FALL SEMESTER, 2014
ANTHROPOLOGY 101: HUMAN BIOLOGICAL EVOLUTION
DR. ARMSTRONG

SECTION 0112/SATURDAYS 7:45-10:55A.M. LOCATION: CMS 4
OFFICE HOURS: SATURDAYS 7:15-7:45A.M. AT CLASSROOM OR AS ARRANGED WITH INSTRUCTOR
Instructor's e-mail: armstrae@lamission.edu OR doctoraearmstrong@gmail.com
Voicemail: 818 364-7600 ext. 4244

PRE-REQUISITE: English 28 or ESL 8

Important Dates:
NOTE: ALL classes must be dropped on-line/by web only
Last Day to Drop without a "W" – Sept. 14th (on-line)
Last Day to Drop with a "W" – Nov. 23rd (on-line)

NOTE: There is a limit on how many times a student may enroll in and/or repeat a class. That limit is as follows: a student may attempt to take/repeat a class no more than three (3) times within any one community college district. This limit includes BOTH non-passing grades AND withdrawals, and this limit is in effect for ALL of the California community colleges. IF a student withdraws from any class AFTER the last day to drop without a "W," that student will receive a W on his/her transcript and that W shall be considered as an attempt to take that class.

ANOTHER NOTE: Please remember that it is YOUR responsibility to drop this class and/or any class in which you no longer wish to be enrolled. If you fail in your obligations to drop any course you do not intend to complete, you risk receiving an "F" for that course.
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Anthropology 101 is an introduction to the study of biological/physical anthropology, that specific branch of anthropology that seeks to understand, from a biological point of view, what it means to be human. This course attempts to address some of the following questions:

What biological characteristics define the human species?
How do our genes code for these characteristics?
How does evolution work, and how does it apply to us?
What can we learn about ourselves by studying our closest living relatives among the non-human primates?
How can evidence from the past enable us to understand the present and perhaps anticipate the future of our species?
How can we apply our learning to matters of current concern?

In order to find these answers, we are going to take a journey – we are going to travel back in time as well as to geographically distant (and perhaps unfamiliar) places. While on this journey, you may discover that you will learn not just about early/different forms of man, but also about yourself, your family and your world. I hope it will be an interesting experience.

NOTE: This course is taught as a lecture series. However: student input is welcomed and strongly encouraged. Anthropology 101 is fully transferable to the UC and CSU systems and helps to fulfill the natural sciences education requirement.
THERE IS NO LAB FOR THIS COURSE.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES: Students will be able to analyze the dynamics of evolution in relationship to genetics; students will be able to trace the geologic record of fossil forms leading to the characteristic structure of modern Homo sapiens; students will be able to predict the future direction of human evolution.

TEXTBOOK: Exploring Biological Anthropology: The Essentials. 3rd Edition. By Stanford, Allen & Anton. This book is available at the campus bookstore.

VIDEOS AND ADDITIONAL MATERIALS: There will also be video presentations throughout the course – these videos will augment/help clarify specific topics and issues covered in the text and/or lectures. The video topics include: cloning and stem cell research; the nature of skin and skin color; genetic roots of the human family tree; the fossil record; bipedalism; chimpanzees and their use/abuse in research; genetic abnormalities/mutations in humans and other life forms, their possible causes and consequences, and the origin/transmission of diseases. These videos have not been assigned to a specific class meeting but instead will be incorporated into the material as appropriate throughout the semester.
Students are reminded to take careful notes of these video presentations, as they are integral to the learning process of this course.
As appropriate, other materials (clippings, excerpts from larger articles, etc.) will be distributed to students. These items, too, will be incorporated into the learning experience.

GRADING SYSTEM

EXAMINATIONS: There will be five short quizzes throughout the semester – each quiz will be worth 20 points. The quizzes will focus on information from the course text and lectures. Quizzes will contain true/false and multiple-choice questions, and SCANTRONS will be required.

NOTE: Quizzes will be held AT THE BEGINNING OF THE DESIGNATED CLASS MEETING AS NOTED ON THE SYLLABUS. Approximately 25 minutes will be allowed for the completion of each quiz. There will be NO MAKE-UPS given for the quizzes.
TOTAL QUIZ POINTS POSSIBLE: 100

There will be an IN-CLASS MID-TERM and an IN-CLASS FINAL. Each of these examinations will be worth a total of 100 points. Each will require a SCANTRON. The mid-term and final examinations will incorporate information from the text, lectures, videos and hand-outs. There will be NO MAKE-UPS given for either the mid-term or the final examination.
NOTE: The mid-term will focus on material covered in the first half of the course, including the videos and any additional hand-outs, while the final will focus on material covered in the second half of the course (also including information from any videos and additional hand-outs).
TOTAL MID-TERM AND FINAL EXAMINATION POINTS POSSIBLE: 200

TOTAL COURSE POINTS POSSIBLE: 300
Your letter grade will be computed based on total points earned – there is no grade curve in this class.
The letter grades will be assigned as follows: 270+ points = A; 240-269 points = B; 210-239 points = C; 180-209 points = D; 179 points or less = F

EXTRAS:

You may earn 10 points for participation – this means that you come ON TIME to each class meeting, ready to participate, and that you STAY FOR THE DURATION OF THE CLASS. If you leave before the class is dismissed, you will be considered as having been absent for that meeting. This includes days when quizzes and/or the mid-term are held. You will not be given credit if you only show up to take the quiz or mid-term and then leave.

You will also be given the chance to earn extra points by completing written assignments. Each of these assignments will be worth a maximum of 10 points, and you may do either one – or both – or neither. They are optional. Information on these assignments will be handed out shortly after the beginning of the semester.

A FEW POINTS TO PONDER

Anthropology 101 does not require enrollment in a lab. Nevertheless, the course does cover considerable material of a scientific/technical nature. It is therefore important that you attend each meeting, keep up with the assignments and readings and take careful notes during the lectures and videos. If there is information that you do NOT understand, ASK! Posing questions is what makes us human, and debating the answers is what makes us scholars and scientists.
Please remember to be prompt in your arrival to class. Be courteous to other students at all times, even when you might find yourself in disagreement with them. Stay for the duration of the class and leave when class is dismissed.
NOTE: NO form of cheating or plagiarism will be tolerated. Any such behavior will earn you an "F" for that specific activity or possibly for the entire course. (PLEASE READ THE STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT as well as the Department of Life Sciences' "Code of Honor and Integrity.")
NO CELL PHONES OR ELECTRONIC DEVICES ARE PERMITTED IN THE CLASS. All such devices MUST be turned off prior to entering the classroom and kept off and removed from the desk for the duration of the class. (For reference, please see the California State Education Code, Section 78907.) If your cell phone or other device is activated during class, and/or if you answer your cell phone if it rings during class, you WILL be asked to leave the class AND you will not be permitted to return for the remainder of that class meeting. You will not be given attendance credit for that meeting, and you will fail any examination that may have been held during that meeting.

COURSE SCHEDULE

NOTE: Text assignments are to be read IN ADVANCE of the meeting in which they will be discussed.

PART ONE: FOUNDATIONS
In this section we will begin our look at the field of anthropology. We will also investigate some of the early theories concerning man's evolution and the nature of life on this planet.

09-06-2014 Introduction and course mechanics
What is Biological Anthropology? (TEXT: Chapter 1)
The Origins of Evolutionary Thought (TEXT: Chapter 2)

PART TWO: MECHANISMS OF EVOLUTION
In this section we will look at the mechanics of the evolutionary process. We will also discuss cells and molecules, cellular reproduction, and we will investigate how modern genetic research may be able to help unravel some of the mysteries of human evolution. We will cover topics such as population genetics, DNA, human adaptation, the formation of species and the ways that evolutionary forces mold human populations.

09-13 Genetics: Cells and Molecules (TEXT: Chapter 3)
Genetics: From Genotype to Phenotype (TEXT: Chapter 4)

09-20 Continuing our study of genetics
Review for Quiz #1

09-27 Quiz #1 on chapters 1-4 at beginning of class
The Forces of Evolution and the Formation of Species (TEXT: Chapter 5)
Human Variation: Evolution, Adaptation, and Adaptability, Part 1 (TEXT: Chapter 6)

10-04 Human Variation: Evolution, Adaptation, and Adaptability, Part 2 (TEXT: Chapter 6)
Review for Quiz #2

PART THREE: PRIMATES

Here we will study the living non-human primates. We will review their classification, adaptations and social life. We will also speculate on possible behavior patterns of primate ancestors based on contemporary observations of their living descendants.

10-11 Quiz #2 on chapters 5-6 at beginning of class
The Primates (TEXT: Chapter 7)
Primate Behavior (TEXT: Chapter 8)

10-18 More on primate behavior – Focus: The Chimps (TEXT: Chapter 8)
Review for Quiz #3

10-25 Quiz #3 on chapters 7-8 at beginning of class
**Evolution of Brain and Behavior (TEXT: Chapter 14)
**This lecture, although out of sequence, will provide us with a brief introduction into the study of the human brain and its function. We will also investigate some of the tangible evidence our ancestors left behind that shows how they used this brain, and we will see if we are perhaps more connected to our past than we thought by looking at culture and belief.
Review for Mid-term

11-01 MID-TERM – first half of class (one hour and ten minutes maximum)
Review of mid-term – at beginning of second half of class
Video presentation – second half of class

PART FOUR: THE FOSSIL RECORD

In this section, we will begin by looking at fossils – we will learn what they are, where they are found and what they can tell us. Then we will move on to study primate evolution and our early human ancestors, using the fossil record as one of our guides into this murky, sometimes controversial past. We will look at some of the most recent discoveries and how the interpretation of new evidence is re-shaping some of our long-held ideas about early man.

11-08 Geology and Primate Origins (TEXT: Chapter 9)
Early Hominids and *Australopithecus* (TEXT: Chapter 10)

11-15 More on early man (TEXT: Chapter 11)
Review for Quiz #4

11-22 Quiz #4 on chapters 9-10 at beginning of class
Rise of the Genus Homo (TEXT: Chapter 11)
Genus Homo, Homo sapiens, and Neanderthals (TEXT: Chapter 12)

11-29	THANKSGIVING WEEKEND – NO CLASS
12-06	More on Neanderthals (TEXT: Chapter 12) The Origin, Dispersal, and Bioarchaeology of Homo sapiens (TEXT: Chapter 13) Review for Quiz #5
12-13	Quiz #5 on chapters 11-13 at beginning of class Remainder of material from Chapter 14 (if necessary) Biomedical and Forensic Anthropology (TEXT: Chapter 15) Review for Final Examination
12-20	FINAL EXAMINATION 7:30-9:30a.m. Please note: IF you come late to the final examination and someone has already finished and left, you will NOT be permitted to take the exam. No exceptions!