ANTHROPOLOGY 001 - INTRODUCTION TO BIOLOGICAL ANTHROPOLOGY
Fall 2010

Monday, Wednesday: 2:20-3:35 PM
Lecture meets in Funger Hall, Room 108 / Lab sections meet in HAH (2110 G. Street), Room 202

Course Instructor: Prof. Shannon McFarlin
Contact: 202-994-4245, mcfarlin@gwu.edu

Office Hours: Monday 4:00-6:00pm or by appointment
Office Location: 2114 G. Street NW, Room 303

Teaching Assistants
Serena Bianchi (Email: bianchi.serena80@gmail.com) Lab Sections: W 4:10-6:00pm, W 6:10-8:00pm
Office Hours: M 10:00-12:00pm; 2114 G. Street, 1st floor

Andrew Du (Email: andrewdu@gwmail.gwu.edu) Lab Sections: TH 3:10-5:00pm, TH 5:10-7:00pm
Office Hours: W 4:00-6:00pm; 2114 G. Street, 1st floor

Adrienne Lagman (Email: aelagman@gwmail.gwu.edu) Lab Sections: F 8:00-9:50am, F 10:00-11:50am
Office Hours: T 1:00-3:00pm; HAH B-02

Dan Miller (Email: dmill@gwmail.gwu.edu) Lab Sections: TH 3:10-5:00pm, TH 5:10-7:00pm
Office Hours: W 4:00-6:00pm; HAH B-02

Paulina Orchard (Email: porchard@gwmail.gwu.edu) Lab Sections: TH 11:10-1:00pm, TH 1:10-3:00pm
Office Hours: W 11:30-12:30, TH 3:00-4:00pm; HAH B-02

COURSE DESCRIPTION. Who are we and where did we come from? What makes us, as humans, different from other animals? In this course we will explore the factors that have shaped our species’ anatomy, physiology, and behavior. Because the study of human evolution is rooted in fundamental principles of modern biology, the course will begin with discussion of natural selection, genetics and heredity. We will examine our species’ place in nature by reviewing current research on the behavior, ecology, anatomy, and evolution of our close cousins, the other primates. With this background, we will investigate the fossil record for human evolution and discuss what it tells us about the biology of our direct ancestors. Finally, we will also explore how adaptations in modern human populations may account for current diversity in our species.

Learning Objectives. Students will (1) develop an understanding of the evolutionary framework, theoretical concepts and biological principles that are fundamental to biological anthropology, and an appreciation of how these ideas have developed over time; (2) understand anatomical, behavioral and ecological diversity in the primate lineage, as it pertains to humans’ place in nature; (3) learn the basic empirical evidence that pertains to our evolutionary history, and factors underlying diversity in our species today; and (4) learn how to apply the scientific method to collect data and evaluate hypotheses, through hands-on experiences in lab. Upon completion of this course, students will be prepared for more advanced coursework in biological anthropology.

COURSE MECHANICS. This course requires attendance at both lecture and lab sections. Lab sections will cover new material, and expand on topics introduced in lecture. The textbook also explains many topics in greater detail than is possible during lecture.

REQUIRED TEXTS:
(2) Anthropology 1 Lab Manual - available for purchase from Minuteman Press – 2000 K St NW – Open 9-5:30

OPTIONAL: An additional online resource is also available as a companion to the Stanford et al. (2009) textbook: MyAnthroKit from Pearson Education, which contains practice quizzes, flashcards, and other interactive online tools to facilitate learning of the course material. Web access to MyAnthroKit is available in the GW Bookstore, packaged with the Stanford et al. (2009) textbook for an additional fee. Access to MyAnthroKit can also be purchased separately, at http://www.myanthrokit.com/
EVALUATION. Grades are based on exam performance and participation in lab. Three exams are scheduled for this course, each counting for 25% of the final grade (total = 75%). PLEASE NOTE: in accord with university policy, the third exam will be given during the final exam period and not during the last week of the semester. The remaining 25% of the final grade is based on attendance and participation in lab, including completion of laboratory exercises. The laboratory grade is calculated on the basis of the total number of points earned for each lab, as a percentage of the total number of possible points. All labs are worth the same number of points, with one exception. The ‘Primate Behavior II’ lab is worth twice the number of points as all other individual labs.

MAKE-UP EXAMS. The dates for the exams are posted on the course schedule below. Make travel plans accordingly. Scheduling of make-up exams will be considered on an individual basis prior to the exam date. If you must miss an exam for an unforeseen medical reason or emergency, including flu-like symptoms, notify the course director as soon as possible. The make-up exam must be taken within one week of the original exam date, except in rare circumstances. If the course director is not notified of a student’s intention to miss an exam until after the exam has already been administered in class, the make up exam may be given in essay format.

MISSING LAB SECTIONS. The mechanics and pace of this course unfortunately do not allow for individually scheduled make-up labs. Further, fire code restrictions determine the occupancy limit for the laboratory sections. If you have an unavoidable conflict, you must see the instructor well ahead of time (at least one week in advance) in order to arrange attendance in an alternate lab section. You will not be allowed to attend a different lab section without advanced permission. Please come to lab on time; you may lose credit if you arrive late.

If you must miss lab due to an unforeseen excused absence, such as illness (including flu-like symptoms) or emergency, notify both the course director and your laboratory instructor as soon as possible, within 3 days of the missed lab. For excused absences and if you have notified your lab instructor as required, you will be given an opportunity to make up the missed laboratory content. Otherwise, unexcused absences from lab will result in a zero for that week. We also recommend that you ask a classmate to review their lab notes with them, since the lab material will be included on the exams.

RELIGIOUS HOLIDAYS. It is completely acceptable for you to miss lecture or lab, due to observance of religious holidays. However, it is your responsibility to look ahead on the calendar and notify the instructor of any conflicts (for the entire semester) with lab or lecture no later than the second week of class (September 10th).

BLACKBOARD. Once you are registered for this course, you will automatically have access to the Blackboard site associated with it. Go to https://blackboard.gwu.edu/ and sign in using your email ID and password. We will use Blackboard to communicate announcements, store important documents and external links to web sites of interest that deal with material covered in the course, and provide a way for you to check your grades as the course progresses.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY. All graded work must be completed in accordance with The George Washington University Code of Academic Integrity, available online: http://www.gwu.edu/~ntegrity/code.html

SUPPORT FOR STUDENTS OUTSIDE OF THE CLASSROOM.

Disability Support Services (DSS). Any student who may need an accommodation based on the potential impact of a disability should contact the Disability Support Services office at 202-994-8250 in the Marvin Center, Suite 242, to establish eligibility and to coordinate reasonable accommodations. For additional information, please refer to http://gwired.gwu.edu/dss/

University Counseling Center (UCC). The Counseling Center (UCC) offers 24/7 assistance and referral to address students’ personal, social, career, and study skills problems. Services for students include: crisis and emergency mental health consultations; and confidential assessment, counseling services (individual and small group), and referrals. You can reach the UCC at 202-994-5300. For additional information, please refer to http://gwired.gwu.edu/counsel/CounselingServices/AcademicSupportServices

SECURITY. In the case of emergency, if at all possible, the class should shelter in place. If the building that the class is in is affected, follow the evacuation procedures for the building. After the evacuation, seek shelter at a predetermined rendezvous location.
*PLEASE NOTE: In accord with university policy, the third exam will be given during the final exam period.