

**Anthropology 101, 7-week online
Biological Anthropology**

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 Biological 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:

Jurmain R, Kilgore L, Trevathan W, and Bartelink E. 2017. *Essentials of Physical Anthropology*. 10th edition. Cengage Learning. ISBN: 978-1305633810

MODULES

ANTHR 101 Biological Anthropology is a 7-week **fully online course**. That means that there are no scheduled class meetings in the semester. The class will be taught in Canvas.

Our class will be divided into seven-week segments, with two modules each. The first module runs Monday-Wednesday, and the second module runs Thursday-Sunday. Each week will contain readings, lectures, activities, and an end of the week review quiz. The weeks and modules are to be completed in order. Each week will 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.

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Due dates will be consistent each week

Discussion posts will be due on Wednesday 11:59pm.

Discussion post replies will be due on Sunday 11:59pm.

End of week quiz will be due by Sunday 11:59pm.

Documentaries with worksheet questions are to be completed by the end of the week, before you take the weekly quiz.

At the start of each week, there will be two tables in Canvas that itemize out the two modules to be completed that week. Below are the first week's tables. Every week will have tables like these.

Week 1: Module 1	Monday Oct 18-Wednesday Oct 20: Topics and Tasks	Due Dates
Readings	Textbook Chapter 1: Introduction to Physical Anthropology	Complete by Wednesday at 11:59pm
Lecture	Anthropological Perspective	Complete by Wednesday at 11:59pm
Documentary/ Video	<i>Watch the Welcome video and complete the Student Survey (extra credit)</i>	Submit by Wednesday at 11:59pm
Discussion Post	Video biographies of anthropologists	Submit by Wednesday at 11:59pm

Week 1: Module 2	Thursday Oct. 21- Sunday Oct. 24: Topics and Tasks	Due Dates
Readings	Chapter 2: Development of Evolutionary Thought	Complete by end of week
Lecture	History of evolutionary theory	Complete by end of week
Documentary	<i>What Darwin Never Knew</i> and discussion questions	Complete by end of week
Discussion Replies	Comment on two students' posts	Submit by Sunday at 11:59pm
End of week quiz	Quiz #1	Submit by Sunday at 11:59pm

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. All lectures have corresponding transcripts. In some instances you may need to turn on the transcripts under the "CC" caption controls for the videos.

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Documentaries

Documentaries/videos will be posted to watch within Canvas, or linked to a publicly available source. *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 discussion postings, and gain knowledge for use as in-depth examples for the exams.

Discussion postings

There is typically a weekly discussion prompt with two replies that develop analysis and learning of weekly concepts/topics throughout the semester. Once a student answers a post, then other student posts will be viewable. There are 6 total posts in the semester and the lowest posting score will be dropped.

Quizzes

There will be a short, objective based quiz at the end of the week (except during exam weeks), to be submitted by Sunday 11:59pm. Quizzes will include materials from weekly readings, lectures and documentaries. Be sure to take your quizzes (and exams) on a device that allows you to view images in Canvas. They will be multiple choice or true/false, and there is a 20-minute time limit to take them. Students may retake quiz once to improve score.

Exams

There will be a midterm exam to be taken **Nov. 8- Nov. 9** on the first half of the class, and a final exam to be taken **Dec. 3- Dec. 4** on the second half 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, class discussion, and activities.

Approximate hours per week for each class activity

Readings	6-7 hours
Lectures (online)	4 hours
Documentaries/worksheets	4 hours
Vocabulary	2 hours
Discussion Posts/Replies	4 hours
Quizzes	2 hours
TOTAL	~23 hours/week

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Grading

Quizzes , 30 pts each, 5 total	150 points
Discussions , 25 pts each, 5 total	150 points
Midterm	150 points
Includes objective, short answers and essay	
Final	150 points
Includes objective, short answers and essay	

Total points: 600 points	C: 65-79% (390-479 points)
A: 90-100% (540-600 points)	D: 60-64% (360-389 points)
B: 80-89% (480-539 points)	F: 59% or below (359 points or less)

Grade book

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

Conduct

Classroom standards and student conduct for this class follow the *Academic Integrity and Student Code of Conduct* outlined in the Modesto Junior College catalog. 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.

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.

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.

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Professor communications

Note the office hours at the top of the syllabus, during which time I will be available for students via Zoom Conferencing, or through Canvas email. Additionally, I will monitor email daily Monday-Friday and respond promptly to emails received during this time.

OUTLINE: SCHEDULE FOR SEMESTER

Weeks	Topics of Modules	Important Dates
Week 1 Oct. 18- Oct. 24	Module 1 Anthropology; Module 2 Evolutionary Thinking	Discussion Post 1: Video biographies Quiz #1
Week 2 Oct. 25- Oct. 31	Module 3 Heredity, DNA Module 4 Evolutionary Mechanisms	Discussion Post 2: Genetics Quiz #2
Week 3 Nov. 1- Nov. 7	Module 5 Human Adaptation & Variation; Module 6 Classification & Taxonomy	Discussion Post 3: Evolutionary Mechanisms Quiz #3
Week 4 Nov. 8- Nov. 14	Module 7: Midterm ; Module 8: Primates	Midterm : Mon Nov. 8-Tues Nov. 9 Discussion Post 4: Primates* due Saturday
Week 5 Nov. 15- Nov. 21	Module 9: Taphonomy & Dating Methods Module 10: Intro to hominins; Australopiths & <i>Paranthropus</i>	Discussion Post 5: Dating Methods Quiz #4
Week 6 Nov. 22- Nov. 28	Module 11: Genus <i>Homo</i> ; Module 12: Neanderthals	Discussion Post 6: Stone Tools Quiz #5* due Monday
Week 7 Nov. 29- Dec. 4	Module 13: <i>Homo naledi</i> & Origin of <i>Homo sapiens</i> Module 14: Final	Discussion Post 7: Trip to the Cradle Final Fri Dec. 3 – Sat. Dec. 4

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