
Dates: August 30, September 6, September 13

Topics:

- Organizational Meeting
- What is Physical Anthropology and how did it get that way?
- What are the conceptual underpinnings of modern physical anthropology?

Presentations available:

- History of Physical Anthropology
- Molecular and Familial Genetics
- Population Genetics
- Evolutionary Theory
- Misconceptions in Evolution

Additional information:

- See this essay to learn more about Dr. Bindon: <http://www.as.ua.edu/ant/bindon/anthropologist.htm>

Readings:

- Graves, Intro, Ch. 1-9
- Tattersall and Schwartz, Preface, Ch. 1, 2
- Your physical anthropology text (YPAT): Intro chapter, chapters on genetics, cell biology, and evolution

Assignments

- Assignment 1: Edit your statement on our website using this link to tell about your background in anthropology, why you came to UA, who you're working with, and what you hope to do for your thesis research. (due ASAP)
- Assignment 2: Genetics Problems (due 9/5: all assignments are due by noon on the assigned date)
- Assignment 3: Submit a critique of an article on the evolution/creation/intelligent design debate. (due 9/12)

Dates: September 20, September 27, October 4

Topics:

- What is man's place in nature?
- Who are our closest relatives and what can we learn about ourselves from them?

Presentations available:

- Primates
- Primate Evolution

Readings:

- Beard, whole book
- Relethford, Preface, Ch. 1 – 2
- YPAT: Chapters on Primates, taxonomy, behavior, evolution

Assignments

- Assignment 4: Submit a critique of an article on living primates (due 9/26)
- Assignment 5: Submit a critique of an article on primate evolution (due 10/3)

Dates: October 11, October 18, October 25, November 1

Topics:

- How do we differ from our closest relatives?
- Where did we come from?
- How did we get here?

Presentations available:

- Models of Hominid Origins
- Pliocene-Pleistocene Hominids
- Fossil Hominids
- The Genus Homo

Readings:

- Hart and Sussman, whole book.
- Relethford, Preface, Ch. 3, 4
- Tattersall and Schwartz, Ch. 3 - 8
- YPAT: Chapters on fossil man, paleoanthropology

Assignments

- Assignment 6: Submit a critique of an article on the evolution of early hominids, prior to the genus Homo (due 10/17)
- Assignment 7: Submit a critique of an article on the evolution of the genus Homo prior to Homo sapiens (due 10/24)
- Assignment 8: Submit a critique of an article on the evolution of Homo sapiens (due 10/31)

Dates: November 9, November 16, November 23, November 30

Topics:

- How do we differ from one another?
- What causes differences between groups of people?
- How are human differences patterned?

Presentations available:

- Human Variation
- G6PD
- Sickle Cell
- Human Adaptation
- Skin Color Example
- Samoan Adaptation
- Samoan Foodways

Additional Resources

- Baker, P.T. 1984. The adaptive limits of human populations. *Man*, 19:1-14.
- Bindon J.R. 1997 Coming of age of human adaptation studies in Samoa. In: R. Huss-Ashmore and S. Ulijaszek (editors). *Human Adaptation*. Oxford University Press. Pp. 126-156.
- Brace, C.L. The concept of race in physical anthropology. In *Ember and Ember*.
- Brown, Ryan A. and Amelagos, George J. (2001) Apportionment of Racial Diversity: A Review. *Evolutionary Anthropology*, 10:34-40.
- Crews, D.E. and J.R. Bindon. 1991. Ethnicity as a taxonomic tool in biomedical and biosocial research. *Ethnicity and Disease*, 1:42-49.
- Green L. 1993 G6PD deficiency as protection against falciparum malaria: an epidemiologic critique of population and experimental studies. *Yearbook of Physical Anthropology*, 36:153-178.
- Livingstone F.B. Anthropological implications of sickle cell gene distribution in West Africa. *American Anthropologist*, 60:533-562.
- Montagu A. 1962. The concept of race. *American Anthropologist*, 64:919-928

Readings:

- Graves, whole book
- Relethford, Ch. 5 – 10

Assignments

- Assignment 10: Submit a critique of an article about human variation (due 11/8)
- Assignment 11: Submit a critique of an article on human microevolution (due 11/15)
- Assignment 12: Submit a critique of an article on human adaptation (due 11/22)
- Assignment 13: Submit a critique of an article on the interaction of biology and culture (due 11/29)

December 6: Make up date if needed

Readings: There are five required texts available from the bookstores:

1. Beard, Chris 2004 *The Hurt for the Dawn Monkey: Unearthing the Origins of Monkeys, Apes, and Humans* University of California Press.
2. Graves Joseph L., Jr. 2001. *The Emperor's New Clothes: Biological Theories of Race at the Millennium*. Rutgers, NJ: Rutgers University Press.
3. Hart, Donna, and Sussman Robert W. 2005 *Man The Hunted: Primates, Predators, and Human Evolution*. Westview Press.
4. Relethford John H. 2003. *Reflections of Our Past: How Human History is Revealed in Our Genes*. Boulder, CO: Westview Press.
5. Tattersall Ian, and Schwartz Jeffrey H. 2001. *Extinct Humans*. Boulder, CO: Westview Press.

Additional Resources: In addition to the required texts books, each student needs to choose an introductory text in biological anthropology, either one used previously by the student or one made available by Dr. Bindon. Additional articles will be chosen by students. There are also many resources available from the web site for this course and other web materials Dr. Bindon has created. There are lecture notes and articles available with the reader on race at Dr. Bindon's ANT 275 Human Variation course web site (<http://www.as.ua.edu/art/bindon/ant275>) notes and articles are also available at Dr. Bindon's ANT 475 web site on human adaptability (<http://www.as.ua.edu/art/bindon/ant475>)

COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES: Prerequisite is graduate standing. This course provides a detailed introduction to biological anthropology, the study of human variation and human origins. The principal aims of the course are as follows:

1. To understand the various aspects of biological anthropology as they have developed throughout the history of the discipline.
2. To review the basic facts and ideas about human variation and human origins.
3. To consider theoretical and methodological issues in biological anthropology.

GRADING POLICY: Your grade will be determined by your scores on four essays and on your participation in class as follows: **Essay One 15%, Essay Two 15%, Essay Three 15%, Essay Four 15%, Participation 40%**

Essays: The in-class essays are designed to allow the student to learn, review, and synthesize material, and to write an in-class essay question simulating the comprehensive exams. Each essay will be allocated one hour of in-class time. Essays should be well organized and well written in addition to being factually correct and complete.

Participation: Your participation will be established by demonstrating that you are well prepared for class. There will be two general areas in which this will be assessed: 1) participation during class (this is a graduate level seminar and every student is expected to contribute to the discussion each meeting); and 2) preparation of weekly assignments including the article critiques.

Make-up Policy: There will be no make-ups for classes, essays or other assignments.

OFFICE HOURS: By appointment and by e-mail at any time.

STATEMENT ON DISABILITY: If you are registered with the Office of Disability Services, please make an appointment with me as early in the semester as possible to discuss any course accommodations that may be necessary. If you have a disability but have not contacted the Office of Disability Services, please call 354-5175 or visit Osband Hall to register for services.

STATEMENT ON ACADEMIC FRAUD: All acts of dishonesty in any work constitute academic misconduct. This includes, but is not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, fabrication of information, misrepresentations, and abetting of any of the above. The Academic Misconduct Disciplinary Policy will be followed in the event that academic misconduct occurs. Students should refer to the Student Affairs Handbook, which can be obtained in the Office of Student Life and Services in the Ferguson Center.