



Basic Course Information

Semester:	Spring 2023	Instructor Name:	Dr. Michelle D. Graham
Course Title & #:	Physical Anthropology 100	Email:	michelle.graham@imperial.edu
CRN #:	20264	Webpage (optional):	n/a
Classroom:	n/a	Office #:	n/a
Class Dates:	February 13 to June 9	Office Hours:	Monday to Thursday 5:00—6:00pm via ConferZoom (by appointment only)
Class Days:	Every day	Office Phone #:	n/a
Class Times:	Anytime	Emergency Contact:	Department Secretary (760) 355-6144
Units:	3	Class Format:	Online Asynchronous

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 the anatomical, behavioral, and genetic similarities and differences between the living primates, and use the scientific method to learn the basic mechanisms of the evolutionary process and trace the 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 and how evolution affects our daily lives.
- Explain the basic pattern of hominin evolution over the past seven million years including dating methods, scientific methods, the origin of *Homo sapiens* in Africa, and 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 variation and demonstrate how natural selection works with variation, including variation in skin color.

- List an overview of dating techniques and recreate the geological time scale for 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 geographic 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, C. S. (2019). *Our origins: Discovering physical anthropology* (5th ed.). W.W. Norton. ISBN: 978-0393680881 Available through the [IVC bookstore](#)

You may also use an older edition but be aware that the content will vary slightly, and the page numbers will be different from those listed in the chapter overviews on Canvas. A copy of the book is on reserve at the IVC library.

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. **If you would like to complete all your work early in the week to free up your weekend, you can.** *Please be sure to always upload your work well ahead of the deadline.*

Over a 17-week period, we will cover the entire textbook. At the beginning of each semester, at least one student asks if it will be necessary to acquire the book, and the answer is **yes**. Especially for an online class, it is imperative to read the book and use it to complete the quizzes and assignments. *Please make sure to buy it, borrow it, or share it.*

There will be no class during Spring Break from April 10 to 16. From April 17 to 22, there will be no discussion or assignment, only review and the midterm exam, which will cover the content of chapters 1 through 8. From June 5 to 9, there will be no discussion or assignment, only review and the final exam, which will cover the content of chapters 9 through 14.

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 as **Word or PDF** 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. **All assignments are automatically run through Turnitin plagiarism detecting software on Canvas. Please make sure copied content remains below 10% of the total.** 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 and plagiarism, 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](#)

Course Grading Based on Course Objectives

A total of 390 points can be earned as follows:

Discussions: 14 discussions worth 5 points each = 70 points

Quizzes: 14 quizzes worth 10 points each = 140 points

Assignments: 12 assignments worth 10 points each = 120 points

Essay: 20 points

Midterm Exam: 20 points

Final Exam: 20 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:

89-100 A

79-88 B

69-78 C

59-68 D

58 or below F

Course Policies

Drop/Participation Policy

Initial Engagement

Students who have not logged onto Canvas or participated in the first week of class and have not contacted me to express their intent to participate in the course will be dropped.

Due Dates for Unit 1

The first discussion will close on Thursday February 16, the first quiz on Friday February 17, and the first assignment on Saturday February 18.

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.**

Assignments

Missed assignments can be completed with a 50% penalty. If you wish to make up an assignment, send me a Canvas message to tell me which one and I will re-assign it to you for an extra week. *Each assignment can only be extended once; please do not ask for the same extension twice.* If you have a documented reason for missing the assignment



and/or need special consideration, the late penalty may be waived on a case-by-case basis. **I will not accept assignments by Canvas message or email attachment for any reason.**

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 on Canvas.

Anticipated Class Schedule/Calendar

Date or Week	Activity, Assignment, and/or Topic	Due Dates
Week 1 February 13-18 Unit 1	Syllabus, Introduction Chapter 1 What is Physical Anthropology? Discussion 1 Quiz 1 Assignment 1	<i>Monday to Thursday Friday Saturday</i>
Week 2 February 20-25 Unit 2	Chapter 2 Evolution Discussion 2 Quiz 2 Assignment 2	<i>Monday to Thursday Friday Saturday</i>
Week 3 February 27-March 4 Unit 3	Chapter 3 Genetics and Genomics Discussion 3 Quiz 3 Assignment 3	<i>Monday to Thursday Friday Saturday</i>
Week 4 March 6-11 Unit 4	Chapter 4 Genes and Their Evolution: Population Genetics Discussion 4 Quiz 4 Assignment 4	<i>Monday to Thursday Friday Saturday</i>
Week 5 March 13-18 Unit 5	Chapter 5 Biology in the Present: Living People Discussion 5 Quiz 5 Assignment 5	<i>Monday to Thursday Friday Saturday</i>
Week 6 March 20-25 Unit 6	Chapter 6 Biology in the Present: The Other Living Primates Discussion 6 Quiz 6 Assignment 6	<i>Monday to Thursday Friday Saturday</i>
Week 7 March 27-April 1 Unit 7	Chapter 7 Primate Sociality, Social Behavior, and Culture Discussion 7 Quiz 7 Begin short essay	<i>Monday to Thursday Friday n/a</i>
Week 8 April 3-8 Unit 8	Chapter 8 The Past: Evidence for the Present Discussion 8 Quiz 8 Finish short essay	<i>Monday to Thursday Friday Saturday</i>
Week 9 (April 10 to 15) Spring Break		



Date or Week	Activity, Assignment, and/or Topic	Due Dates
Week 10 (April 17 to 22) Review and Midterm Exam Chapters 1 through 8		
Week 11 April 24-29 Unit 9	Chapter 9 Primate Origins and Evolution: The First 50 Million Years Discussion 9 Quiz 9 Assignment 7	<i>Monday to Thursday Friday Saturday</i>
Week 12 May 1-6 Unit 10	Chapter 10 Early Hominin Origins and Evolution: The Roots of Humanity Discussion 10 Quiz 10 Assignment 8	<i>Monday to Thursday Friday Saturday</i>
Week 13 May 8-13 Unit 11	Chapter 11 The Origins and Evolution of Early Homo Discussion 11 Quiz 11 Assignment 9	<i>Monday to Thursday Friday Saturday</i>
Week 14 May 15-20 Unit 12	Chapter 12 The Origins, Evolution, and Dispersal of Modern People Discussion 12 Quiz 12 Assignment 10	<i>Monday to Thursday Friday Saturday</i>
Week 15 May 22-27 Unit 13	Chapter 13 Our Past 10,000 Years: Agriculture, Population, Biology Discussion 13 Quiz 13 Assignment 11	<i>Monday to Thursday Friday Saturday</i>
Week 16 May 29-June 3 Unit 14	Chapter 14 Evolution: Today and Tomorrow Discussion 14 Quiz 14 Assignment 12	<i>Monday to Thursday Friday Saturday</i>
Week 17 (June 5 to 9) Review and Final Exam Chapters 9 through 14		

Subject to change without prior notice