

Basic Course Information

Semester:	Fall 2021	Instructor Name:	Dr. Michelle D. Graham
Course Title & #:	Physical Anthropology 100	Email:	michelle.graham@imperial.edu
CRN #:	10259	Webpage (optional):	n/a
Classroom:	Building 2700, Room 2735	Office #:	ConferZoom (through Canvas)
Class Dates:	August 16 to December 11	Office Hours:	By appointment only
Class Days:	Tuesdays	Office Phone #:	n/a
Class Times:	11:20 am – 2:30 pm	Emergency Contact:	Department Secretary (760) 355-6144
Units:	3	Class Format:	Face to face

Course Description

Physical anthropology is the study of humans as biological beings subject to the forces of both evolution and culture. Physical anthropology studies humans in a biological context and explains our relationship to other primates and the rest of the natural world. Throughout the course we will examine anatomical, behavioral, and genetic similarities and differences among the living primates, and by illustrating the scientific method, learn the basic mechanism of the evolutionary processes and trace a pathway of human evolution in relation to environmental adaptation as reconstructed from the fossil record.

Course Prerequisite(s) and/or Corequisite(s)

None.

Student Learning Outcomes

Upon course completion, the successful student will have acquired new skills, knowledge, and or attitudes as demonstrated by being able to:

- Define the main goals and aims of physical anthropology.
- Explain how Darwin's theory of natural selection results in evolution, adaptation and design, and how evolution affects our daily lives.
- Explain the basic pattern of hominid evolution over the last seven million years including dating methods, scientific methods, and the origin of *Homo sapiens* in Africa including global biological diversity.

Course Objectives

In this course, students will develop the ability to:

- Define anthropology and describe its four major subfields, stating the major areas of research within physical anthropology.
- Recall the development of evolutionary theory and individuals that contributed to its development.
- Explain the basic principles of Mendelian, molecular, and population genetics.
- Formulate an argument for the importance of genetic variations and demonstrate how natural selection works with variation, including variation in skin color.
- List an overview of dating techniques and recreate the geologic time scale in regards to vertebrae and mammalian evolution as it pertains to the human fossil record.

- Use comparative primate taxonomy of commonly known primates in terms of physical characteristics, primate social behaviors and geographical locations, including the differences between the traditional and the cladistic taxonomic classification.
- Recognize the major groups of hominin fossils and describe alternate phylogenies for human evolution.
- Identify the biological and cultural factors responsible for human variation.

Textbooks & Other Resources or Links

Larsen, Clark Spencer 2017. *Our Origins: Discovering Physical Anthropology* 4th. W.W. Norton ISBN: 978-0393284904. Available through the [IVC bookstore](#)

Course Requirements and Instructional Methods

The unit module for each week will be posted to Canvas on Mondays. **You will participate in a discussion every week from Monday to Thursday, have a quiz every Friday, and an assignment due every Saturday.** Please organize your time accordingly and read the chapter early in the week so you will have notes to contribute to the discussion, study for the quiz, and complete your assignment. The quizzes and assignments will open every Monday, so if you would like to complete them early, you can. *Please be sure to always upload your work well ahead of the assignment and exam deadlines.*

Over a 16-week period, we will cover all 14 chapters of your textbook *Our Origins: Discovering Biological Anthropology* by Clark Spencer Larsen. **There will be no class the week of November 22nd to the 27th.** During the week from October 11th to the 16th, we will review chapters 1 through 8 and have the mid-term exam. During the week from December 6th to the 11th, we will review chapters 9 through 14 and have the final exam.

The Department of Education policy states that one (1) credit hour is the amount of student work that reasonably approximates not less than one hour of class time and two (2) hours of out-of-class time per week over the span of a semester. *Because this is a three-credit course, students should expect to invest a minimum of nine hours per week.*

Guidelines for Formatting Written Assignments and Avoiding Plagiarism:

Please prepare and upload written assignments in **.doc** or **.docx** files. As a rule, sentences should contain a maximum of 12 words and paragraphs should contain between 8 and 12 lines, no more and no less. Try to follow these recommendations because it will improve the overall quality and readability of your writing. Note: If more than three words are copied from a source, they must be cited in quotation marks, or it constitutes plagiarism. Citations containing 40 or more words must be separated from the text in a block quote *without* quotation marks. Please follow the American Psychological Association ([APA style guide](#)) for citations and references and ask the professor for further instructions if necessary. IVC standards of student conduct, including the institutional policy on academic honesty, can be consulted at [Standards of Student Conduct](#)

What if I need to borrow technology or access to WiFi?

You can obtain a loaner laptop, MYFI device, or other electronic device, by submitting a request form to [Student Technology Support](#)

If you would like to access the WiFi at the IVC campus, you can park in parking lots "I & J". Students must log into the IVC student WiFi by using their IVC email and password. The parking lots will be open Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Course Grading Based on Course Objectives

A total of 410 points can be earned as follows:

Discussions: 16 discussions worth 5 points each = 80 points

Quizzes: 14 quizzes worth 10 points each = 140 points

Assignments: 14 assignments worth 10 points each = 140 points

Mid-term Exam: 25 points

Final Exam: 25 points

Final grades will be based on the accumulation of points. Canvas automatically converts those points into a percentage grade that I will convert to a letter grade using the following criteria:

90-100 A

80-89 B

70-79 C

60-69 D

59 or below F

Course Policies

Drop/Participation Policy

Initial Engagement

Students who have not taken the quiz or submitted the assignment by the end of the first week of class and have not contacted me through Canvas messaging to express their intent to participate in the course will be dropped.

Due Dates for Unit 1

The first quiz will be on Friday, August 20th, and the first assignment will be due on Saturday, August 21st.

Late Work Policy

Quizzes and Exams

Quizzes and exams cannot be rescheduled unless it has been arranged between the student and professor at least 24 hours in advance of the deadline with a valid reason.

Assignments

Missed assignments can be submitted to me via Canvas messaging with a valid reason and a 50% penalty for late submission.

IVC Student Resources

IVC wants you to be successful in all aspects of your education. For help, resources, services, and an explanation of policies, visit [IVC Student Resources](#) or click the heart icon in Canvas.

Anticipated Class Schedule/Calendar

Date or Week	Activity, Assignment, and/or Topic	Pages/ Due Dates/Tests
Week 1 August 16 - 21 Unit 1	Syllabus, Introduction Chapter 1 What is Physical Anthropology? Discussion 1 Quiz 1 Assignment 1	<i>Monday to Thursday</i> <i>Friday</i> <i>Saturday</i>
Week 2 August 23 – 28 Unit 2	Chapter 2 Evolution: Constructing a Fundamental Scientific Theory Discussion 2 Quiz 2 Assignment 2	<i>Monday to Thursday</i> <i>Friday</i> <i>Saturday</i>
Week 3 August 30 – Sept 4 Unit 3	Chapter 3 Genetics and Genomics: Reproducing Life and Producing Variation Discussion 3 Quiz 3 Assignment 3	<i>Monday to Thursday</i> <i>Friday</i> <i>Saturday</i>
Week 4 Sept 6 – 11 Unit 4	Chapter 4 Genes and Their Evolution: Population Genetics Discussion 4 Quiz 4 Assignment 4	<i>Monday to Thursday</i> <i>Friday</i> <i>Saturday</i>
Week 5 Sept 13 – 18 Unit 5	Chapter 5 Biology in the Present: Living People Discussion 5 Quiz 5 Assignment 5	<i>Monday to Thursday</i> <i>Friday</i> <i>Saturday</i>
Week 6 Sept 20 – 25 Unit 6	Chapter 6 Biology in the Present: The Other Living Primates Discussion 6 Quiz 6 Assignment 6	<i>Monday to Thursday</i> <i>Friday</i> <i>Saturday</i>
Week 7 Sept 27 – Oct 2 Unit 7	Chapter 7 Primate Sociality, Social Behavior, and Culture Discussion 7 Quiz 7 Assignment 7	<i>Monday to Thursday</i> <i>Friday</i> <i>Saturday</i>
Week 8 Oct 4 – 9 Unit 8	Chapter 8 The Past: Evidence for the Present Discussion 8 Quiz 8 Assignment 8	<i>Monday to Thursday</i> <i>Friday</i> <i>Saturday</i>



Date or Week	Activity, Assignment, and/or Topic	Pages/ Due Dates/Tests
Week 9 Oct 11 – 16 Unit 9	MID-TERM EXAM REVIEW	MID-TERM EXAM
Week 10 Oct 18 – 23 Unit 10	Chapter 9 Primate Origins and Evolution: The First 50 Million Years Discussion 9 Quiz 9 Assignment 9	<i>Monday to Thursday</i> <i>Friday</i> <i>Saturday</i>
Week 11 Oct 25 – 30 Unit 11	Chapter 10 Early Hominin Origins and Evolution: The Roots of Humanity Discussion 10 Quiz 10 Assignment 10	<i>Monday to Thursday</i> <i>Friday</i> <i>Saturday</i>
Week 12 Nov 1 – 6 Unit 12	Chapter 11 The Origins and Evolution of Early Homo Topics: Discussion 11 Quiz 11 Assignment 11	<i>Monday to Thursday</i> <i>Friday</i> <i>Saturday</i>
Week 13 Nov 8 – 13 Unit 13	Chapter 12 The Origins, Evolution, and Dispersal of Modern People Discussion 12 Quiz 12 Assignment 12	<i>Monday to Thursday</i> <i>Friday</i> <i>Saturday</i>
Week 14 Nov 15 – 20 Unit 14	Chapter 13 Our Past 10,000 Years: Agriculture, Population, Biology Discussion 13 Quiz 13 Assignment 13	<i>Monday to Thursday</i> <i>Friday</i> <i>Saturday</i>
Week 15 Nov 22 – 27	NO CLASS	NO CLASS
Week 16 Nov 29 – Dec 4 Unit 15	Chapter 14 Evolution: Today and Tomorrow Discussion 14 Quiz 14 Assignment 14	<i>Monday to Thursday</i> <i>Friday</i> <i>Saturday</i>
Week 17 Dec 6 – 11 Unit 16	FINAL EXAM REVIEW	FINAL EXAM

Subject to change without prior notice