

# LAB TECHNIQUES IN PALEOANTHROPOLOGY (ANTH6202)

Fall 2018

**M: 9:00- 10:45 AM (Unless stated otherwise)**

**Purple Meeting Room (6845), Science & Engineering Hall**

**Course Instructor:** Dr. Laurence Dumouchel

**Office Hours:** By appointment

**Contact:** [ldumouchel@gwu.edu](mailto:ldumouchel@gwu.edu), 202-910-6402

**Office Location:** Science & Engineering Hall, 6<sup>th</sup> floor, #6675

## COURSE DESCRIPTION

Through a series of readings and laboratory visits, students will be introduced to a range of laboratory facilities and research approaches in human evolutionary studies available at GWU and local institutions. The class will meet two hours per week. However, on occasion, off-campus visits may last 4 hours or longer, given travel time to and from sites.

## LEARNING OBJECTIVES

By the end of this semester, students will:

- Be aware of the range of laboratory settings and research opportunities available at GWU and nearby institutions, which are relevant to addressing key research questions in Human Paleobiology
- Understand practical constraints and possibilities of major instrumentation available in each laboratory visited, and be able to discuss issues concerning sampling requirements, instrument capabilities and limitations
- Understand the research questions being asked in each laboratory, and be able to contribute to discussions of aims, significance and limitations of the research
- Gain limited hands-on experience and more in depth knowledge (summarized in the form of a written report) of a research protocol used in one of the laboratories visited in the semester

## REQUIRED MATERIALS

Specific reading assignments will be sent via email each week

## OFF-CAMPUS LAB VISITS:

The meeting time and place will be arranged beforehand.

**DO NOT BE LATE. DO NOT BE LATE. DO NOT BE LATE. Please, I'm begging you - DO NOT BE LATE.**

Call me (202-910-6402) if you face any unexpected legitimate delays (e.g. your Metro caught on fire).

## EVALUATION

Attendance to all meetings and your participation in discussion comprises 50% of your final course grade. Students are also expected to complete a practicum (ca. 15 hours) in any one of the labs/techniques explored in the class, and write a report on the research/techniques used (6-9 pages in length). Grades will be calculated as follows:

- Class participation 50% (points lost for lab rotations missed)
- Practicum evaluation (by lab supervisor) 25%
- Written report 25%

This written report is an opportunity for you to show us what you've learned during your practicum experience. The best reports are those that weave in motivation and rationale with the methods that you've learned.

## GRADING SCHEME

Letter grades are assigned at the end of the semester using the +/- system according to the following chart. **Final grades are not rounded, and there is no extra credit offered.**

A	93%-100%	C	73%-76.99%
A-	90%-92.99%	C-	70%-72.99%
B+	87%-89.99%	D+	67%-69.99%
B	83%-86.99%	D	63%-66.99%
B-	80%-82.99%	D-	60%-62.99%
C+	77%-79.99%	F	0%-59.99%

## RELIGIOUS HOLIDAY

It is completely acceptable for you to miss class 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) **no later than the first week of class.**

## ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

All graded work must be completed in accordance with The George Washington University Code of Student Conduct, available online: <https://studentconduct.gwu.edu/code-student-conduct>

## 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 Rome Hall, Suite 102, to establish eligibility and to coordinate reasonable accommodations. For additional information, please refer to <https://disabilitysupport.gwu.edu/>

- **Mental Health Services.** The Colonial Health Center 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 Colonial Health Center at 202-994- 5300. For additional information, please refer to <https://healthcenter.gwu.edu/mental-health>
- **International Services Office (ISO).** The International Services Office offers free tutoring and language support for international students who are non-native English speakers. For additional information, please refer to <https://libguides.gwu.edu/c.php?g=576191&p=4068674>

### **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.

**COURSE SCHEDULE**

DATE	TOPIC	LOCATION
Aug 27		
Sep 3	Labor Day (no class)	
Sep 10		
Sep 17		
Sep 24		
Oct 1		
Oct 8	Fall Break (no class)	
Oct 15		
Oct 22		
Oct 29		
Nov 5		
Nov 12		
Nov 19		
Nov 26		
Dec 3	<b>Due Dec 10 - practicum report</b>	