

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

Spring 2021

MJC

Professor	Dr. Debi Bolter
Email	bolterd@yosemite.edu
Office hours Online	Monday 1:45-3:45pm Tuesday 11:00am-12:30pm Wednesday 11:00am-12:30pm <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:

Lewis B, Jurmain R, and Kilgore L. 2013. *Understanding Humans*. 11th edition. Cengage Learning. ISBN: 9781111831776.

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 through 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

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week will contain readings, vocabulary, lectures, discussion post, 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.

Due dates will be consistent each week

- Discussion posts will be due on Wednesdays 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 module.

The Elements of the Course

Readings

There will be weekly assigned readings. Readings will be primarily from the textbook *Understanding Humans*. 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 each week (except Midterm week). 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. 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 each week. These posts develop analysis and learning of class concepts and topics. There are 7 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.

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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 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 March 29-31 on the first half of the class, and a final exam to be taken April 26-28 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 in each class activity

Readings	6-7 hours
Lectures (online)	5-6 hours
Vocabulary preparation	2 hour
Documentary/worksheet	3-4 hour
Discussion postings and quiz completion	4 hours
TOTAL	~20-23 hours/week

Grading

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

Discussions, 25 points each 150 points (7 total, 6 count; lowest score dropped)

Midterm, Mon-Wed Mar. 29-31 150 points

Covers weeks 1-3; includes objective questions, short answers response and essay

Final, Mon-Wed Apr. 26-28 150 points

Covers weeks 4-7; includes objective questions, short answers response 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.

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

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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****

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

Evening and 24/7 Canvas Support: (844) 303-8280

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 ***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.

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

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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.

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.

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OUTLINE: SCHEDULE FOR SEMESTER

Weeks	Topics of week	Important Dates
Week 1 March 8-14	Anthropology; Evolutionary Thinking	<i>Extra credit: Student survey & syllabus quiz.</i> <u>Discussion post 1:</u> Anthro video biographies Quiz #1
Week 2 March 15-21	Heredity, DNA and Evolutionary Mechanisms	<u>Discussion post 2:</u> Genetics/inheritance Quiz #2
Week 3 March 22-28	Human Adaptation and Variation; Classification	<u>Discussion post 3:</u> Evolutionary mechanisms Quiz #3 <i>Extra credit: Student survey</i>
Week 4 Mar. 29-April 4	Midterm; Primates	Midterm Mar 29-31 <u>Discussion post 4:</u> Primates!
Week 5 April 5-11	Taphonomy, Dating Methods, Skeletal Anatomy, and Introduction to Hominins	<u>Discussion post 5:</u> Comparative anatomy Quiz #4
Week 6 April 12-18	Australopiths; Genus <i>Homo</i> beginnings	<u>Discussion post 6:</u> Stone tools Quiz #5
Week 7 April 19-25	Neanderthals; <i>Homo naledi</i> ; Origin of <i>Homo sapiens</i>	<u>Discussion post 7:</u> Trip to the Cradle Quiz #6 <i>Extra credit: Student survey</i>
Last week April 26-30	FINAL	Final April 26-28

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