

Basic Course Information

Semester:	Fall 2025	Instructor Name:	Dr. Arturo Marquez Jr.
Course Title & #:	Physical Anthropology ANTH 100	Email:	arturo.marquezjr@imperial.edu
CRN #:	10257	Webpage (optional):	n/a
Classroom:	2735	Office #:	2735
Class Dates:	August 11 – December 6	Office Hours:	By appointment and Fridays 8am – 1pm
Class Days:	Thursday	Office Phone #:	760-355-6282
Class Times:	6:30-9:40pm	Emergency Contact:	760-355-6201
Units:	3	Class Format/Modality:	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)

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

No prerequisites or corequisites for ANTH 100.

Student Learning Outcomes

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.

Course Objectives

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.

Textbooks & Other Resources or Links

This is the required textbook this semester:

- *Explorations: An Open Invitation to Biological Anthropology*, 2nd Edition. 2023. Beth Shook, Katie Nelson, Kelsie Aguilera, and Lara Braff, editors. American Anthropological Association. Creative Commons (non-commercial) License. ISBN (ebook): 978-1-931303-82-8; ISBN (print): 978-1-931303-81-1

The required textbook is available on Canvas and online following the link below:

<https://explorations.americananthro.org/>

Course Requirements and Instructional Methods

Students are assessed through a combination of weekly quizzes, short essays, group activities, and exams. Active student participation is an important component of the assessment. The following is a break-down of course requirements:

- **Quizzes** (90 points): A total of 9 quizzes worth 10 points each will be administered to assess student engagement and comprehension of course material for that corresponding week. Quizzes will be in class and on Canvas.
- **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 course readings, 2) at least two key words (defined and analyzed) from the course 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. Any sign of plagiarism will negatively impact your grade.
- **Group activities** (40 points): There will 4 group activities worth 10 points each. Students will work with members of their group to conduct online research and organize an in-class presentation, after which a short synopsis of their work is submitted. Attendance is crucial to complete these assignments.
- **Midterm** (25 points): A Midterm will be administered to assess student comprehension of course content from chapters 1-8 on Thursday October 9th.
- **Final Exam** (25 points): A Final will be administered to assess student comprehension of course content from chapters 9-16 (excluding chapter 15) on Thursday December 4th.

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 200 points possible in this course. The correspondence between points earned and final letter grade is the following:

Points Earned	Letter Grade
200-181	A
180-161	B
160-141	C
140-121	D
125-0	F

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Academic Honesty (Artificial Intelligence -AI)

IVC values critical thinking and communication skills and considers academic integrity essential to learning. Using AI tools as a replacement for your own thinking, writing, or quantitative reasoning goes against both our mission and academic honesty policy and will be considered academic dishonesty, or plagiarism unless you have been instructed to do so by your instructor. In case of any uncertainty regarding the ethical use of AI tools, students are encouraged to reach out to their instructors for clarification.

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 12 – 2pm. If you have a time conflict, please message 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.

There is support for you here at IVC. If you require further support, please do not hesitate to contact the Disability and Support Project & Services (DSPS) to learn more: <https://www.imperial.edu/students/dsps/>

Anticipated Class Schedule/Calendar

Date or Week	Topic and Readings	Assignments and Exams
	Module 1	
Week 1 August 14	Chapter 1 – Introduction to Biological Anthropology	Quiz 1
Week 2 August 21	Chapter 2 – A History of Evolutionary Thought	Quiz 2
Week 3 August 28	Chapter 3 – Molecular Biology and Genetics	Quiz 3
Week 4 September 4	Chapter 4 – Forces of Evolution	Critical reflection 1
	Module 2	
Week 5 September 11	Chapter 5 – Meet the Living Primates	Quiz 4
Week 6 September 18	Chapter 6 – Primate Ecology and Behavior	Group Activity 1
Week 7 September 25	Chapter 7 – Stones and Bones: Studying the Fossil Record	- Quiz 5 - Group Activity 2
Week 8 October 2	Chapter 8 – Primate Evolution	Quiz 6
Week 9 October 9	Midterm Review and Exam	Midterm
	Module 3	
Week 10 October 16	Chapter 9 – Early Hominins	- Quiz 7 - Critical reflection 2
Week 11 October 23	Chapter 10 – Early Members of the Genus Homo	Quiz 8
Week 12 October 30	Chapter 11 – Archaic Homo	Group Activity 3
	November 1 – Deadline to drop with 'W'	
Week 13 November 6	Chapter 12 – Modern Homo <i>sapiens</i>	Critical reflection 3
	Module 4	
Week 14 November 13	Chapter 13: Race and Human Variation Chapter 17 – Social and Biopolitical Dimensions of Evolutionary Thinking	Quiz 9
Week 15 November 20	Chapter 14 – Human Variation: An Adaptive Significance Approach	- Group Activity 4 - Critical reflection 4



Date or Week	Topic and Readings	Assignments and Exams
	Chapter 16 – Contemporary Topics: Human Biology and Health	
November 27	Thanksgiving Break	
Week 16 December 4	Final Review and Exam	• Final Exam

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