

University of Montana

ScholarWorks at University of Montana

University of Montana Course Syllabi

Open Educational Resources (OER)

Fall 9-1-2021

ANTY 210N.01: Introduction to Physical Anthropology

Randall Royce Skelton

University of Montana, Missoula, randall.skelton@umontana.edu

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholarworks.umt.edu/syllabi>

Let us know how access to this document benefits you.

Recommended Citation

Skelton, Randall Royce, "ANTY 210N.01: Introduction to Physical Anthropology" (2021). *University of Montana Course Syllabi*. 12123.

<https://scholarworks.umt.edu/syllabi/12123>

This Syllabus is brought to you for free and open access by the Open Educational Resources (OER) at ScholarWorks at University of Montana. It has been accepted for inclusion in University of Montana Course Syllabi by an authorized administrator of ScholarWorks at University of Montana. For more information, please contact scholarworks@mso.umt.edu.

COVID Mitigation Procedures

The University has instituted several COVID mitigation procedures that will impact our class. I submit to them under protest, but we really have no choice other than to follow these procedures.

1. Everybody in the classroom must wear a mask. If you don't have a mask or aren't wearing it you must leave the classroom. If an unmasked person fails to leave the classroom I will have to cancel class for that day.
2. The university is very interested in who is sitting next to whom. This is so that if someone tests positive for COVID contact tracing can be used. If we know where everyone is seated then only those near the infected person need to be quarantined. Otherwise, the whole class will be quarantined. There are a couple of things we need to do to comply with this.
 - a. My TA will compile a seating chart of who is sitting where. Thus, she will have to move around during lecture asking each of you your name. If you want to be prepared, you can come with your name written on a piece of paper to hand to her.
 - b. You will need to sit in the same seat all semester. So, choose your seat carefully at the first class meeting.
 - c. If you arrive at class and someone is sitting in your seat, please let the instructor or the TA know so they can handle the issue.
3. I am hoping that I can talk loudly enough that you can all hear me with my mask on. I don't know whether there is a working microphone in the room. If so, I'll use it.
4. I plan to zoom each class meeting, to accommodate those who might be quarantined or who would rather watch from home. This may not always go smoothly, because despite my B.S. degree in computer science I'm not very good with techy techy crap like zoom. I will apologize ahead of time if something doesn't work right.
5. We are told not to hand out paper syllabi this year, but you can get it from Moodle.
6. All exams will be administered through Moodle this year. The exam access will be virtually the entire day for which the exam is scheduled (12:05am to 11:55pm). Although university excused absences (see the catalog) are allowed, I will not generally be willing to reschedule an exam for individual students.

I hope these procedures are not too nasty, and I apologize if they are.

INTRO TO PHYSICAL ANTHROPOLOGY

ANTHROPOLOGY 210

MWF 11:10-12:00 in SS 356

Dr. Randy Skelton

SS 226 Office Hours: MWF 8:00-8:50, TR 11:00-12:00

Email randall.skelton@umontana.edu

GOALS AND OUTCOMES

The focus of this class is the scientific study of human origins and variation. We will use many lines of evidence to form a holistic picture of human evolutionary biology. First, we will look at the process of evolution, and other background concepts. Second, we will examine our non-human primate relatives to see what they can tell us about ourselves. Finally, we will study the human fossil and archaeological records, and the spectrum of variation found in modern humanity.

Learning Outcomes: Students who successfully complete this class will have a basic understanding of the topics listed in the accompanying lecture schedule. This comprises a basic body of knowledge about humans as a living biological organism. This knowledge is part of the core curriculum of anthropology and will form a solid foundation in human biology that can be built upon in a variety of other classes. The Montana University System lists the following as learning outcomes.

- Demonstrate an understanding of basics of evolution, genetics, primatology, paleoanthropology, human variability;
- Demonstrate an understanding of the scientific method and of basic research methods in biological anthropology;
- Apply principles of evolution to evidence found in the fossil record and modern human and other primate adaptation;
- Critically examine contemporary issues in biological anthropology such as race, evolution, and human variation.

ADMINISTRIVIA

Required Text: Readings in the lecture and reading schedule should be read before class. Shook, Beth et al. (eds), 2019. Explorations: An Open Invitation to Biological Anthropology. American Anthropological Association. ISBN 13: 9781931303620 (Ebook) or 9781931303637 (Print). You can download chapters at <http://explorations.americananthro.org/>.

Moodle and Email: The University provides a learning management system called Moodle. You need to be able to access Moodle. If you can't access Moodle contact Moodle help at umonline-help@umontana.edu or 406-243 4999. I can only be responsible for content on Moodle and not for technical or access issues. Outside of lecture hours I will communicate with the class via Moodle, which uses official University email addresses. So, you need to check your University email regularly.

Lectures: Class attendance is required, though I won't be taking attendance. More than 30 years of experience teaching convinces me that students who come to class do much better than those who don't. Lecture notes for this class will be posted on Moodle.

Student Conduct: Students are expected to be familiar with and abide by the current student conduct code.

Disability Accommodations: Students with disabilities are welcome. The anthropology department has limited ability to provide accommodation, so arrangements should be made for accommodation with Disability Services for Students. See <http://life.umt.edu/dss/> for details.

Exams and Grading: Three non-cumulative regular exams will be held, one after each third of the course. In addition, there will be a comprehensive final examination on the designated final exam day. You must take at

least three of the four exams. If you take all four, the best three scores will be used to compute your grade. The three exams will each count for one third of your final score in the class. The grade you will receive depends on your overall cumulative percentage in the course, assigned using this system: 100%-90% = A, 89%-80 = B, 79-60% = C, 59-50% = D, 49-0% = F. I reserve the right to modify these basic grades with a + or - in special circumstances. This class may be taken CR/NCR grading, but if you do so you can't apply it toward any major, minor, or other requirements that require a letter grade.

PROVISIONAL* LECTURE AND READING SCHEDULE

DATE	DAY	LECTURE	READING FROM SHOOK ET AL.
Section 1: Genetic Background and Primates			
8/30	M	1. Anthro and Physical Anthro	Ch. 1: Entire chapter
9/1	W	2. The history of evolutionary theory	Ch. 2: Entire chapter
9/3	F	3. Genes and Gene Expression	Ch. 3: Beginning thru "Special Topic: Genetic Regulation Of the Lactase (Lct) Gene".
9/6	M	!!! LABOR DAY HOLIDAY !!!	
9/8	W	4. Inheritance	Ch. 3: Section on "Mendelian Genetics And Other Patterns Of Inheritance" thru end.
9/10	F	5. Mutation and genetic abnormalities	Ch. 4: Beginning thru "Case Study #1: Neurofibromatosis Type 1 (NF1)".
9/13	M	6. The mechanisms of evolution	Ch. 4: Section on "Genetic Drift" to end.
9/15	W	7. Video: Go Ape	
9/17	F	8. Primate Anatomy	Ch. 5: Beginning thru "Locomotor Adaptations".
9/20	M	9. The Living Primates	Ch. 5: Section on "PRIMATE DIVERSITY" to end.
9/22	W	10. Primate Behavior and Ecology	Ch. 6: Beginning thru "Polyspecific Associations"
9/24	F	11. The Evolution of Behavior	ch. 19: (Appendix C) Entire chapter.
9/27	M	12. Primate Social Groups 1	Ch. 6: Section on "Dispersal: Who Goes, Who Stays, and Why?" to end.
9/29	W	13. Primate Social Groups 2	
10/1	F	14. Primates in Peril	Ch. 18: (Appendix B) Entire chapter.
10/4	M	*** EXAM 1 ***	
Section 2: Evolutionary Background			
10/6	W	15. Fossils, Time, and Taphonomy	Ch. 7: Entire chapter
10/8	F	16. Intro to Evolutionary Analysis	
10/11	M	17. Making & Reading Evolutionary Trees	
10/13	W	18. Evolution Before Primates	
10/15	F	19. The Early Evolution of Primates	Ch. 8: Beginning thru "Amphipithecids".
10/18	M	20. Evolution of Monkeys & Apes	Ch. 8: Section on "Platyrrhine Dispersal to South America" to end.
10/20	W	21. Video: Walking with Cavemen	
10/22	F	22. The First Hominins	Ch. 9: Beginning thru "Dental Trends in Early Hominins".
10/25	M	23. The Australopithecines	Ch. 9: Section on "THE GENUS AUSTRALOPITHECUS" to end.
10/27	W	24. World Prehistory	Ch 12: Section on "THE CHAIN REACTION OF AGRICULTURE" thru Section on "Cultural Effects of Agriculture".
10/29	F	25. Homo habilis	Ch. 10: Beginning thru "Stone Tool Use and the Diet of Early Homo"
11/1	M	26. Homo erectus	Ch. 10: Section on "HOMO ERECTUS: BIOLOGICAL AND CULTURAL INNOVATIONS" to end.
11/4	W	*** EXAM 2 ***	
Section 3: The Emergence and Present-Day Condition of Modern Humans			
11/5	F	27. Homo heidelbergensis	Ch. 11: Beginning thru "DEFINING CHARACTERISTICS OF ARCHAIC HOMO SAPIENS"
11/8	M	28. Neanderthals	Ch. 11: Section on "NEANDERTHALS" thru section on "DENISOVANS"
11/10	W	29. Other lineages and Interbreeding	Ch. 11: Section on "MODELS OF MODERN HUMAN DISTRIBUTION" to end.
11/12	F	30. The First Modern Humans	Ch. 12: Beginning thru section on "Summary of Early Modern H. sapiens in Africa"
11/15	M	31. Ancient Migrations	Ch. 12: Section on "Expansion into the Middle East and Asia" to section on "Summary of Modern H. sapiens in the Americas"
11/17	W	32. Human Variation and "Race"	Ch. 13. Entire chapter.
11/19	F	33. Anthropology of DNA Ancestry Tests	
11/22	M	34. Human Adaptability	Ch. 14. Beginning thru section on "Adaptation: Shape and Size Variations".
11/24-26	WF	!!! THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY !!!	
11/29	M	35. Biological adaptation to Disease	Ch. 14. Section on "Adaptation: Infectious Disease" to end.
12/1	W	36. Bioarch, Forensic Anth, & Skeleton	Ch. 15. Beginning thru section on "Why Calculate MNI?"
12/3	F	37. Interpreting the Skeleton	Ch. 17. (Appendix A) Entire chapter.
12/6	M	38. Bioanthropology of Modern Life	Ch. 15. Section on "INITIAL SKELETAL ANALYSIS" to end.
12/8	W	39. The future of human evolution	Ch. 16. Entire Chapter.
12/10	F	*** EXAM 3 ***	Ch. 12. Section on "The Future of Humanity".
12/??		*** FINAL EXAM ***	

*This schedule is tentative and provisional and may change. It is unlikely that anything about the exams will change. The latest version will always be on Moodle.