Online - ANTH 101: Human Bio-Cultural Origins

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**
This course will introduce students to the study of biological anthropology. Anthropology is defined as the study of humans, therefore this course will focus on the evolution of humans and their closest relatives. We will delve into the theory of evolution (the development of the theory and the people behind the breakthrough), genetics (the proof needed to make evolution stick), human biology and variation, primatology, and the fossil record of the primate order (which includes humans). We will also investigate archaeological inquiries that have shaped much of what is known about past cultures.

**INSTRUCTOR:**
Sam Kobari  
Office: Arts and Letters 474  
Office Hours: Monday: 12:00 - 1:00 or by appointment.  
Email: anthro.kobari@gmail.com  
Email is the best way to reach me, please put your class and school in the subject line.  
NOTE: I will try my best to return your emails promptly (at most 24 hours). However, I am away from Internet access most weekends. Emails sent to me Friday afternoons will not be read until Monday morning.

1) **Teaching Assistant: Lori Thurman**
Office: Arts and Letters 483  
Office Hours: She will have online office hours time to be determined.  
Email: lorithurman23@gmail.com

**COURSE OBJECTIVE:**
GE Fulfillment: This course will count as 3 units toward your overall unit requirement. This course is part of the foundations courses for Natural Sciences required for all undergraduates. As a natural science class, the goal of this course is to improve your ability to:

1. Understand and explain the fundamentals of evolutionary theory.
2. Identify lines of human ancestry in the fossil record.
3. Recognize how the study of nonhuman primates contributes to biological anthropology.
4. Differentiate between myths and reality regarding human variation around the world.
5. Demonstrate knowledge of the complex interface between biology and culture.
REQUIRED MATERIAL

2) Textbook:
You are free to purchase this text in any format (traditional book, electronic, three-hole binder, paper napkins, however this text is required reading for this course

3) Smartwork:
We will be using supplemental online material in this course as well. There are going to be weekly assignments to be completed on a separate website - smartwork.wwnorton.com
This is going to require you to register and set up an account. You will need an account key - OURORIG8557
If you have purchased a new book a smartwork is included. E-books also include a smartwork set up. Used books will require you to purchase smartwork as part of course material. This will cost $25 for the whole semester.
NOTE: There is a two-week grace period for getting smartwork (this means you can use smartwork for 2 weeks before you have to purchase anything).
PLEASE SEE: smartwork registration how-to.

GRADING:
The class will be based on a total of 100 percent. These percentage points will come from exams, participation, and assignments. Grades will *not* be curved. The total percentage earned will determine the grade:

\[
\begin{array}{ccc}
100\%-94\% & = & A \\
93\%-90\% & = & A- \\
89\%-87\% & = & B+ \\
86\%-84\% & = & B \\
83\%-80\% & = & B- \\
79\%-77\% & = & C+ \\
76\%-74\% & = & C \\
73\%-70\% & = & C- \\
69\%-67\% & = & D+ \\
66\%-64\% & = & D \\
63\%-60\% & = & D- \\
\end{array}
\]

59\% and lower=F

4) Points versus Weight: Your grade in this course is decided by the *percentage* each assignment is worth. Therefore, adding up all of the points you have earned will *not* give you an accurate grade. Please see me if this does not make sense.

BLACKBOARD:
As this is an online course, all pertinent activity will take place on Blackboard and Smartwork. Students should familiarize themselves with both websites. Make sure you can maneuver through Blackboard in general and this course’s page in particular. I will post regular updates on Blackboard, as well as the weekly course material (described in detail below). Assessment for this course will be conducted on Blackboard. *Make sure your email address listed on Blackboard is current, as that is the email address to which my announcements will be sent.* Please look at Blackboard errors below.
STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES:
If you are a student with a disability and believe you will need accommodations for this class, it is your responsibility to contact Student Disability Services at (619) 594-6473. To avoid any delay in the receipt of your accommodations, you should contact Student Disability Services as soon as possible. Please note that accommodations are not retroactive and that accommodations based upon disability cannot be provided until you have presented your instructor with an accommodation letter from Student Disability Services. Your cooperation is appreciated.

COURSE STRUCTURE:

5) Overview-
Your grade in the course will be determined by the following:
30% contributions to bi-weekly discussion board
20% successful completion of weekly smartwork quizzes
20% successful completion of weekly homework assignments
15% for exams
15% for a research paper

TWO WEEKS IN ONE!
We are basically packing two weeks of material into one week. Therefore, each week is going to be divided into two parts with the first part ending Thursday at 1:00 pm. A whole new set of quizzes, homework, and discussion will start Thursday at 2 pm and end that Sunday 11:59 pm.

Every Monday morning, 6:00 am the entry point for the course will be adjusted in Blackboard so that by clicking on the link to the course you will be directed to the correct section containing all relevant material. All material for that section will be due Thursday by 1:00 pm.
When you log on at 2 pm on Thursday you will be directed to a new set of material.
This will give three and a half days to complete all assignments in any section. DO NOT procrastinate. If you waited until the last hour to start and suddenly your Internet goes out, I will NOT allow you to make up anything.
Bi-weekly pages will be broken down in the following order: Lectures, Readings, Discussion Board, Weekly Homework, link to smartwork quiz, Assessment Journal, and other relevant videos or links. Below is an explanation of what is expected of you regarding each section.

6) Time zone: All due dates and times are through Pacific Time Zone (San Diego’s time).

7) Lectures
Every week there will be a several (several means anywhere from 1 to 5) lectures posted. Lectures will be about 5 to 10 minutes in length. These lectures are intended to complement weekly readings by either reiterating certain points, providing clarification on some details, or providing further information I want you to learn. There may be a week or two where I will have a video in place of a lecture. Homework questions as well as exam questions will be based in part off of these lectures/videos.
8) **Readings**

There are going to be weekly readings. These readings will primarily be from your text. I will occasionally add articles as well. Weekly homework and quiz questions will, in part, come from your readings. Please keep up with the readings to be able to keep up with the course. Lectures complement readings, they do NOT replace them. You will be lost and will not do well if you neglect weekly reading assignments.

9) **Discussion Board Two Due Each Week**

Every week there will be a theme/question/prompt for the discussion board. In order to get full credit you will need to provide an original post addressing that week’s prompt and reply to at least two threads other than your own. Each week’s discussion board is worth 20 points. You will get 10 points for an original post and 5 points for each reply. You may reply to a post made on your thread, but it will not count as one of your replies. Discussions go live on Monday morning (6:00 am) and all of your posts and replies are due by Thursday 1 pm. There will be a new set of discussion questions to answer starting Thursday at 2 due by Sunday 11:59 pm.

Although a discussion board can be fun and you are may communicate colloquially, we are in college. This means that your posts are to be full sentences, with proper grammar. You have some time to submit a post, therefor I expect thought and substance. All comments are expected to be courteous and respectful. I will be monitoring the discussion board. If I find that your post is significantly lacking substance, with just a few thrown together words, I do reserve the right to deduct points or give you a zero for that week. Similarly, if any of your posts are vulgar or rude, I will deduct points.

There is no statute of limitation for me to deduct points earned. For example, say it’s the 10th week of class and you make the subpar, unacceptable post, which puts you on my radar. I start looking at all of your posts from previous weeks and find you gave a one word post or response in Week 1, I can and will deduct points for both weeks.

You will not be able to reply to other classmates’ posts until you have submitted your own original post. I encourage all of you to submit an original post by Wednesday at the very latest!

Your replies are to be more than “ya I agree…” Think about what your classmates are posting. Full credit will be given to those that provide good substance to their posts.

I recommend you subscribe to you threads. This way you will get an email when someone comments on your post.

On the discussion forum you can also select collect on the top right corner. This will open all discussions so that you can see their content without having to click on them.

10) **Bi-Weekly Homework on Blackboard**

There will be bi-weekly homework assignments. These will be a series of either multiple-choice or true-or-false questions. Answers for the questions will be found in your weekly reading or from lecture. Bi-Weekly homework must be submitted before Thursday 1:00 pm for the first set and Sunday 11:59pm for the second set week it is assigned. There is no time limit on weekly homework. You may take the all time you need prior to the due date. However, you may submit answers only once! After you have
submitted an answer, backtracking will be restricted. Concepts and questions found on weekly homework will be used in exams.

11) Bi-Weekly Smartwork Assignments
For each section of the week you will need to logon to the smartwork website and complete the quiz. These quizzes will relate to your reading for that week. These assignments are titled quizzes, but please note: they are worth the same as weekly homeworks on Blackboard. For your Smartwork quiz you will be allowed three attempts, however, you will receive a 20% deduction per attempt. Please see all relevant material to setting up your smartwork page

12) Assessment Journal
This is a forum for your input. If something is not making sense or is muddy let me know. If you have a critique, or if there is something that you found particularly interesting, please also let me know. You will not be graded for your comments here. This is a way to help make this course better for you and for future students.

13) Additional Links and Videos
I will occasionally provide additional links or videos as a means to enhance course material. Although there is no requirement to watch or follow these, I do enjoy extracting bonus questions from these resources.

14) Exams
There will be a total of three exams in this course. The questions will be multiple-choice and true-or-false. I will make exams available under their own link embedded in the week for that exam. Exams are going to be about 50 to 60 questions and you will have 1 hour and 30 minutes to complete the exam once you have started. Please make sure you are ready to take the whole exam and finish in one sitting (no distractions, your computer is not going to die on you, you’ve paid your internet bill etc.) I will NOT provide a study guide for exams. Use course material and lectures to build your own study guide. Exams will be made available on Wednesday and expire that Friday at 11:30pm. Make sure you give yourself plenty of time! I DO NOT ALLOW MAKE-UP exams! Your final is not cumulative.
I understand that this in an online class and a lot of you are going to be tempted to use your book during an exam. Give in to that temptation. You are all welcome to use your books during an exam. Keep in mind you will not be allowed outside your browser once an exam starts.

15) Research Paper
You will have to write and submit a 3 page research paper using Turnitin. This paper is going to be heavily reliant on your ability to conduct academic research. I will provide further details about this assignment in the coming few weeks.

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY: Academic dishonesty of any form will NOT be tolerated. Plagiarizing from the textbook, lecture material, online resources or other students on your homework, exams, or extra credit will result in swift punishment for each student involved. The student(s) will receive a score of ‘0’ for the assignment and will be reported to SDSU’s Judicial Coordinator for further disciplinary action.

Quick points on plagiarism and essay responses/extra credit:
1) Essays should be in your own words
2) Do NOT copy and paste from, or use the exact same wording as, any other source for your answer, including, but not limited to, the lecture material, textbook, online resources, or fellow students. This is plagiarism and will result in disciplinary action, as outlined above.
3) You may use key terms without citing them. Key terms (e.g., “bipedalism”; “Oldowan stone tool technology”) do not need to be reinterpreted into your own words or even cited. It is clear they are from lecture or the textbook.
4) This is not a Group Class. Taking exams, doing homework or quizzes with a group is considered cheating.

For more information on plagiarism, visit the website for SDSU’s Center for Student Rights and Responsibilities

BLACKBOARD ERRORS:

While taking homework assignments and exams online, errors may occur. There are a few steps that can be taken to avoid errors, and this section will introduce them.

16) Steps to avoid Blackboard errors:

The following advice comes from Blackboard’s ‘Help’ website. It details what not to do while you are in the exam/homework interface.

17) Do not refresh the browser page.
18) Do not close the browser window.
19) Do not click the browser’s back button.
20) Do not allow the browser to timeout by leaving the exam open for too long without working on it.

***Begin the exam with enough time to allow for potential errors to be fixed. If you wait until the last minute to take the exam and run into an error that prevents you from retaking the exam on time, you will be stuck with your recorded exam score before the error occurred**

NETIQUETTE GUIDELINES: PLEASE REVIEW:

http://its.sdsu.edu/blackboard/student/gettingstarted/netiquette.html
CLASS SCHEDULE: ANTH 101  Summer 2015
The schedule below indicates the general topics for each week as well as exam dates. Topics are subject (and probably will) to change throughout the semester.

Remember Part 1 starts Monday morning at 8 am and ends Thursday at 1 pm. Part 2 starts Thursday at 2 pm and ends Sunday at 11:59 pm. DO NOT PROCRASTINATE!

WEEK 1: Part 1
7/6 - 7/9 Syllabus and Introduction to the Class

WEEK 1: Part 2
7/9 - 7/12 What is anthropology? Biological Anthropology?

WEEK 2: Part 1
7/13 - 7/16 Genetics Cell Biology

WEEK 2: Part 2
7/16 - 7/19 Mechanisms of Evolution

WEEK 3: Part 1
7/20 - 7/23 Human Biology - Race and Adaptability

    *EXAM 1 will go live Monday 7/20 and expire Thursday 7/23 (11:30pm)*

WEEK 3: Part 2
7/23 - 7/26 Introduction to Primates Classification of a species Fossils and Understanding the Past.

WEEK 4: Part 1
7/27 - 7/30 Primate Origins and Evolution

WEEK 4: Part 2
7/30 - 8/2 Monday: Human Evolution and Early Hominids

WEEK 5: Part 1
8/3 - 8/6 The genus *Homo*: Rise of Intelligence

    *EXAM 2 will go live Monday 8/3 and expire Thursday 8/6 (11:30pm)*

WEEK 5: Part 2
8/6 - 8/9 The genus *Homo* Tools and Culture and

WEEK 6: Part 1
8/10 - 8/13: The Origins and Dispersal of Modern People/Leaving the Old World Evolution of the Brain and Language Archaeology of Early Human Societies and

WEEK 6: Part 2
8/13 – 8/16: Bioarchaeology Paleopathology Forensics; The Modern World and Our Continuing Evolution

    *EXAM 3 will go live 8 am, 8/17 and expire 12pm 8/18.*