

ANTH 001: Physical Anthropology
Spring 2021 CRN 37806

Instructor: Dr. Bridget Alex
Email: balex@pasadena.edu
Office Hours: Thursdays 12 – 1 pm

Virtual class meetings: M 2:45 – 4:10 pm
+ 1.7 hours asynchronous work

This course aims to change how you think about humankind — a modest goal. We will use the perspectives of anthropology and evolutionary biology to investigate the human species. How do *Homo sapiens* differ from one another, and from other species, both living and extinct? How did humans come to be the way we are today through processes of biological and biocultural evolution? We will investigate humans at every scale — from DNA basepairs to body plans to social systems — across environments, cultures and time, including fossil ancestors who lived millions of years ago.

Catalog Description: Explore the field of physical anthropology, emphasizing evolution of the human species. Topics include human heredity, mechanisms of human change, human variation, reconstruction of human evo history through examination of the fossil record & comparative studies of our closest biological relatives, the living apes.

No credit if taken after ANTH 001H. Total of 54 hours lecture.
Transfer Credit: CSU; UC. C-ID: ANTH 110
Grade Mode: L, A, P

Required texts: Zero-textbook-cost option. Our textbook is accessible free, online:

Explorations: An Open Invitation to Biological Anthropology
<http://explorations.americananthro.org/>

Additional readings will be posted as pdfs or hyperlinks on the Canvas page.

Student learning outcomes (SLOs): By the end of semester you will be able to...

- Use scientific data to apply and test the theory of natural selection, especially to humans and their close relatives
- Apply the principles of genetics to humans and human populations
- Identify patterns and analyze the adaptive relationships between organisms and their environments
- Categorize and explain taxonomic forms of classification and the human place in them
- Summarize methods used in interpreting the fossil record, including dating techniques

GRADES

Assignments summary:

Check in Assignments	
Meet Your Instructor Quiz.....	1
Pre-course survey.....	3
Weekly concept checks.....	80
<i>(12 opportunities, 8 counted, 10 points each)</i>	
Weekly discussion boards.....	24
<i>(12 opportunities, 2 points each)</i>	
Build an Exam.....	60
<i>(3 exams, 20 points each)</i>	
Final Exam.....	20
Participation.....	10
<i>(1 point per class, 10 live classes)</i>	
TOTAL	198

GRADING SCALE

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) Weekly work – concept check + discussion board: Most weeks we will complete a Module, comprising ungraded prep work, a graded discussion board, and a graded concept check. Graded work for each Module should be completed and submitted on Canvas by **11:59 pm the following Sunday**. You can submit work late without penalty up until 2:45 pm Monday 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 work during Monday classes.

The concept checks resemble quizzes, but are *low stakes*. The goal is to review and check your understanding of material taught that week. **The concept checks are open-note, open-internet and you can have two attempts at each.** Only the higher score will be counted. I strongly recommend you try it first without notes (to self-evaluate your understanding), and then use your notes on the second, graded attempt. **Only your highest scoring 8 out of 12 possible concept checks will be counted** (in other

words, your 4 lowest concept check scores will be dropped. If you entirely skip four, those assignments will receive zeros and be the ones dropped. *(12 total concept checks, 8 counted, 10 points each; 12 total discussion boards, 2 points each)*

3) Build an exam: The semester is divided into four substantive units: 1) Foundations, 2) Fossil Ancestors, 3) Genetics, & 4) Living Primates. Units 1-3 culminate with a project: You will create an exam to assess classmates on the skills and knowledge gained during that unit. We will form small groups during class on exam days (March 8, April 5, May 10), and you will have one week to collaboratively create the exam. If group work poses a problem, you have the option to complete these assignments independently. *(20 points each, 3 unit exams)*

4) Unit 4 / Final exam: Each student will independently complete this exam, which assesses your understanding of unit four AND material from throughout the semester. It will include questions generated on your “build an exam” projects. *(20 points)*

5) Participation: You are expected to participate in all Monday meetings. On these days we will discuss the previous week’s work and I will lecture on new material *(1 point per class, 12 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.”

EXPECTATIONS & POLICIES

Attendance: Attendance for our online lab means that you thoughtfully complete **most** assignments and contribute to **most** classes during the week they occur.

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

Assignment deadlines and extensions: Weekly work (concept check + discussion board) is due by 11:59 pm Sundays. You can submit work late without penalty up until 2:45 pm Monday when we meet for class. After that late submissions will be docked two points. **But you only need to complete 8 out of 12 possible concept checks.** Your four lowest scoring concept checks will be dropped. Late exams 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) 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) at the beginning of the semester. I will work with you and DSP&S to provide what you need for laboratory activities.

Course Schedule

Subject to change. Consult Canvas for up-to-date schedule.

Week	Start Date	Topic
UNIT 1 - Foundations		
1	2/15	Check In Assignments DUE Th 18 Feb 11:59 pm Course intro What's physical anthropology?
2	2/22	Evolutionary theory Macroevolution, species
3	3/1	Earth history, dating Osteology: bone basics
4	3/8	Unit 1 Build an Exam
UNIT 2 – Fossil Ancestors		
5	3/15	Hominin evolution trends Early hominins
6	3/22	Era of Australopiths <i>Homo erectus</i> the trailblazer
7	3/29	Modern humans, Neanderthals and other contemporaries
8	4/5	Unit 2 Build an Exam
	4/12	NO CLASS SPRING BREAK
UNIT 3 – Human Genetics / Molecular Anthropology		
9	4/19	DNA as the code of life transcription, translation cell division
10	4/26	Inheritance Mendelian, polygenic, complex traits
11	5/3	Population genetics Modern human variation
12	5/10	Unit 3 Build an Exam
UNIT 4 – The Wonderful World of Primates		
13	5/17	Meet the primates
14	5/24	Primate morphology and behavior
15	5/31	Primatology; Conservation NO LIVE CLASS MEMORIAL DAY
16	6/7	Unit 4 Take Home Exam DUE Saturday 12 June 11:59 pm