



# Biological Anthropology

Anthropology 5020, Spring 2008  
University of Wyoming

Meeting Place: Anthropology Seminar Room

Weekly Schedule: Thursdays 3:10 – 5:40 p.m.

Course Instructor: Dr. Jim Ahern

Office: Anthropology Building Rm. 216

Phone: 766-4911

Email: jahern@uwyo.edu

Office Hours: MWF 9 – 10 a.m. *and by appointment*

## Course Description:

This course offers a graduate level overview of biological anthropology. The course covers the history of relevant areas of human biology including human variation, paleoanthropology, and primatology. Theoretical highlights include topics within hominid evolution, the concept of race and the evolution of human behavior. Class time will comprise lectures and discussions with occasional lab activities.

## Course Materials:

### REQUIRED:

#### Readings

Readings will be posted on the course's WyoWeb page. They will be available one week or more in advance.

Some of the required readings will be pulled from the following books, and you may want to acquire some or all of these for your academic library:

- Brace, C.L. 2005. *Race is a Four-Letter Word*. Oxford University Press.
- Mayr, E. 1982. *The Growth of Biological Thought*. Harvard University Press.
- Stocking, G.W. (ed.) *Bones, Bodies, Behavior: Essays on Biological Anthropology*. University of Wisconsin Press.
- Trinkaus, E. & Shipman, P. 1992. *The Neandertals*. Alfred A. Knopf.

#### Bibliographic Software

*EndNote*, *Procite* or a similar program is required and will make your entire academic career much easier. EndNote (including a free 30-day trial) is available at [www.endnote.com](http://www.endnote.com). An inexpensive (\$99 vs. \$240) student version is available at the U.W. Bookstore. EndNote is also available for use on some of the computers in the Paleoanth. Lab.

### RECOMMENDED:

#### For Reference

One of the following introduction to biological anthropology textbooks:

- *Introduction to Physical Anthropology*, 11<sup>th</sup> edition. 2008. R. Jurmain, L. Kilgore, & W. Trevathan. Wadsworth Publishers. (available in the UW bookstore)
- *The Human Species*, 6<sup>th</sup> edition. 2005. J.H. Relethford. McGraw-Hill.
- *Biological Anthropology*, 1st edition. 2006. C. Stanford, J.S. Allen, S.C. Antón. Pearson.

One of the following evolutionary biology textbooks:

- *Evolution*. 3<sup>rd</sup> edition. 2004. M. Ridley. Blackwell.
- *Evolution, an Introduction*, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition. 2005. S.C. Stearns & R.F. Hoekstra. Oxford University Press.

## Wyoweb Resources:

The course's Wyoweb page provides a wealth of essential information and resources. Most, if not all, of the required readings will be available here. Also, any lecture slides will be posted here as well as downloadable documents such as the syllabus.

### **Course Policies:**

- Students should attend every class period.
- Students are expected to actively participate in and promote the discussions.
- Students are expected to complete all weekly readings by Monday's class period.
- The instructor is here to provide assistance in and out of class, but it is the student's responsibility to take advantage of this assistance.
- It is the student's responsibility to know about academic dishonesty. Cases of academic dishonesty will be dealt with following university regulations (<http://uwadmnweb.uwyo.edu/legal/Uniregs/ur802.htm>).
- Make-up exams, assignments, and make-up alternatives for discussions will only be allowed if absences are officially excused (e.g., a doctor's note)
- Grades will be based upon total point accumulation. Grading scale is as follows: A=90%+ (900+ pts.); B=80-89% (800-899 pts.); C=70-79% (700-799 pts.); D=60-69% (600-699 pts.); F=59% and under (<599 pts.).
- If you have a physical, learning, or psychological disability and require accommodations, please let me know as soon as possible. You will need to register with, and provide documentation of your disability to, University Disability Support Services (UDSS) in SEO, room 330 Knight Hall, 766-6189, TTY: 766-3073.

### **Assignments, Exams, Participation, and Grades:**

Grades will be based on a short paper, labs, exams, and participation.

ASSIGNMENTS:	DUE DATE	POINTS	% OF GRADE
<u>Annotated Bibliography</u> - An annotated bibliography on a bioanthropological topic.	1/31	50	5%
<u>Hot-Seat Reaction Paper</u> - A 2-4 page reaction to a section's readings to be distributed to the class as an additional required reading	TBD	100	10%
<u>Research Paper</u> - A theory-rich review paper that uses meta-analysis and/or original research to test one or more integrated hypotheses	<u>Draft 1</u> 4/3 <u>Final Draft</u> 5/5	250	25%
ORAL EXAMS:	DATE	POINTS	% OF GRADE
The oral exams will be ≈30 minute structured discussions between each student and the instructor.			
- Oral Exam 1	3/10-3/14	200	20%
- Oral Exam 2	5/5 – 5/8	200	20%
PARTICIPATION:	DATE	POINTS	% OF GRADE
<u>In-Class</u> Active participation in class, including constructive contribution to discussions	Every Class	200	20%
<b>Totals:</b>		<b>1000</b>	<b>100</b>

## **TENTATIVE CLASS SCHEDULE FOR ANTHROPOLOGY 5020, SPRING 2008**

### **SECTION 1:**

#### ***Introduction, Research, and Biological Anthropology as Science***

Week 1: (1/17)

**ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY:** Due 1/31

### **SECTION 2:**

#### ***Evolutionary Theory and Its Development***

Week 2 (1/24) – Pre-Darwin, Darwin/Wallace, Darwinian Evolution

Week 3 (1/31) – Modern Evolutionary Synthesis, Macroevolution

### **SECTION 3:**

#### ***Race and the Origins of Physical Anthropology***

Week 4 (2/7) – Enlightenment, The American School of Anthropology

### **SECTION 4:**

#### ***The Rise of Evolutionary Physical Anthropology***

Week 5 (2/14) – Broca, Manouvrier, Hrdlička, Neandertals & the Beginnings of Paleoanthropology

Week 6 (2/21) – Boas, Eugenics, Hooton, German Rassenkunde, Anti-Nazi Physical Anthropology

### **SECTION 5:**

#### ***The New Physical Anthropology and the Death (?) of the Race Concept***

Week 7 (2/28) – The Synthesis Hits Physical Anthropology, Washburn, Brace, Coon

Week 8 (3/6) – Development of Primatology & Bioarchaeology

**ORAL EXAM 1:** 3/10 – 3/14 (make a 30 minute appointment with Jim)

### **SECTION 6:**

#### ***Contemporary Theoretical Frameworks for Human Biological Variation***

Week 9 (3/13) – Rise of modern human genetics and adaptation, 'Race' today

**SPRING BREAK – 3/15 – 3/23**

### **SECTION 7:**

#### ***Biocultural Evolution in Contemporary Human Populations***

Week 10: (3/27) – Disease, culture and adaptation

**RESEARCH PAPER (first draft):** Due 4/3

### **SECTION 8:**

#### ***Behavior, Ecology, and Evolution in Primates and People***

Week 11: (4/3) – Primates, Evolution of Behavior

### **SECTION 9:**

#### ***Primate and Early Hominid Evolution***

Week 12: (4/10) – Primate Evolution, Hominid Origins

Week 13: (4/17) – Human Origins

### **SECTION 10:**

#### ***Human Evolution***

Week 14: (4/24) – Modern Human Origins

Week 15: (5/1) – Colonization of new worlds

**RESEARCH PAPER (final version):** Due 5/5

**ORAL EXAM 2:** 5/5 – 5/8 (make a 30 minute appointment with Jim)