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

SECTION 0114/SATURDAYS 7:15-10:25A.M./CMS 004
OFFICE HOURS: SATURDAYS 6:45-7:15A.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

PREREQUISITE/CO-REQUISITE ADVISORY: English 28 or ESL 8

Important Dates:
The last days to drop (on-line ONLY) are as follows:
Last Day to Drop without a "W" – February 23rd
Last Day to Drop with a refund or without incurring fees – February 23rd
Last Day to Drop with a "W" – May 11th

PLEASE NOTE: If you stop attending this or any other class (or wish to drop this or any other class), YOU MUST DROP THE CLASS YOURSELF – OFFICIALLY – ON OR BEFORE MAY 11, 2014 (on-line only).
REMEMBER: if you fail in your obligations to follow this procedure, you risk receiving an "F" for the course.

NOTE: There is a new limit on how many times a student may enroll/repeat a class. That limit is as follows: a student may take a class no more than 3 times within any one District. This limit includes BOTH non-passing grades AND withdrawals, and this limit is in effect for ALL of the California community colleges.
If you drop a class AFTER February 23rd , you WILL receive a "W" on your transcripts – it will be considered as an enrollment under the enrollment limits now in effect.

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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.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES: Anthropology 101 students will be able to:
Describe the genetic mechanisms and dynamics of evolution;
Recognize the place of humans in the animal kingdom;
Trace the geologic record of fossil forms leading to the characteristic structure of Homo sapiens;
Estimate the future direction of human evolution.

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.

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 and bipedalism; chimpanzees and their use/abuse in research; genetic abnormalities/mutations and their possible causes and results, 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 during 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.
NOTE: The mid-term will focus on material covered in the first half of the course, including the videos and any additional handouts, while the final will focus on material covered in the second half of the course (also including material from videos and handouts).
NO MAKE-UPS will be allowed for either the mid-term or the final examination.
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.
Letter grades will be assigned as follows: 270+ points = A; 240-269 points = B; 210-239 points = C;
180-209 points = D; <180 points = 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 class is dismissed, you will not be considered as having been present for that meeting.
You will also be given the chance to earn extra points by completing specific 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.

NO EATING OR DRINKING IS ALLOWED IN THE CLASSROOM.

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.

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 for the duration of the class. (For reference, please see the California State Education Code, Section 78907.)

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.

2-22-2014	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.

3-01	Genetics: Cells and Molecules (TEXT: Chapter 3) Genetics: From Genotype to Phenotype (TEXT: Chapter 4)
3-08	Continuing our study of genetics Review for Quiz #1
3-15	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)

3-22 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.

3-29 Quiz #2 on chapters 5-6 at beginning of class
The Primates (TEXT: Chapter 7)
Primate Behavior (TEXT: Chapter 8)

4-05 More on primate behavior – Focus: The Chimps (TEXT: Chapter 8)
Review for Quiz #3

4-07 – 4-13 SPRING BREAK – NO CLASS

4-19 Quiz #3 on chapters 7-8 at beginning of class
**Evolution of Brain and Behavior (TEXT: Chapter 14)
Review for Mid-term

4-26 MID-TERM – first half of class (one hour and twenty minutes maximum)
Review of mid-term – at beginning of second half of class
Video presentation – second half of class

**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.

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.

5-03 Geology and Primate Origins (TEXT: Chapter 9)
Early Hominids and *Australopithecus* (TEXT: Chapter 10)

5-10 More on early man (TEXT: Chapter 11)
Review for Quiz #4

5-17 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)

5-24 More on Neanderthals (TEXT: Chapter 12)
The Origin, Dispersal, and Bioarchaeology of Homo sapiens (TEXT: Chapter 13)
Review for Quiz #5

5-31	Quiz #5 on chapters 11-13 at beginning of class Biomedical and Forensic Anthropology (TEXT: Chapter 15) Review for Final Examination
6-07	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!

Reminder: If you choose to do either one or both of the extra credit assignments, you may turn them in either when you arrive to take the final OR before the final examination date. Late assignments will NOT be accepted.