

Course Syllabus

COURSE NUMBER: ANTH 1020

COURSE NAME: Human Origins: Evolution and Diversity

PREREQUISITES: None

OFFICE HOURS: Held via Zoom. Tuesday 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM or by appointment

CONTACT: alyssa.mcgrath@utah.edu

REQUIRED TEXT:

Clark Spenser Larsen (2017) ***Our Origins: Discovering Physical Anthropology***, 5th **Edition**. W.W. Norton & Co.: New York, New York (**CSL**)

To obtain your textbook, follow the link in the [Course Orientation](#) (on Canvas).

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Physical (also known as Biological) Anthropology is an exciting discipline that studies humans, and their closest living relatives, as biological beings living in cultural and natural settings. This introductory course, taught through lectures, readings, videos and online activities, will address questions pertinent and important to the scientific, social, and political agenda of the world. Based on what is taught in the course, you will be able to answer questions regarding human origins, the relationship of humans to each other and the rest of the animal kingdom, the origin, patterns, maintenance, and significance of human biological variation. You will also learn about the nature of heredity and we will touch upon the ethical ramifications of new developments in biotechnology. The course is broken up into four Segments, which represent the major emphases of Physical Anthropology: 1) Evolutionary Theory, 2) Human Genetics, 3) Living Primates and 4) The Fossil Record. There will be opportunities to participate in peer learning by sharing relevant news items in the Canvas environment and you will be required to participate in online activities related to the course material

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

At the conclusion of this course, students will be able to

1. Demonstrate an understanding of the scientific method as applied to the study of human evolution and variation.
2. Explain the fundamentals of DNA, how genetic material is passed on, and how scientists use genetic data to understand the relationship between modern humans, other primates, and human antecedents

3. Identify the major anatomical and behavioral characteristics of primates and explain why humans are considered primates.
4. Demonstrate an understanding of human evolution and articulate the anatomical and behavioral features of *Homo sapiens* and various extinct species of the genus *Homo* (e.g., Neanderthals, *H. erectus* and *H. habilis*).
5. Identify and critically evaluate popular anthropology stories in the news.
6. Articulate the various types of careers that anthropology majors can go into.

TEACHING AND LEARNING METHODS:

This 3-credit course has an Intellectual Explorations – Physical and Life Sciences (SF) designation. It is taught through readings, lectures, videos and discussions. There are no prerequisites for this course.

Participation is an essential part of the learning process. Students are responsible for their learning and are required to actively participate in all components of the course. Readings for each week are listed on the syllabus and/or Canvas. Assignments are also listed. Students are expected to **complete the readings and exercises for each class/module.**

FORMAL REQUIREMENTS:

Your grade will be determined by **exams, online postings** and short **online quizzes and activities**. There will be three 60 minute exams, covering material outlined in the course schedule. There will also be one 75 minute comprehensive final exam. The online activities are scheduled throughout the semester. You are encouraged to review the assignments and due dates in advance.

Midterm Exams (50%)

The three 60 minute midterm **exams** will be multiple choice and short answer format and will be taken online through Canvas. There will be approximately 30 questions and students will be allowed open book and open notes for these exams. The lowest score of the three 60 minute exams will be dropped prior to computing final grades.

Final Exam (25%)

The 75 minute **comprehensive final exam** will consist of multiple choice, short answer questions and one short essay (chosen from a list of questions). The score earned on the comprehensive final exam cannot be dropped. **NO MAKE-UP EXAMS WILL BE GIVEN.**

Online (Anthropology in the News) Postings (10%)

In order to foster cooperative learning and in-depth study of anthropology, students will be responsible for participating in **online discussions** of current news item related to Physical Anthropology. This assignment is designed to give you experience reading

popular, but relatively scientific, news articles and summarizing main points. You should plan on posting one relevant news story over the course of our four course segments. If your post is relevant and you follow the instructions below, you should get the full 15 points. Detailed guidance follows:

- First, find a news article that is about an anthropological study, or is about a topic, that is **relevant** to the current course segment. You may find the article in a mainstream newspaper or magazine or on an anthropology-focused website. Some examples of mainstream newspapers are the New York Times, Washington Post, Chicago Tribune, Salt Lake Tribune. Some examples of mainstream magazines are *National Geographic*, *Scientific American*, *Discover*, the *New Yorker*. Some excellent online resources include [LiveScienceLinks to an external site.](#), [the New York TimesLinks to an external site.](#), or [ScienceDailyLinks to an external site.](#)
- Then, **post the story on our Anthropology in the News Discussion Board**. With your post, **explain (in more than 40 words) why you think this is relevant** to the course Segment. You are encouraged to engage with your fellow students regarding your, and their, posts. I have posted a news story on the Board to start things off.

InQuizitive Questions & Lab Activities (5% and 10%)

Class participation is built into activities in the online course. You will be required to complete short quizzes throughout the course. Successful participation will ensure you are prepared to move onto the next Theme in the course. You are also expected to take part in laboratory activities. Point designations are provided on the Canvas course website and represent 15% of the total grade. Students will earn full participation points by:

- Actively participating in and completing all InQuizitive sessions
- Raising questions, discussions, and activity content that reflects familiarity with assigned readings, and the ability to relate them to class content and experiences
- Participating in online dialogue and consultation with the instructor and other students
- Facilitating online discussion, drawing classmates to the discussion, and building on and responding to the comments of others
- Completing and submitting lab activity assignments on time

DETAILED COURSE SCHEDULE:

A detailed course schedule can be found in the [Course Orientation](#). **Look for the Schedule of Modules and Assignments for each Section, where you will find a calendar for each week of the course. This will help you keep track of assignments and deadlines.**

RULES, REGULATIONS & POLICIES IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ANTHROPOLOGY:

1. **Accommodations** The University of Utah seeks to provide equal access to its programs, services and activities for people with disabilities. If you will need accommodations in this class, reasonable prior notice needs to be given to the instructor and the Center for Disability Services, 162 Olpin Union Building 581-5020 (voice or TDD). CDS will work with you and the instructor to make arrangements for accommodations. All written information in this course can be made available in alternative format with prior notification to the Center for Disability Services.
2. **Student Behavior** All students are expected to maintain professional behavior in the classroom setting, according to the Student Code, spelled out in the Student Handbook. Students have specific rights in the classroom as detailed in Article III of the Code. The Code also specifies proscribed conduct (Article XI) that involves cheating on tests, plagiarism, and/or collusion, as well as fraud, theft, etc. Students should read the Code carefully and know they are responsible for the content. According to Faculty Rules and Regulations, it is the faculty responsibility to enforce responsible classroom behaviors, beginning with verbal warnings and progressing to dismissal from class and a failing grade. Students have the right to appeal such action to the Student Behavior Committee.
3. **Late papers:** Late papers/assignments will not be accepted unless a student has received prior approval by the instructor *before* the assignment is due. Late work (with instructor knowledge) will receive a lower grade than the paper would have received had it been on time, except in exceptional circumstances.
4. **The syllabus is not a binding legal contract.** It may be modified by the instructor when the student is given reasonable notice of the modification.
5. **Plagiarism:** Students suspected of plagiarizing work will be dealt with according to the university policy in such matters. The policy can be found at: <http://www.regulations.utah.edu/academics/6-400.html> Links to an external site.. At the discretion of the instructor, written assignments required for this course may be submitted to a computerized plagiarism evaluation service. If an assignment is determined to be plagiarized, penalties can include loss of all credit for the assignment, failure in the course, and lead to dismissal from the social work program.
6. **Incomplete Policy.** An "I" will only be given for work not completed because of circumstances beyond the student's control, providing the student is passing the course and needs to complete 20% or less of the work. Valid reasons for an "I" grade include:
 1. An illness (documented by a medical statement) that precludes the ability of the student to perform.
 2. An accident or situation that prevents the student from physically being present (documentation may be

required).

3. Extreme emotional or other mental circumstances that are severe enough to interfere with a student's normal academic performance.

If you do receive an "I", **do not** register for the course again. You must complete the required work in the time agreed by you and the instructor. If the work is not completed within one year, the grade will change to an "E". Faculty **will not accept** additional work to change the grade after that one-year period.

7. Repeating a Course. Any course taken at the University may be repeated. If you wish to attend a class again, you must register for it and pay tuition for that semester. Please note that some courses may be taught infrequently or discontinued.

8. It is the **student's** responsibility to contact instructors and submit necessary forms. If you have a problem with a course, please deal with it immediately. If you delay, your instructor--especially if a graduate student or Adjunct--may have left the University or be out of the country. In such a case, you may find that there is nothing the Department can do for you.

GRADING METHOD:

- InQuizitive Engagement Activities ----- 5%
- Anthropology in the News ----- 10%
- Lab Activities ----- 10%
- Exams 1-3 ----- 50%
- Final Exam ----- 25%

GRADING SCALE:

A	100% - 94.0%	A-	<94.0% - 90.0%		
B+	>90.0% - 87.0%	B	>87.0% - 84.0%	B-	<84.0% - 80.0%
C+	>80.0% - 77.0%	C	>77.0% - 74.0%	C-	<74.0% - 70.0%
D+	>70.0% - 67.0%	D	>67.0% - 64.0%	D-	<64.0% - 61.0%
E	<61.0% - 0.0%				

UNIVERSITY POLICIES

ADA Statement: The Americans with Disabilities Act. The University of Utah seeks to provide equal access to its programs, services, and activities for people with disabilities. If you will need accommodations in this class, reasonable prior notice needs to be given to the Center for Disability Services, 162 Olpin Union Building, (801) 581-5020. CDS will

work with you and the instructor to make arrangements for accommodations. All written information in this course can be made available in an alternative format with prior notification to the Center for Disability Services.

Addressing Sexual Misconduct: Title IX makes it clear that violence and harassment based on sex and gender (which includes sexual orientation and gender identity/expression) is a Civil Rights offense subject to the same kinds of accountability and the same kinds of support applied to offenses against other protected categories such as race, national origin, color, religion, age, status as a person with a disability, veteran's status or genetic information. If you or someone you know has been harassed or assaulted, you are encouraged to report it to the Title IX Coordinator in the Office of Equal Opportunity and Affirmative Action, 135 Park Building, 801-581-8365, or the Office of the Dean of Students, 270 Union Building, 801-581-7066. For support and confidential consultation, contact the Center for Student Wellness, 426 SSB, 801-581-7776. To report to the police, contact the Department of Public Safety, 801-585-2677(COPS), dps.utah.edu, 1735 E. S. Campus Dr. Salt Lake City, UT 84112.

Wellness Statement: Personal concerns such as stress, anxiety, relationship difficulties, depression, cross-cultural differences, etc., can interfere with a student's ability to succeed and thrive at the University of Utah. For helpful resources contact the Center for Student Wellness (www.wellness.utah.edu ([Links to an external site.](#))[Links to an external site.](#); 801-581-7776).

Student Code: (Policy 6-400) All students are expected to maintain professional behavior in the classroom setting, according to the Student Code (regulations.utah.edu/academics/6-400.php). Students have specific rights in the classroom as detailed in S. II of the Code. The Code also specifies standards of behavior (S. III) and academic conduct (S. V). ``Students must adhere to generally accepted standards of academic honesty, including but not limited to refraining from cheating, plagiarizing, research misconduct, misrepresenting one's work, and/or inappropriately collaborating" (S. V.B.). According to Faculty Rules and Regulations, it is the faculty responsibility to enforce responsible classroom behaviors. Students have the right to appeal such action to the Student Behavior Committee.

Safety Statement: The University of Utah values the safety of all campus community members. To report suspicious activity, call campus police at 801-585-COPS (801-585-2677). You will receive important emergency alerts and safety messages regarding campus safety via text message. For more information regarding safety and to view available training resources, including helpful videos, visit safeu.utah.edu[Links to an external site.](#). SANDY POLICE 801-799-3000

Veterans Statement: If you are a student veteran, the U of Utah has a Veterans Support Center located in Room 161 in the Olpin Union Building. Hours: M---F 8---5pm. Please visit their website for more information about what support they offer, a list of ongoing events and links to outside resources: <http://veteranscenter.utah.edu/>. Please also let me know if you need any additional support in this class for any reason.

Undocumented Student Support Statement: Immigration is a complex phenomenon with broad impact—those who are directly affected by it, as well as those who are

indirectly affected by their relationships with family members, friends, and loved ones. If your immigration status presents obstacles to engaging in specific activities or fulfilling specific course criteria, confidential arrangements may be requested from the Dream Center. Arrangements with the Dream Center will not jeopardize your student status, your financial aid, or any other part of your residence. The Dream Center offers a wide range of resources to support undocumented students (with and without DACA) as well as students from mixed-status families. To learn more, please contact the Dream Center at 801.213.3697 or visit dream.utah.edu.

Student Names and Personal Pronouns: Class rosters are provided to the instructor with the student's legal name as well as "Preferred first name" (if previously entered by you in the Student Profile section of your CIS account, which managed can be managed at any time). While CIS refers to this as merely a preference, I will honor you by referring to you with the name and pronoun that feels best for you in class or on assignments. Please advise me of any name or pronoun changes so I can help create a learning environment in which you, your name, and your pronoun are respected. If you need any assistance or support, please reach out to the LGBT Resource Center. https://lgbt.utah.edu/campus/faculty_resources.php

Diversity/Inclusivity Statement: It is my intent that students from all diverse backgrounds and perspectives be well served by this course, that students' learning needs be addressed both in and out of class, and that the diversity that students bring to this class be viewed as a resource, strength and benefit. It is my intent to present materials and activities that are respectful of diversity: gender, sexuality, disability, age, socioeconomic status, ethnicity, race, and culture. Your suggestions are encouraged and appreciated. Please let me know ways to improve the effectiveness of the course for you personally or for other students or student groups. In addition, if any of our class meetings conflict with your religious events, please let me know so that we can make arrangements for you. See <https://ctle.utah.edu/inclusiveteaching> for more details.

Plagiarism Software Policy: I may use a plagiarism detection service in this course, "Turn It In". When turning in your final paper, you may be required to submit your paper through the "Turn It In" portal via CANVAS as part of your assignment.

Incomplete Policy: An "I" will only be given for work not completed because of circumstances beyond the student's control, providing the student is passing the course and needs to complete 20% or less of the work. Valid reasons for an "I" grade include: (a) An illness (documented by a medical statement) that precludes the ability of the student to perform; (b) an accident or situation that prevents the student from physically being present (documentation may be required); (c) Extreme emotional or other mental circumstances that are severe enough to interfere with a student's normal academic performance. If you do receive an "I", do not register for the course again. You must complete the required work in the time agreed by you and the instructor. If the work is not completed within one year, the grade will change to an "E". Faculty will not accept additional work to change the grade after that one-year period. If a student has a problem with the course, please deal with it immediately. It is the student's responsibility to contact instructors and submit necessary forms.

Academic Misconduct: It is expected that students comply with University of Utah policies regarding academic honesty, including but not limited to refraining from cheating, plagiarizing, misrepresenting one's work, and/or inappropriately collaborating. This includes the use of generative artificial intelligence (AI) tools without citation, documentation, or authorization. Students are expected to adhere to the prescribed professional and ethical standards of the profession/discipline for which they are preparing. Any student who engages in academic dishonesty or who violates the professional and ethical standards for their profession/discipline may be subject to academic sanctions as per the University of Utah's Student Code: [Policy 6-410: Student Academic Performance, Academic Conduct, and Professional and Ethical Conduct](#). Plagiarism and cheating are serious offenses and may be punished by failure on an individual assignment, and/or failure in the course. Academic misconduct, according to the University of Utah Student Code: *"...Includes, but is not limited to, cheating, misrepresenting one's work, inappropriately collaborating, plagiarism, and fabrication or falsification of information...It also includes facilitating academic misconduct by intentionally helping or attempting to help another to commit an act of academic misconduct."* For details on plagiarism and other important course conduct issues, see the U's [Code of Student Rights and Responsibilities](#).

Note: The syllabus is not a binding legal contract. It may be modified by the instructor when the student is given reasonable notice of the modification.