



IMPERIAL VALLEY COLLEGE

Basic Course Information

Semester:	Spring 2023	Instructor Name:	Dr. Arturo Marquez Jr.
Course Title & #:	Physical Anthropology 100	Email:	arturo.marquezjr@imperial.edu
CRN #:	20266	Webpage (optional):	n/a
Classroom:	2735	Office #:	2735
Class Dates:	2/13 – 6/09	Office Hours:	MW 3:00-5:00pm
Class Days:	Tuesday and Thursday	Office Phone #:	760-355-6282
Class Times:	9:40 – 11:05am	Emergency Contact:	760-355-6144
Units:	3	Class Format:	In-Person

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. (CSU/UC)

Student Learning Outcomes

Upon satisfactory completion of the course, students will be able to:

- 1) Define anthropology and describe its four major subfields, stating the major areas of research within physical anthropology.
- 2) Recall the development of evolutionary theory and individuals that contributed to its development.
- 3) Explain the basic principles of Mendelian, molecular and population genetics.
- 4) Formulate an argument for the importance of genetic variations and demonstrate how natural selection works with variation, including variation in skin color.
- 5) 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.
- 6) 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.
- 7) Recognize the major groups of hominin fossils and describe alternate phylogenies for human evolution.
- 8) Identify the biological and cultural factors responsible for human variation.

Course Objectives

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

- 1) Define the main goals and aims of physical anthropology.
- 2) Explain how Darwin's theory of natural selection results in evolution, adaptation and design, and how evolution affects our daily lives.



- 3) 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.

Textbooks & Other Resources or Links

Clark Spencer Larsen 2020 *Our Origins: Discovering Biological Anthropology*. 5th Edition. W.W. Norton & Company. ISBN: 978-0393680881 or 0393680886

Course Requirements and Instructional Methods

Students are assessed through a combination of weekly quizzes, a midterm and a final exam. Active student participation is an important component of the assessment. The following is a break-down of course requirements:

- **Participation** (10 points): Consistent attendance is strongly encouraged to succeed in this course. Students who engage and ask questions during class meetings are often better prepared to excel in assignments, quizzes, and exams.
- **Critical reflections** (20 points): Students will compose a total of 4 critical reflections worth 5 points each. These short writing assignments will be assessed based on the following criteria: 1) at least one quote from the readings, 2) at least two key words (defined and analyzed) from the readings, 3) at least one question for further reflection, and 4) at least 300 words long. These short writing assignments are an opportunity for students to synthesize key ideas in their own words and from their unique perspective. Critical reflections are due on Canvas by Saturday at 11:59pm.
- **Quizzes** (50 points): A total of 10 quizzes worth 5 points each will assess student comprehension of course material for that corresponding week.
- **Group activities** (20 points): There will be 2 group activities worth 10 points each. Students will work with members of their group to organize an in-class presentation (collective) and submit a short synopsis of their work (individual).
- **Midterm** (25 points): A Midterm will be administered to assess student comprehension of course content from chapters 1-7 on Thursday April 6th.
- **Final Exam** (25 points): A Final will be administered to assess student comprehension of course content from chapters 8-14 on Thursday June 8th.

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.

Course Grading Based on Course Objectives

There is a total of 150 points possible in this course. The correspondence between points earned and final letter grade is the following:

Points Earned	Letter Grade
150-136	A
135-120	B
119-100	C
99-79	D
79-0	F



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Course Policies

Attendance is crucial. If you foresee missing a class meeting, please inform the instructor.

Late work is accepted *only if* the instructor is informed with a detailed justification. If you experience any difficulty that impedes your ability to submit work by a due date, please inform the instructor as soon as possible. Meeting with the instructor during office hours is ideal to address these situations. Make-up exams may be allowed at the instructor's discretion. If you foresee a time conflict or any other difficulty, please inform the instructor as soon as possible. Make-up exams will be scheduled at the end of the semester during finals week.

In order to achieve our course objectives, it is important to foster an engaged learning environment that is respectful and welcoming of everyone in class. Please refrain from any activity that may impede on others' learning and participation. To this end, please be mindful of how you utilize your digital devices during our class meetings. Laptop computers, cell phones, and other such devices may be used *only* to consult readings, notes, and related course material. If you need to take a call or answer a text message, please step outside to prevent disrupting class discussions and activities. Students using their devices for non-course related purposes will be asked to refrain from using them in future class meetings. If these devices hinder active class participation and engaged learning, the instructor may prohibit their use for the rest of the semester.

Plagiarism is a serious offense and will result in adverse consequences. Plagiarism is presenting someone else's work as one's own without citing the original source. It is crucial students understand the seriousness of plagiarism. Please do not copy and paste work from online sources or our textbook. Students are encouraged to reference their sources but always in a way that highlights their original ideas and clearly cites their sources. If you are unsure about IVC's plagiarism policy, please contact the instructor or refer to IVC's student services.

Other Course Information

The instructor may modify the syllabus as necessary to ensure the learning objectives are met. If there are any modifications to the syllabus, students will be notified via email within 24 hours.

Office hours are available in-person in room #2735 or via Zoom on Monday and Wednesday from 3:00-5:00pm. If you have a time conflict, please email the instructor to discuss alternate days or times. Office hours are an additional resource in your professional trajectory at IVC. The instructor is *always* open to dialogue, and is committed to your success. Use office hours to receive one-to-one guidance on specific assignments, quizzes or upcoming exams. Moreover, use office hours to discuss the many merits of anthropology as a major, or to discuss ways anthropology can contribute to your professional development beyond IVC.

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 <http://www.imperial.edu/studentresources> 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 February 14 and 16	Chapter 1 – What is Biological Anthropology?	Pg. 3-25 Critical reflection 1
Week 2 February 21 and 23	Chapter 2 – Evolution: Constructing a Fundamental Scientific Theory	Pg. 26-53 Quiz 1
Week 3 February 28 and March 2	Chapter 3 – Genetics and Genomics	Pg. 54-89 Quiz 2
Week 4 March 7 and 9	Chapter 4 – Genes and their Evolution	Pg. 90-123 Critical reflection 2
Week 5 March 14 and 16	Chapter 5 – Biology in the Present: Living People	Pg. 124-165 Group Activity 1 Quiz 3
Week 6 March 21 and 23	Chapter 6 – Biology in the Present: The Other Living Primates	Pg. 166-205 Quiz 4
Week 7 March 28 and 30	Chapter 7 – Primate Sociality, Social Behavior, and Culture	Pg. 206-233 Quiz 5
Week 8 April 4 and 6	Midterm Review	Midterm
SPRING BREAK (April 10 – 15)		
Week 9 April 18 and 20	Chapter 8 – Fossils and their Place in Time and Nature	Pg. 234-273 Quiz 6
Week 10 April 25 and 27	Chapter 9 – Primate Origins and Evolution	Pg. 274-309 Critical Reflection 3
Week 11 May 2 and 4	Chapter 10 – Early Hominin Origins and Evolution	Pg. 310-353 Quiz 7
Week 12 May 9 and 11	Chapter 11 – The Origins and Evolution of Early Homo	Pg. 353-393 Quiz 8
Week 13 May 16 and 18	Chapter 12 – The Origins, Evolution, and Dispersal of Modern People	Pg. 394-449 Group Activity 2 Quiz 9
Week 14 May 23 and 25	Chapter 13 – Our Past 10,000 Years	Pg. 450-483 Quiz 10
Week 15 May 30 and June 1	Chapter 14 – Evolution: Today and Tomorrow	Pg. 484-509 Critical reflection 4
Week 16 June 6 and 8	Review Final Exam	Final Exam

*****Subject to change without prior notice*****