



School of Liberal Arts

ANTH 101

Biological Anthropology

Fall 2023

3 Credits

Course Outline

INSTRUCTOR	Dr. Victoria Castillo	OFFICE HOURS	Thursdays 3:00 – 4:00 pm
OFFICE	A2505	CLASSROOM	A2801
E-MAIL	vcastillo@yukonu.ca	PHONE	867.456.8615
CLASS TIME	T/Th 1:00 – 2:20 pm	LAB TIME	Th 2:30 – 3:50 pm
CLASS CRN	10117	LAB CRN	10120

Liberal Arts office: Ayamdigut Campus A2501, liberalarts@yukonu.ca, 867-668-8770

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Instructor Description: This course introduces students to the sub-discipline of biological anthropology. Students examine the emergence of the human species and the theoretical and methodological frameworks used to understand present-day human biological variation and adaptation. This is done through the analysis of fossil and modern primates, including *Homo sapiens*. Topics include basic history and principles of evolutionary theory, hominid evolution, environmental stress in living and archaeological primate populations, human skeletal biology, and comparative primate anatomy and behaviour.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Prerequisite(s): Admission to Liberal Arts. Note that ANTH 101 is now designated as an eligible course to fulfil the Liberal Arts science requirement.

EQUIVALENCY OR TRANSFERABILITY

Find course transfer at: <https://www.bctransferguide.ca/>

Students are reminded that it is always the receiving institution that determines whether a course is acceptable as an applicable, equivalent course or if it may be transferred to their program for credit. Find further information at: <https://www.yukonu.ca/admissions/transfer-credit>

LEARNING OUTCOMES

Instructor Learning Outcomes: Upon successful completion of the course, students will be able to:

- Explain the emergence of Western scientific thought on evolution, including the contributions of key thinkers;

- Analyze modern human adaptation, developmental plasticity, and variation, in the context of basic principles of genetics and evolutionary biology;
- Evaluate key methods used to reconstruct life in the past, including the dating of fossil finds and the use of skeletal remains to study health and diet in archaeological populations;
- Identify and classify bones of the modern human skeleton, and analyze their key features;
- Compare and contrast the main groups of living primates and evaluate their anatomical differences;
- Analyze key events in primate evolution, with a focus on hominins, and evaluate the evidence for them. This includes the ability to identify casts of key fossil finds and describe their important features.

COURSE FORMAT

Delivery format

This is a synchronous face-to-face course. The course outline and other relevant materials, including grades, will be posted for viewing or downloading on Moodle. Lecture slides will be posted on Moodle prior to the lecture, but these are supplementary material and will not provide all material covered in lecture. Classes will consist of lectures and discussions on the current week's topic and weekly laboratory assignments.

Workload

Students will have two hours of lecture and one hour of lab per week. It is expected that students will spend an additional 3-5 hours outside of class on readings and assignments. It is important to note that the time required for successful course completion will vary by individual.

EVALUATION

Engagement and Participation

Students are expected to attend, and actively participate in class. This means doing the required readings prior to that week's lecture and sharing perspectives in class. Students are also expected to engage actively in lab activities.

Midterm

There is one midterm that consists of multiple choice and short answer questions. The midterm follows the textbook and lectures. A study guide will be provided one week prior to the midterm.

Lab Assignments

There are ten lab assignments. These will focus on genetics and evolutionary theory, modern humans, primatology, and paleoanthropology. Students are expected to hand in the lab assignments biweekly, at the end of each topic section. Students are required to attend all labs to complete their assignments.

Lab Exam

There is one lab exam that will involve a timed hands-on examination of archaeological material with associated short answer questions.

Final Exam

The final exam is not cumulative. It will consist of multiple choice and short-answer questions.

Engagement and Participation	10%
Lab Assignments	20%
Lab Exam	20%
Midterm	20%
Final Exam	30%
Total	100%

TEXTBOOKS & LEARNING MATERIALS

Shook, Beth, Nelson, Katie, Aguilera, Kelsie, and Lara Braff (editors). 2019. *Explorations: An Open Invitation to Biological Anthropology*. American Anthropological Association: Arlington, <https://pressbooks-dev.oer.hawaii.edu/explorationsbioanth/>

COURSE WITHDRAWAL INFORMATION

Students may officially withdraw from a course or program without academic penalty up until two-thirds of the course contact hours have been completed. Specific withdrawal dates vary, and students should become familiar with the withdrawal dates of their program. See withdrawal information at www.yukonu.ca/admissions/money-matters

Refer to the YukonU website for important dates: www.yukonu.ca/admissions/important-dates

Refunds may be available. See the Refund policy and procedures at www.yukonu.ca/admissions/money-matters

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Students are expected to contribute toward a positive and supportive environment and are required to conduct themselves in a responsible manner. Academic misconduct includes all forms of academic dishonesty such as cheating, plagiarism, fabrication, fraud, deceit, using the work of others without their permission, aiding other students in committing academic offences, misrepresenting academic assignments prepared by others as one's own, or any other forms of academic dishonesty including falsification of any information on any Yukon University document.

Please refer to Academic Regulations & Procedures (updated bi-annually) for further details about academic standing, and student rights and responsibilities: www.yukonu.ca/policies/academic-regulations

ACCESSIBILITY AND ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION

Yukon University is committed to providing a positive, supportive, and barrier-free academic environment for all its students. Students experiencing barriers to full participation due to a visible or hidden disability (including hearing, vision, mobility, learning disability, mental health, chronic or temporary medical condition), should contact Accessibility Services for resources or to arrange academic accommodations: access@yukonu.ca.

TOPIC OUTLINE

Lecture Date	Topic	Readings in Textbook
Week 1 Sep 5 + 7	Introduction; What Is Biological Anthropology?	Chapter 1, p. 2-24
Intro Lab	Knowing and Believing	
Week 2 Sep 12 + 14	Evolution	Chapter 2, p. 29-53
Lab 1	Misconceptions About Evolution	
Week 3 Sep 19 + 21	Molecular Biology and Genetics	Chapter 3, p. 58-101
Lab 2	Blood Typing Lab	
Week 4 Sep 26 + 28	Forces of Evolution	Chapter 4, 109-142
Lab 3	Evolutionary Detectives	
Week 5 Oct 3 + 5	Meet the Living Primates	Chapter 5, p. 148-183
Lab 4	Primate Tweets	
Week 6 Oct 10 + 12	Primate Ecology and Behaviour	Chapter 6, p. 190-225
Lab 5	Watching Primates	
Week 7 Oct 17 + 19	Understanding the Fossil Context	Chapter 7, p. 233-263
Lab 6	Reconstructing Palaeo-environments	
Week 8 Oct 24 + 26	Primate Evolution	Chapter 8, p. 274-305
Lab 7	Fossil Primates	

Lecture Date	Topic	Readings in Textbook
Week 9 Oct 31 + Nov 7	MID-TERM LECTURE EXAM; Early Hominins	Chapter 9, p 319-363
No Lab		
Week 10 Nov 7 + 9	Early Hominins Cont.; Early Members of the Genus Homo	Chapter 10, p. 374-397
Lab 8	Early Homo Lab	
Week 11 Nov 14 + 16	Archaic Homo	Chapter 11, p. 403-437
Lab 9	Brain, Language, Lithics	
Week 12 Nov 21	Modern Homo sapiens	Chapter 12, p. 444-478
Lab 10	What Does It Mean to Be Human / Modern Human Art	
Week 13 Nov 28 + 30	Race and Human Variation	Chapter 13, p. 489-511
Lab 11	LAB EXAM	