**ANTH 1301.01 Introduction to Biological Anthropology**

M/W 8:45 AM - 10:00

117 University Club

**Instructor**: Dr. Jada Benn Torres

**Office**: 013 Garland Hall

**Office Hours**: By appointment

**Laboratory**: Stevenson Center 2-2527

**Phone**: 615.343.5373

**Email**: j.benntor@vanderbilt.edu

**Text**

**Biological Anthropology The Natural History of Humankind** Fourth edition. | Boston : Pearson, [2017]

Craig Stanford, University of Southern California

John S. Allen, University of Southern California

Susan C. Anton, New York University

ISBN 9780134005690 (pbk.)

**Description**

This course provides an overview of biological anthropology while emphasizing the role of evolution in the development of modern humans. We will cover both micro and macro evolution in the development of our species. In the first half of the course we examine the biology of human evolution and human variation. In the second half of the course, we consider human origins and non-human primate evolution as indicated by the fossil record. We will also explore ongoing evolution of our species.

**Objectives**

1. Describe the different subfields within biological anthropology

2. Explain the theory of evolution by natural selection

3. List ways anthropologists understand and study human variation

4. Outline the major fossil hominid species

5. Critically analyze anthropology research articles

6. Formulate and defend a position on anthropological related controversies

**Course Website**

Course materials will be posted online on BrightSpace. I will post the slides from each lecture and additional reading assignments there. Please be sure that you can access and use the site early in the semester. You will need to turn in all of your assignments using BrightSpace.

**Requirements**

**Readings**

You are responsible for all the readings from the textbook and the articles listed on the course schedule. The textbook will supplement the lecture in class, therefore it is highly recommended that you read the appropriate sections *before* coming to lecture. **Participation is 5% of the final grade** and consequently you are expected to attend each class.

**Discussion Days (**10% of final grade**)** There are three class days where we will have small group discussions. You will be responsible for completing the background readings (listed on the course schedule) before coming to class. You will also be expected to bring five questions about the topic to spur discussion. Your presence and participation are required for full credit in each discussion session. These sessions are graded -you will be evaluated on *the quality of your questions and participation* within your discussion group.

**Article Reviews (**20% of the final grade**)** In order to get familiar with reading anthropological research, students will be given four opportunities to review original research articles. Students are required to complete a total of *three* articles reviews by the end of the semester. You may choose any article of original research from one of the following journals:

1) American Journal of Physical Anthropology

<http://www3.interscience.wiley.com/journal/28130/home>

2) American Journal of Human Biology

<http://www3.interscience.wiley.com/journal/37873/home>

3) Evolution and Human Behavior

<http://www.ehbonline.org/>

4) Human Biology

<http://muse.jhu.edu/journals/human_biology/>

5) Journal of Human Evolution

<http://www.elsevier.com/wps/find/journaldescription.cws_home/622882/description>

6) Journal of Physiological Anthropology

<https://jphysiolanthropol.biomedcentral.com/>

7) American Journal of Primatology

[http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/journal/10.1002/(ISSN)1098-2345](http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/journal/10.1002/%28ISSN%291098-2345)

Each article that you choose to review must come from a different journal and be recent (within the last five years). I will provide more detailed guidelines on how to complete the reviews and you will need to submit an electronic copy of the article with your review All reviews must be electronically submitted on BrightSpace by the beginning of class on the due date.

**Exams (65% of the final)**. I will provide more detailed guidelines on how to complete the reviews and you will need to submit **grade)** There will be two in-class exams (20% each for the final grade) and a final exam (25% of the final grade) covering the lectured material and the readings (see course schedule). The exams will include both multiple choice and short answers. Only the final exam will be comprehensive.

**Course Policies**

**Attendance**

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*Grade Scale*

A 94% or more C 74%-76%

A- 90%-93% C- 70%-73%

B+ 87%-89% D+ 67%-69%

B 84%-86% D 64%-66%

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C+ 77%-79% F 59% or less

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*School- Life Balance*

I understand that students have obligations in addition to this course. In addition, unexpected things happen in life that can affect school-life balance. While meeting obligations, academic, social, and otherwise, is very important, if you become overwhelmed, there are several resources available on campus to help you. The Psychological & Counseling Center (PCC) (615) 322-2571 <https://medschool.vanderbilt.edu/pcc/> and the Student Center for Wellbeing (615)322-0480 or <http://www.vanderbilt.edu/healthydores/> are available to student. Overall, I encourage you to communicate with me BEFORE a class-related issues happens, if possible.

*Class Cancellations*

In the event that I cannot make it to class, you will be notified either by email or a note will be posted on the class door.

*Cellphones/Laptops*

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Course Schedule 2019

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**ANTH 1301.02 Introduction Biological Anthropology**

Tues/Thurs 1:10- 2:25 PM

101 Garland Hall

**Instructor**: Dr. Jada Benn Torres

**Office**: 013 Garland Hall

**Office Hours**: Mon 10-11:30am; Wed 1-2:30pm **OR** by appointment

**Laboratory**: Stevenson Center 2 2527

**Phone**: 615.343.5373

**Email**: j.benntor@vanderbilt.edu

**Teaching Assistant**: Taiye Winful

**Office**: Buttrick Hall 412

**Office Hours**: Mon. 1-2:30; Wed. 12-1:30

**Email**: olawunmi.winful@vanderbilt.edu

**Teaching Assistant**: Miguel Cuj

**Office**: Buttrick Hall 112

**Office Hours**: Monday 8- 11 am

**Email**: miguel.a.cuj@vanderbilt.edu

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Spring 2019 Course Schedule



1. \* adapted from https://www.cla.purdue.edu/students/future/aboutus/elena/statement.html [↑](#footnote-ref-1)