

**LABORATORY TECHNIQUES IN PALEOANTHROPOLOGY**  
**HOMP 6202**  
SYLLABUS, FALL 2017

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Most class meetings are scheduled for FRIDAY, 10:00 am – 12:00 pm

**INSTRUCTOR:** Brenda Bradley

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Office Hours: Wednesday 3.40-5.40pm, or by appointment

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

Through a series of readings and laboratory visits, students will be introduced to a range of laboratory facilities and research approaches in biological anthropology 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.

***Note: The information below applies for students taking this course for 2 credits. If you are not taking this course for 2 credits, please inform me on the first day of class.***

**LEARNING OBJECTIVES:**

- (1) Students will understand 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 and Biological Anthropology,
- (2) Students will 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.
- (3) Students will understand the research questions being asked in each laboratory, and be able to contribute to discussions of aims, significance and limitations of the research.
- (4) Students will 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.

**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.*

**READINGS:**

Readings will be assigned to introduce you to the research questions and methodological approaches employed in the laboratory to be visited each week. These readings will be distributed one week in advance, and are meant to give you some background understanding of the major research questions addressed and techniques employed by those laboratories. You are expected to complete these readings before the visit, so that you are equipped to contribute to discussions and *ask questions!*

**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.

**SCHEDULING CONFLICTS:**

It is your responsibility to inform me during the first week of class (**no later than September 8th**) of any scheduling conflicts that interfere with your ability to attend a class meeting. I will do our best to accommodate your scheduling needs. However, given the number of laboratories participating in this course and scheduling complexities, I cannot make any guarantees.

**RELIGIOUS HOLIDAYS:**

It is completely acceptable for you to miss class meeting(s) due to observance of a religious holiday, without penalty. However, it is your responsibility to look ahead on the calendar, and notify me no later than the **first week of the semester (no later than September 8<sup>th</sup>)** of your intention to be absent from class on the day(s) of religious observance.

**ACADEMIC INTEGRITY:**

The GW Code of Academic Integrity states: "Academic dishonesty is defined as cheating of any kind, including misrepresenting one's own work, taking credit for the work of others without crediting them and without appropriate authorization, and the fabrication of information." It is your responsibility to read and understand this and other stipulations of GW's Code of Academic Integrity, and complete all class work in accordance with this code. For the remainder of the code, see: <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://counselingcenter.gwu.edu>

**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.

**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 (203.710.9698) if you face any unexpected legitimate delays (e.g. your Metro caught on fire).

## SCHEDULE OF LABORATORY VISITS:

\*NOTE: The following provides a provisional schedule for laboratory visits. Scheduling and travel logistics for these class meetings will be finalized one week in advance. Most laboratory visits on the GW campus will be scheduled for Fridays at 10:00am – 12:00pm. Off campus visits will require more time, given transportation to and from sites. In most cases, you will make your own arrangements for transportation.

Date	Laboratory / Research Group	Location
September 8	Evolutionary Neuroscience (Chet Sherwood)	SEH CASHP North Corridor Labs
September 15	Comparative Anatomy (Rui Diogo)	<b>OFF CAMPUS:</b> Howard University; 520 W St. Numa Adams Building
September 22	National Museum of Natural History (Briana Pobiner)	<b>OFF CAMPUS:</b> NMNH -- meet at Constitution Ave. entrance, near the <i>T. rex</i> head.
September 29	Hominid Paleobiology (Ashley Hammond)	Paleoanthropology Lab SEH 6750
October 6	Nutrition Laboratory, Department of Nutrition Science, National Zoo and Conservation Biology Institute (Mike Power)	<b>OFF CAMPUS:</b> National Zoological Park; instructions to follow
October 13	MABIG 2017 in Richmond	
October 20	Primate Behavioral Ecology (Carson Murray)	SEH CASHP North Corridor Labs
	<b>DUE: October 20th - 1 paragraph summarizing practicum plans</b>	
October 27	Hard Tissue Biology (Shannon McFarlin)	SEH CASHP North Corridor Labs
November 3	Social Cognition Lab (Francys Subial)	2115 G Street, NW #204
November 10	Primate Genomics (Brenda Bradley)	SEH Purple Meeting Room; Lab 6100
November 17	TBD - Library of Congress?	
December 1	Stone Age Archaeology Research (Dave Braun)	SEH CASHP North Corridor Labs
	<b>DUE: December 8th - practicum report</b>	