

North West Arkansas Community College
Standard Course Outline
ANTH 1013 Introduction to Biological Anthropology

Catalog Description:

An introduction to the field of physical anthropology using human evolution as a unifying concept. Areas include human genetics, race, speciation, primate evolution and human variation and adaptation.

Prerequisite:

College level reading or successful completion of Academic Skills Classes.

Credit Hours/Contact Hours/Load Hours:

3/3/3

Target Audience and Transfer:

Designed as an introduction to physical anthropology, this course is intended for students both in transfer and terminal degrees. It counts toward the natural science requirement for both transfer and terminal Arts and Science students.

Course Objectives:

At the conclusion of this class students should have a better understanding of:

- 1) Anthropology and the role physical anthropology plays as a subdiscipline.
- 2) the biological variation found in *Homo sapiens* and their closest biological relatives, the order of primates
- 3) modern human variation and the fallacy of the term “race”.
- 4) the human fossil record and how it relates to modern human biological variation.

Required Text:

- 1) Jurmain, Robert and Harry Nelson. *Introduction to Physical Anthropology*. West and Wadsworth. 2000. Eighth Edition.

Topics:

Introduction

- Defining anthropology
 - Archaeology
 - Cultural Anthropology
 - Linguistics
 - Physical Anthropology

Section I: DNA, Culture, and Evolutionary Theory

- Influences of Culture on the Biological Makeup of Humans
 - Biological perspective
 - Cultural perspective
 - Differences between biological and cultural adaptation
 - Cultural information: learned behavior
 - Biological information: DNA, physiological adaptation
 - Differences in modes of transmission
- Evolutionary Theory
 - Historical development
 - Concepts of natural selection and adaptation
 - Modern synthesis
- Biological Basis of Life
 - Cell structure and function
 - DNA structure and function
 - Cellular reproduction
- Mechanisms of Inheritance: Genetics
 - Mendelian genetics
 - Non-Mendelian genetics
 - Genetic Variation
 - Mutation, gene flow, genetic drift, recombination
- Modern Human Variation and Adaptation
 - Polymorphisms
 - Natural selection and variation
 - The human lifecycle
- Modern humans and the “fallacy” of race

Section II: Non-human Primates

- Characteristics of primates
- Primate taxonomy
- Survey of extant primates
- Primate behavior
 - Social structure
 - Socioecology
- Models for human evolution

Section III: Hominid Evolution

- Paleoanthropology
- Defining a Hominid
 - Cranial capacity
 - Bipedalism
- Dating methods
- Early Hominids in the Plio-Pleistocene
 - *Ardipithecus*
 - *Australopithecus*
 - *Paranthropous*
- Early *Homo*
 - *Homo habilis*

- *Homo erectus*
- Archaic *Homo sapiens*
- *Homo neanderthalensis*
- Anatomically modern *Homo sapiens*
 - Out of Africa theory of replacement
 - Regional continuity model
- Technology and art in the Upper Paleolithic
 - Major cultural manifestations in recent human evolution
 - Art
 - Technology
 - Agriculture

Required Forms of Assessment:

Exams
Written Assignments

Resources:

<u>Item</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Location</u>
Wadsworth.anthropology.com	Website	Internet
In Search of Human Origins	Video	Library