratory component will provide students with "hands-on" learning of the lecture material, as well as allow students to develop important skills of observing, measuring, recording, and interpreting bioanthropological data.

Simply put, physical, or biological anthropology, is the scientific study of human biological evolution. We will begin with an in-depth examination of ethics, science and religion, and evolutionary theory. We will then examine the significance of human adaptability by exploring the various ways humans have adapted to their environments across time and space. Next, we will consider our place in nature and examine the ecology, behavior, evolution of our closest living relatives: prosimians, monkeys, and apes. We will also spend considerable time examining the fossil evidence for human evolution. Finally, we will investigate a number of contemporary examples of applied biological anthropology, including biomedical anthropology and forensic anthropology.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES: By the end of this course, you will be able to:
(1) understand and explain the concept of evolution
(2) understand and apply the scientific method
(3) identify the similarities and differences between humans and other primates
(4) use fossil evidence to investigate the evolution of humans
(5) describe how and why modern humans exhibit population variation
(6) describe how humans adapt to their environments

BLACKBOARD: This course is a web facilitated course, using Blackboard. All students can access the course Blackboard using their SDSU red ID login and password at https://blackboard.sdsu.edu/webapps/login

REQUIRED TEXTS:

(i) Stanford, C.B. et al. (2006) *Biological Anthropology: The Natural History of Humankind.* Pearson Prentice Hall.

(ii) Park, M.A. (2005) *Biological Anthropology: An Introductory Reader*, 4th edition. McGraw & Hill.

(iii) Lab handouts: These will be available on Blackboard for you to download and print.

COURSEWORK: Your final grade for the course will be based on three components:

(1) **Exams (60% of final grade)**: There will be a total of **THREE** in-class examinations. The third exam will be scheduled during the final exam period but *it will not be cumulative*. The exams will be based on lecture materials (including videos!) and assigned reading, and will consist of any combination of multiple-choice, fill-in-the-blank, matching columns, true or false, definition/short answer, and short essay style questions.

i. Exam 1 = 15%
ii. Exam 2 = 20%
iii. Exam 3 = 25%

(2) **Writing Assignments and Discussion** (**10% of final grade**): There will be a total of three writing assignments (2-3 pages, typed, 12-pt font). These will based on readings from the Park text and will serve to prepare you for in-class discussions. Writing assignments will be posted on Blackboard at least one week before they are due.

(3) **Laboratories (30% of final grade)**: Each week you are expected to have completed the homework assignment **BEFORE** coming to the lab class. If you do not, you will not be prepared for the lab exercise, and this will negatively affect your lab grade. The GA and I will not offer labs outside of the assigned time, so, again, you must be prepared. Your laboratory grade will be based on:

i. Attendance and group participation (5%): you are expected to remain in your group and support one another for the duration of the lab.
ii. Lab exercises (30%): these will be completed in class, and will be reviewed at the end of class. Students will hold onto their lab work (for study purposes) until the day of the quiz covering that lab's material.
iii. Quizzes (55%): there will be a total of three quizzes—see lab schedule
iv. Homework (10%): homework will be turned in at the beginning of each lab.

COURSE POLICIES:

- **Attendance Policy**:
  - Class attendance is mandatory. Exams will be based mostly on class lectures, so you will not do well in the class if you do not come to class.
  - Please understand that if you do miss class, you are responsible for the missed material (including any handouts given and/or announcements made). I would recommend borrowing notes from a classmate, as I do not hand-out or post (on blackboard) lecture notes.
  - You will automatically fail the lab portion of the class if you have > 3 absences.

- **Classroom behavior**

- You are expected to complete the readings, written assignments, and homework assignments **before** coming to class.
- Please do not have conversations with other classmates once the lectures begin, except those that are a part of our class discussions. Personal conversations are distracting for both myself and your fellow classmates, so please be courteous.
- Please turn off and secure all electronic entertainment devices (i.e., cell phones, ipods, etc.) **prior** to the start of class.
- Please note that the use of any such devices during examinations and quizzes could lead to an accusation of academic dishonesty.

- **Grading**
  - Lab exercises, lab homework, writing assignments, and class/group participation will be graded as follows: 100, 95, 90, 85, 80 etc.
  - Final grades in the course will be assigned to the following scales, based on percentages:

A	= 93 - 100	C	= 73 – 76
A-	= 90 - 92	C-	= 70 – 72
B+	= 87 - 89	D+	= 67 – 69
B	= 83 - 86	D	= 60 – 66
B-	= 80 - 82	F	< 60
C+	= 77 - 79		

- **Make-up Exam Policy**
  - There will be no make-up examinations, homework assignments, or lab exercises except in the case of a severe illness, injury, or family emergency (for which you must be able to provide documentation/evidence).

- **Extra Credit:** I will announce possible extra credit projects later in the semester. Note: The San Diego Zoo offers discounted student passes ($15) which are good for 6 months. I will collect money from students who wish to purchase a pass in the first two weeks of the semester.

- **Academic Dishonesty**
  - I will not tolerate academic dishonesty in this course.
  - Academic dishonesty includes *cheating, plagiarizing, unauthorized collaborating on course work, stealing course examinations or materials, falsifying records or data, or intentionally assisting another individual in any of the above.*
  - Please familiarize yourself with SDSU's policies ASAP at the I would recommend at the following websites: http://www.sa.sdsu.edu/srr/judicial/detailsMisconduct.html and http://www.sa.sdsu.edu/srr/judicial/CheatingDisruption.html
  - Students who engage in ANY form of academic dishonesty will receive an "F" for the course grade and will be reported to the Anthropology Department's Undergraduate Coordinator and SDSU's Judicial Coordinator, who will then take appropriate action.

- **Physical and Learning Disabilities**: If you have a disability that impedes your learning or test taking, please visit Student Disabilities Services, located in Calpulli Center, Suite 3100 (third floor). Student Disabilities Services is responsible for providing appropriate academic accommodations for students with disabilities. Their website is: http://www.sa.sdsu.edu/dss/dss_home.html

CLASS SCHEDULE:

The schedule below indicates the topics, readings, and assignments due for lecture (left column) and lab (right column) classes. I will reiterate that students are expected to complete the reading (lecture) and homework exercises (labs) PRIOR to class. Bottom line: If you do not, you will be lost and will not do well in this course.

Lecture (Tuesdays)				**Lab (Thursdays)**		
Date	**Topic**	**Readings**	**Due**	**Date**	**Topic**	**Due**
				1/18	Introduction	
1/23	Origins of evolutionary thought	S: Ch. 1-2 P: 6-9		1/25	L1: Scientific method	
1/30	Mechanisms of evolution	S: Ch. 3-4 P: 10		2/01	L2: Genetics & human variability	
2/06	Evolutionary theory & Human variation	S: Ch. 5-6 P: 13, 14, 26	**WA #1**	2/8	L3: Human adaptability	
2/13	**EXAM 1**			2/15	L4: Classification	Turn in labs 1-3
2/20	Our place in nature	S: Ch.7 P: 16, 29		2/22	L5: Primate feeding adaptation	
2/27	Primate behavior & ecology	S: Ch. 8 P: Ch. 17, 18		3/01	L6: Comparative primate locomotion	
3/6	Human behavior in perspective	S: Ch. 16, 18 P: 19	**WA #2**	3/8	L7: Observing primate behavior	
3/13	Primate origins & evolution	S: Ch. 9-10 P: 21		3/15	L8: Skeletal biology—Human skull	**Quiz #1** (on labs 4-7)
3/20	**EXAM 2**			3/22	L9: Skeletal biology—Human pelvis & hindlimb	
3/27	*SPRING BREAK*			*SPRING BREAK*		
4/03	Human Evolution: the 1st Hominids	S: Ch. 11-12 P: 1		4/05	L10: Early human evolution	
4/10	Human Evolution: The rise of *Homo*	S: Ch. 13		4/12	L11: Emergence of *Homo*	**Quiz #2** (on labs 8-10)
4/17	Archaic humans: Neandertals	S: Ch. 14 P: 23, 32		4/19	L12: Archaic humans	
4/24	Modern humans & the Biocultural tenet	S: Ch. 15 P: 22		4/26	L13: Food & body image	
5/01	Forensic Anthropology	P: 3, 37, 39		5/03	L14: Forensics	**Quiz #3** (on labs 11-13)
5/08	Biomedical Anthropology	S: Ch. 17 P: 33 - 35	**WA #3**			
5/15	**EXAM 3** **10:30 – 12:30 pm** **SH 255**					

For readings: S = Stanford et al. textbook; P = Park text

NOTE: This syllabus is a general plan for the course; deviations may be necessary and will be announced in class. Students absent from class are responsible for determining if any modifications were announced.