

Anthropology 101
Biological Anthropology, Online

Fall 2021

MJC

Professor	Dr. Debi Bolter
Email	bolterd@yosemite.edu
Office hours Online	Wednesday 12:00-3:00pm Thursday 2:00-4:00pm <i>Links to online Zoom office hours in Canvas shell; or email professor for link</i>

Welcome to Anthropology!

Hello new students! I'm excited to introduce you to the field of biological anthropology. When I first took this class as a freshman at UC Santa Cruz, I didn't really know what anthropology was – it wasn't a topic covered at my small high school. But it became a course that really changed the way that I viewed the world. I became so "hooked" that I ended up becoming an anthropology major. I hope this course becomes one of those classes where you are thinking about the material even outside of class, and talking about the topics with your family and friends. Anthropology is just *that* interesting, and permeates all aspect of our lives, especially as we think about our origins, how we vary across populations, and our adaptive potential as a species.

Biological anthropology course content

Introduction to human evolution. The evidence for human biological and behavioral adaptations is examined. Issues and topics will include the principles of genetics and evolution, human variation, comparative primate anatomy/behavior and an assessment of the human fossil record. *General Education: (MJC-GE: A) (CSU-GE: B2, D1) (IGETC: 4, 5B)*

What you will learn, or the Course Learning Outcomes (CLOs):

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

1. Explain the theory of biological evolution and how the scientific method serves as a foundation for anthropological studies.
2. Demonstrate the concepts/methods used to analyze human evolution.
3. Evaluate human adaptation from an anthropological perspective.

Required book:

- *Essentials of Physical Anthropology*, 10th edition. 2016. Jurmain R, Kilgore L, Trevathan, W and Bartelink, E. Cengage Learning. ISBN: 978-1305633810

MODULES

ANTHR 101 Biological Anthropology is a 16-week fully online course. The class will be taught through Canvas. Our class will be divided into weekly modules. Each week will contain a set of readings, lectures, video with worksheet, and either a discussion posting a review quiz. The modules are to be completed in order. There will be no required Zoom class meeting times.

At the start of each weekly Module there will be a table in Canvas that lists out what you will accomplish each week, and when you need to complete each. Each week's module will

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be opened Sunday morning at 12:01am—in case you are one of those early birds who like to get a jump on the upcoming week's activities.

Due dates will be consistent each week

- Discussion posts will be due on Thursdays at 11:59pm and replies on Sundays at 11:59pm.
- Quizzes will be due by Sundays at 11:59pm.
- Documentaries and worksheets, as well as lectures and readings, are to be completed by the end of each week's module.

The Elements of the Course

Readings

There will be weekly assigned readings. Readings will be primarily from the textbook *Essentials of Physical Anthropology*. Occasionally selected articles will be assigned for reading and posted in Canvas.

Lectures

I will pre-record lectures and post them weekly within Canvas.

Documentaries

Typically each week there will be a documentary or film to watch, with accompanying questions for analyses. *The accompanying worksheet questions for each documentary are not to turn in.* Answering the questions on the worksheet will prepare you for the short answer section on the exams. I will take questions directly from the worksheets for the exams. You will also learn vocabulary terms by watching the documentaries, learn about concepts that will help you with the weekly readings/lectures/discussion post, and gain knowledge for use as in-depth examples when writing essays for the exams.

Quizzes

There will be objective based quizzes on weeks that there is not a discussion post or exam. Quizzes will include materials from weekly readings, lectures and documentaries. They will typically be multiple choice or true/false, and there is a 20-minute time limit to take them. Be sure to take your quizzes (and exams) on a device that allows you to view images in Canvas. Students may retake quiz once to improve score. There are 6 total quizzes, and the lowest score will be dropped. Each quiz is worth 30 points.

Discussion postings

There are discussion prompts and replies due in weeks when there are no quizzes or exams scheduled. These posts develop analysis and learning of class concepts and topics. There are 8 discussion posts in the semester, each worth 25 points, and the lowest score will be dropped. Once a student answers a post, then other student posts will be viewable.

For each class discussion thread I will post comments throughout. My participation and comments in the thread serve to clarify and expand on posts and replies, and help students to fully understand the materials and how they apply to the class content. Note

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that this class will be divided into two sub-discussion post groups, so your thread will have between 15-20 people (not the entire class).

Each discussion post grade in the grade book will include written comments on your work.

Exams

There will be a midterm exam to be taken Thursday Oct.7 – Friday Oct. 8 on the first half of the class, and a final exam to be taken Tuesday Dec. 7 – Wednesday Dec. 8 on the second portion of the class. These exams will consist of an objective portion (e.g., multiple choice, true/false), a short answer section, and “take-home” essay question. “Take-home” means that essay responses will be prepared in advance to the exam, submitted/uploaded during exam. Exams will be based on lectures, reading, documentaries, and discussion posts.

Approximate hours per week in each class activity

Readings	3 hours
Lectures (online)	2-3 hours
Vocabulary preparation	1 hour
Documentary/worksheet	1.5 hour
Discussion postings or quiz completion	2 hours
TOTAL	~10 hours/week

Grading

Quizzes, 30 points each 150 points (6 total, 5 count; lowest score dropped)

Discussions, 25 points each 175 points (8 total, 7 count; lowest score dropped)

Midterm, Thurs-Fri Oct. 7-8 175 points

Covers weeks 1-7; includes objective questions, short answers response and essay

Final, Tues-Wed Dec. 7-8 200 points

Covers weeks 9-15; includes objective questions, short answers response and essay

Total points: 700 points

A: 90-100% (630-700 points)

D: 60-64% (420-454 points)

B: 80-89% (560-629 points)

F: 59% or below (419 points or less)

C: 65-79% (455-559 points)

Grade book

Feed back and comments on student’s works, along with student grades, are posted in the online Canvas grade book.

How I will regularly communicate:

Each week at the beginning of the module, I will send out an *email* to you to summarize what you did in the previous week, and then to outline what to expect in the upcoming week. I also include information about events happening in that week, such as extra credit opportunities, on-campus activities and upcoming academic deadlines. I will post each week’s email under “Weekly Emails” Module in the Canvas shell.

****Be sure to regularly check your student emails during the semester****

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Announcements section in Canvas will be used to remind students about extracurricular events that are happening/upcoming. These posts include notifications about extra credit talks/presentations to attend, on-campus activities of interest to students, or upcoming academic deadlines of note that impact MJC students.

CANVAS Notifications

Canvas allows you to personalize how you are notified about the course through email/text. There are four notifications options: immediate, daily, weekly or don't send notifications. It is recommended for this class that you turn on daily notifications for due dates, grading, submission comments, and announcements. For information on these settings, see <https://community.canvaslms.com/t5/Student-Guide/How-do-I-set-my-Canvas-notification-preferences-as-a-student/ta-p/434>

Canvas Help Desk

MJC Daytime Canvas Support: (209) 575-7900

Check out the online Canvas Student Guides with screenshots for many different topics at <https://community.canvaslms.com/t5/Student-Guide/tkb-p/student>

Conduct

Classroom standards and student conduct for this class follows the MJC Standards of Student Conduct. The Code of Conduct extends to online written comments and interactions, which are to be courteous and respectful of others, just as is expected for in-class conduct.

Link to Standards of Student Conduct: <https://www.mjc.edu/student-services/conduct.php>

At MJC, we expect academic honesty and integrity in all of the work you submit. This means completing your own, original work for every assignment. Any assignment where academic dishonesty is involved will automatically receive zero points, which may result in the student failing the course. A Student Conduct Report may be filed.

Accommodations

Accommodations for this class are made to comply with the American Disabilities Act. Students need to contact Professor at the beginning of class to arrange specific accommodations as appropriate.

Biological anthropology embraces the diversity in the world and our species. Class topics will include issues such as human origins, evolution and variation, race, dating methods and the fossil record. Discussion posts, short answer questions, class discussions, and essay responses are composed to encourage students to be creative, expressive, and approach topics from an individualistic perspective. Part of learning about our species' diversity will come from the perspectives and ideas imparted by other students in the class.

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Withdrawal/drop policy

It is the student's responsibility to withdraw from this class if the student chooses not to complete the course. Petitions for grade removals after withdrawal deadlines are typically not granted. Please see your student course schedule on Pirates Net for important drop dates.

Students who stop participating in the class may be dropped. Non-participation includes not logging into Canvas, not taking weekly quizzes, not participating in weekly activities, and/or not taking midterm.

Professor communications

Email replies are prompt. Typically I respond within 24 hours, but over weekends that response time may be longer. Students can email either through Canvas Inbox, or through my MJC email at bolterd@mjc.edu

Office hours are held every week, at regularly scheduled times. Students are encouraged to email instructor for office hour timeslot. Students may also "drop in" to these hours through the standing Zoom meeting link and will be seen on a first-come, first-served basis.

Office hours are to clarify concepts from the course, or to get help on class assignments. I am also available to schedule individual one-on-one Zoom meetings.

NOTE: Students considering an anthropology major are encouraged to email Professor to discuss optimal courses and pathways for transfer to CSU or UC.

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OUTLINE: SCHEDULE FOR SEMESTER

Learning module	Topics	Activities
Week 1 Aug. 23-29	The anthropological perspective; Scientific approaches to the world	Discussion post 1: Anthro video biographies
Week 2 Aug 30-Sept.5	Evolutionary history and theory	Discussion post 2: Evolutionary scientists
Week 3 Sept 6-12	Introduction to genetics: DNA, RNA, inheritance, protein synthesis	Quiz 1
Week 4 Sept 13-19	Evolutionary mechanisms	Discussion post 3: Evolutionary mechanisms
Week 5 Sept. 20-26	Human adaptation from anthropological perspective	Quiz 2
Week 6 Sept.27-Oct.3	Classification, taxonomy and phylogeny	Discussion post 4: You Ask the Questions
Week 7 Oct. 4-10	MIDTERM	Midterm October 7-8
Week 8 Oct. 11-17	Primate taxonomy; comparative behavior, anatomy	Discussion post 5: Primates!
Week 9 Oct. 18-24	The fossil record: Taphonomy and dating methods	Quiz 3
Week 10 Oct. 25-31	Skeletal anatomy; bipedal niche; introduction to hominins	Discussion post 6: Comparative anatomy
Week 11 Nov. 1-7	Human origins: Australopiths	Quiz 4
Week 12 Nov. 8-14	Human origins: Genus <i>Homo</i> : <i>habilis, erectus, and heidelbergensis</i>	Discussion post 7: Stone tools
Week 13 Nov. 15-21	Neanderthals	Quiz 5
Week 14 Nov. 22-28	<i>Homo naledi; Homo floresiensis</i>	Discussion post 8: Trip to the Cradle
Week 15 Nov. 29-Dec.5	Origin of <i>Homo sapiens</i>	Quiz 6
Week 16	FINAL	Final December 7-8