

ANTH 001L: Physical Anthropology Laboratory  
Spring 2021 – ONLINE  
CRN 31667 W 2 pm



**Instructor:** Dr. Bridget Alex

**Email:** [balex@pasadena.edu](mailto:balex@pasadena.edu)

**Virtual class meetings:** Wednesdays 2 – 3 pm

**Office Hours:**

Weekly drop in Zoom session Tuesdays 12 – 1 pm

(Meeting ID 689 074 2328 or <https://cccconfer.zoom.us/j/6890742328>)

Or schedule a phone or Zoom appointment at another time by emailing me

How do we know what we think we know about the human species? In this course you will learn how knowledge is generated in physical anthropology through the scientific method. We will investigate evolutionary and anthropological questions by posing hypotheses, collecting data, and interpreting evidence. We will survey research methods in physical anthropology, including genetics, osteology, forensics, and primatology.

**Catalog Description:** Laboratory to explore selected topics in physical anthropology including genetics human variation, the living primates, and human paleontology. Total of 54 hours laboratory. 1.00 Credit. Transfer Credit: CSU; UC C-ID: ANTH 115L. Grade Mode: L, A, P. Prerequisite: Enrollment in or completion of ANTH 001.

**Required texts: Zero-textbook-cost option.**

All readings and assignments will be free, posted on the course website in the PCC Canvas System (<https://canvas.pasadena.edu/>)

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**Course goals and learning outcomes:** *By the end of semester you will be able to...*

1. Apply the scientific method used in an active laboratory in physical anthropology
2. Identify the outcomes of evolutionary processes
3. Identify anatomical and behavioral features of non-human primates
4. Compare the morphology of primates and early hominins
5. Describe the biological and behavioral adaptations of the genus *Homo*

**Course Schedule:** Subject to change. Consult Canvas for up-to-date schedule.

Week	Start Date	Topic
UNIT 1 – Foundations		
1	2/17	Lab Orientation, Scientific Method Check In Assignments DUE Th 18 Feb 11:59 pm
2	2/24	Evolutionary forces, Variation
3	3/3	Skeletal anatomy I: Skull and teeth
4	3/10	Skeletal anatomy II: Post-crania
UNIT 2 – Fossil Ancestors		
5	3/17	Hominin evolution trends
6	3/24	Early hominins
7	3/31	Genus <i>Homo</i>
8	4/7	Forensic methods
	4/14	Spring Break
UNIT 3 – Genetics and Modern Human Variation		
9	4/21	DNA code
10	4/28	Inheritance
11	5/5	Population Genetics
12	5/12	Modern human variation
UNIT 4 – Living Primates		
13	5/19	Meet the primates
14	5/26	Behavioral studies
15	6/2	Comparative morphology
UNIT 5 – Wrap Up		
16	6/9	Finals Last Day of Term M 6/14

## Assignments & Grading

### Summary:

Check In Assignments	1
Meet Your Professor Quiz .....	1
Pre-course survey .....	4
Syllabus Quiz .....	5
Lab Activities .....	220
<i>(26 opportunities, 22 graded, 10 points each)</i>	
Lab Notebooks .....	80
<i>(4 submissions, 20 points each)</i>	
Participation .....	15
<i>(1 point per week)</i>	
Post-course Survey .....	2
<b>TOTAL</b> .....	<b>325</b>

GRADING SCALE (your points / 325 total x 100)

89.5% and up	=	A
79.5 – 89.4%	=	B
69.5 – 79.4%	=	C
59.5 – 69.4%	=	D
59.4 and below	=	F

### Assignment Details:

**1) Check In Assignments:** These must be completed by Thursday 18 February at 11:59 pm. They are the online equivalent of showing up on the first day of face-to-face class. (2 assignments, 4 points total)

**2) Syllabus Quiz:** To be completed during the first week of the term to ensure you understand the course expectations and policies. (5 points)

**3) Lab Activities:** Each week we will complete a Module, comprising ungraded prep work and 1-2 graded laboratory activities. Graded work for each Module should be completed and submitted on Canvas by **11:59 pm the following Tuesday**. You can submit work late without penalty up until 2 pm Wednesday when we meet for class. After that late work will be docked 2 points. The reason for this penalty is that we will discuss the previous week's lab during Wednesday classes. **Only your highest scoring 22 out of 26 possible lab activities will be included in your grade.** In other words, your 4 lowest lab activity scores will be dropped. If you entirely skip 4 activities, those assignments will receive zeros and be the ones dropped. (26 total lab activities, 22 counted, 10 points each)

**4) Lab Notebooks:** The semester is divided into four substantive units: 1) Foundations, 2) Fossil Ancestors, 3) Genetics, & 4) Living Primates. Each unit lasts 3-4 weeks and

culminates with your submission of a Lab Notebook. This should be a reflective summary of the main knowledge and skills you gained through the unit. You will answer several questions on Canvas and submit 1-3 pages of notes and/or images that succinctly summarize knowledge and skills of the unit. (4 total, 20 points each)

**5) Participation:** You are expected to participate in all Wednesday meetings. On these days we will discuss the previous week's lab activities and I will give lectures to prepare you for the upcoming lab activities (1 point per class, 15 classes). There are two ways to attend:

- 1) **Live option** - Join the "live" meeting through ConferZoom.
- 2) **Recorded option** – Watch a video of the recorded ConferZoom meeting. Post a question or comment related to that class on the “Ongoing Post-class Discussion Board.”

**6) Post Class Survey:** Brief survey about course. Full credit for completion. (2 points)

## Expectations & Policies

**Attendance:** Attendance for our online lab means that you thoughtfully complete **most** assignments (Weekly Lab Modules + Unit Lab Notebooks) and contribute to **most** weekly lab meetings, during the week they occur. Specifically, you must "attend" Lab Meetings for Weeks 1 and 15 (first and last meetings) and then 11 out of 13 intervening weeks. There are two ways to attend:

- 1) **Live option** - Join the weekly "live" lab meeting through ConferZoom.
- 2) **Recorded option** – Watch a video of the week's recorded ConferZoom lab meeting. Post an original comment or reply on the “Ongoing Post-class Discussion Board” before the next week's lab.

**Drops:** Students must complete the Check In Assignments before Thursday 18 February at 11:59 pm or they will be dropped from the course. This is the equivalent of showing up on the first day of a face-to-face class.

Students must attend Week 1 or they will be dropped from the class. Students who miss three weeks will be dropped from the class. Students who miss the final week will be dropped from the class. Remember you can "attend" 1) live OR 2) watch the recording & post to the post-lab Discussion.

**Deadlines and extensions:** Weekly Modules are due at 11:59 pm Tuesday, the night before our weekly “live” lab meeting on ConferZoom. You can submit work late without penalty up until 2:00 pm Wednesday when we meet for class. After that late submissions will be docked two points. **But you only need to complete 22 out of 26 possible Lab Activities.** Your two lowest scoring Lab Activities will be dropped. Lab Notebooks should be completed before moving on to the next Unit. After that they will be docked 2 points.

If you anticipate trouble meeting assignment deadlines, contact your professor as soon as possible. **I encourage you to skip weeks when you have other important events or personal emergencies. Flexibility is built into the syllabus to accommodate your lives and priorities.**

**Instructor Communication:** I will respond to emails ([balex@pasadena.edu](mailto:balex@pasadena.edu)) within 48 hours. Without an appointment, anyone can drop into my ConferZoom office hours held Tuesdays 12 – 1 pm. (Meeting ID 689 074 2328 or <https://cccconfer.zoom.us/j/6890742328>). If time does not work for you, email me to schedule an alternative phone or video meeting.

**Academic Integrity:** All assignments for this class are open note, open book, open internet, and collaborative. You can use any resources at your disposal, including class lectures, notes, internet, and instructor / classmates for discussion.

However, responses should be your thoughts, contributions, and words. Individual assignments will ask you to cite sources (e.g. websites used) and collaborators (e.g. classmates you worked with). You are expected to abide by the instructions on each assignment.

Cheating or representing the work of another as your own constitutes academic dishonesty and will be subject to disciplinary action. Penalties for academic dishonesty may include receiving no credit for the assignment and/or an “F” grade in the course.

**Accessibility and accommodations:**

If you need accessibility related accommodations please contact the Disabled Student Programs and Services (DSP&S [dsps@pasadena.edu](mailto:dsps@pasadena.edu)) at the beginning of the semester. I will work with you and DSP&S to provide what you need for laboratory activities.