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ANTY 310.01: Human Variation

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Anthropology 310: Human Variation Fall Semester 2021

Instructor:

Dr. Meradeth Snow

Email: Meradeth.Snow@umontana.edu

Office Hours: Wednesdays 2-3:30pm on Zoom: <https://umontana.zoom.us/j/91781353337>
& by appointment (online only)

Preceptor: Tabitha Marko

Email: Tabitha.Marko@umontana.edu

Office Hours: Fridays 9:30-10:30am in 232 Social Sciences and on Zoom

Class Information:

Tuesdays and Thursdays 11:00am-12:20pm in LA 106

Zoom link for all lectures: <https://umontana.zoom.us/j/94069798804>

Textbook & Readings:

1. *Human Biological Diversity* by Daniel E. Brown. Routledge Publishing. The 2020 edition is required as the earlier edition does not cover the required material.
2. Supplemental readings & podcasts will be posted on the course Moodle site. These will provide material for discussion in class and are required reading/listening.
 - Please note, you should approach each item critically: they are chosen to make you *think* and not for memorization.

The Purpose of Anthropology 310:

The goal of this course is to examine biological explanations for how variation arises among humans, as well as how studies of human variation influence society both past and present. We will consider genetic, phenotypic, sex, and behavioral differences among humans, as well as the theory, methods, and ethics involved in the scientific study of humans. Through the course students will be able to explain human variation from a biological perspective, as well as understand, interpret, and react to current and future human biological research. As this course fulfills a writing requirement, students are also expected to complete written work on a specific topic of interest and intelligently discuss multiple topics and readings related to human variation studies.

COVID-19:

Your professor is fully aware of the ongoing worldwide pandemic. We will be meeting in person, however if you feel even a little sick or off, please zoom in to class! The link will be on Moodle and I will be streaming all classes live. Do not come and infect your fellow students.

Mask use: as per UM mandates, masks will be required for use at all times while in my classroom. Should this present a problem, please seek the zoom session of the course. Non-compliance will result in you being asked to leave the communal classroom space to protect the health and safety of the rest of your classmates and professor.

Please email or set up an appointment to talk in order to ensure that your needs are being met. I am here for you to aid you in succeeding in this course, even if there is a lot going on in the world around us all!

Grades:**Exams:**

Midterm Exam: 20%

Final Exam: 20%

Research Paper:

Outline: 5%

Draft of paper: 5%

In-class presentation: 5%

Research Paper: 20%

Problem Set: 10%

Participation: 15%

Detailed information for each category follows:

Examinations:

The midterm exam will be primarily made up of term identifications, short answer, and short essay questions. The midterm exam will test your knowledge and understanding of material covered from the start of class through Week 7.

The final exam will be entirely composed of multiple-choice questions. It will test your knowledge and understanding of material covered during weeks 8-15, including the presentations based on student papers. Although the final is not technically cumulative, many concepts are; you may find terms and examples from the first half of the class helpful on the final exam.

Please note that due to the potential for viral transfer, all exams will be given online. You should set aside the time for the exam in a quiet location with a reliable internet connection. Use of notes, textbooks, the internet, or friends, will not be allowed. If you require a paper exam, please set this up ahead of time with the ODE.

Research Paper:

Your research paper will be written on a topic of your choice—something of interest to you within the realm of human biological variation, including all topics covered in this course. You are encouraged to talk to your professor about your topic to ensure that it is suitable. You should have your topic chosen by the midterm (although nothing is required to be turned in at that time), and a significant amount of research completed before you turn in your outline.

The paper is composed of four parts: your outline, in-class presentation, a draft of your paper, and the paper itself. Detailed instructions can be found on Moodle in the document labeled Research Paper Instructions. Please note that an initial draft of your paper is due November 23rd

to obtain feedback before your final paper is due. You are welcome to bring drafts to office hours before this date and will receive credit.

Intermediate Writing Course Requirements: This course requires an electronic submission of an assignment stripped of your personal information to be used for educational research and assessment of the writing program. Your paper will be stored in a database. A random selection of student papers will be assessed by a group of faculty using a rubric developed from the following writing learning outcomes.

- Compose written documents that are appropriate for a given audience or purpose
- Formulate and express opinions and ideas in writing
- Use writing to learn and synthesize new concepts
- Revise written work based on constructive feedback
- Find, evaluate, and use information effectively
- Begin to use discipline-specific writing conventions (largely style conventions like APA or MLA)
- Demonstrate appropriate English language usage

The rubric score points are: (4) advanced, (3) proficient, (2) nearing proficiency, and (1) novices. This assessment in no way affects either your grade or your progression at the university.

Problem Set:

The problem set assigned to you will be distributed via Moodle and will cover information presented during the first half of the course. You will be asked to apply formulas and reason out problems applicable to human variation studies. A practice problem set will be distributed prior to this for you to complete and which will be solved during week 6. You will be graded on your work, how well it is labeled, your explanations, and the answers you obtain. This problem set may take quite a bit of time; do not wait until the last minute to begin! Also, **please do not hesitate to seek aid from your professor**—I am happy to go over answers and help ensure you understand all aspects of the questions.

Participation:

The participation portion of the class will be based on your contribution to classroom discussions and demonstrating your grasp of the material that will take place throughout the semester. These will be primarily composed of answering written questions which will then be discussed as a group. Completing these in a thoughtful and respectful manner will be awarded points toward your final grade. Several weeks will also have small assignments that will accompany the reading—these will be announced widely in class. Any participation opportunities that are offered in class must be submitted before the next class meeting (enough time for those who may have to miss, but not so long that participation can be retroactively completed at the end of the semester). As ever, extenuating circumstances are expected—just email Dr. Snow.

As these assignments will be submitted on Moodle, some may require you to utilize screenshots of your work, or scanning in your work to create a document. If you have a smartphone, this should be relatively simple, and I highly recommend googling how to create/access PDF creation apps that work with your camera, or screenshotting on your particular device.

Lectures will be always recorded, and links placed on Moodle for those who would like to watch them again, or need to attend a lecture asynchronously once in a while. Please note that is **NOT** meant to be a means by which you skip all lectures!

MOODLE Online Materials:

This course will have a significant portion of the required materials posted to Moodle. This will include links to lectures (all of which will be recorded). It is advised that you regularly check this resource to ensure you are up to date on what you might need, or to submit assignments. Also, please note that your professor is not responsible for any trouble accessing the site that may arise. Should you be experiencing difficulties, please contact IT:

<https://www.umt.edu/umonline/services-and-support/student-support.php>

Make-up or Missed Exams:

Exams will **not** be re-administered unless approval is obtained at least 24 hours from the exam, with a legitimate excuse (such as health reasons). If you know you will miss an exam or assignment ahead of time, you must contact your professor at least **two weeks** in advance to schedule a time to complete it early.

Late Assignments:

Assignments submitted after the due date will **not** be accepted unless you have a documented, legitimate excuse and have contacted your instructor within **24 hours** of the due date. Please contact your instructor well in advance if you know there will be a problem submitting your assignment. You will be asked to resubmit if you do not follow the guidelines, and may lose points due to materials being considered late.

How to Succeed in Human Variation:

Those students who have completed my courses successfully often display similar tendencies. By success, I mean completed the course earning the grade they wished to earn. I highly recommend taking these into account when judging what grade you hope to achieve in the course. These include:

- 1) Attend every lecture and take notes on the material.
- 2) Ask questions when confused about a topic or concept, in class or during office hours; well before an exam.
- 3) Complete readings before class, annotating or taking notes.
- 4) Participate in discussions of the material, either in class or with your professor.
- 5) Maintain a positive, self-motivated attitude, and growth mindset.

Code of Academic Conduct:

With regard to academic dishonesty, this class has a zero-tolerance policy and will promptly deal with any acts of academic dishonesty (cheating, plagiarism, or unauthorized help on assignments, etc.) according to university policy. For further information on what falls into these categories see: <https://staging.umt.edu/student-affairs/community-standards/>. If you have questions or concerns, please feel free to contact your professor.

Students with Disabilities:

Students with disabilities may request reasonable modifications by contacting your instructor. The University of Montana assures equal access to instruction through collaboration between students with disabilities, instructors, and the Office of Disability Equity (ODE). “Reasonable” means the University permits no fundamental alterations of academic standards or retroactive modifications. For other options see <http://www.umt.edu/disability>.

Basic Needs Statement:

Any student who faces challenges securing food or housing and believes that this could affect their performance in this course is urged to contact any or all of the following campus resources. If you are comfortable, please feel free to email your Professor as well; I will do my best to help connect you with additional resources.

Food Pantry Program: UM offers a food pantry that students can access for emergency food. The pantry is located in UC 119. Pantry staff operate several satellite food cupboards on campus (including one at Missoula College). For more information about this program, visit the pantry’s website (<https://www.umt.edu/asum/agencies/food-pantry/default.php>).

ASUM Renter Center: The Renter Center has compiled a list of resources for UM students at risk of homelessness here: <http://www.umt.edu/asum/agencies/renter-center/default.php> and here: <https://medium.com/griz-renter-blog>. Students can schedule an appointment with Renter Center staff to discuss their situation and receive information, support, and referrals.

TRiO Student Support Services: TRiO serves UM students who are low-income, first-generation college students, or have documented disabilities. TRiO services include a textbook loan program, scholarships and financial aid help, academic advising, coaching, and tutoring. Students can check their eligibility for TRiO services online here: <http://www.umt.edu/trioss/apply.php#Eligibility>

After Reading the Syllabus:

You’ve got the basics down! Be sure to add the important dates from the next page to your calendar. Then, send an email to your professor with the following phrase modified for your personal use: “I, [insert your name here], have read the ANTY 310 Syllabus and understand what will be required for the grade I earn in this course. I understand that we will be discussing some difficult subjects and I will maintain a growth mindset. Should I need any help, I will email Dr. Snow promptly.” Be sure to email your statement to Dr. Snow (Meradeth.Snow@umontana.edu) using your best professional email habits. Doing so will earn you two extra points on the first midterm!

Week	Date	Topic	Reading & assignments*	
1	1	8/31	Syllabus & Introduction to “Race”	Course Syllabus
	2	9/2	History of the concept of race I	Brown chapter 1
2	3	9/7	History of the concept of race II & discussion	Lee (1993) Brown pgs 114-126
	4	9/9	Eugenics	
3	5	9/14	Basic genetics	Brown chapter 2 & 3
	6	9/16	Multifactorial Inheritance	
4	7	9/21	Hardy-Weinberg	
	8	9/23	Chi Squared and basic stats	
5	9	9/28	Nature vs. Nurture	Lombrozo 2015
	10	9/30	Traits of simple inheritance	Brown chapter 7
6	11	10/5	Blood Typing	
	12	10/7	Practice Problem Set solved	Review Practice P.S. before class
7	13	10/12	Review for midterm exam	
	14	10/14	MIDTERM EXAM	Paper topic must be selected
8	15	10/19	Paper guest lecture & Research Skills	Raff 2018
	16	10/21	Multifactorial Inheritance I	Brown chapter 12
9	17	10/26	Multifactorial Inheritance II	Brown pgs 127-143
	18	10/28	Biological Sex	Problem set DUE
10	19	11/2	Human sexuality	Bailey et al 2016
	20	11/4	Inheritance of Intelligence I	Martschenko 2019, Shuttleworth-Edwards (2016), Brown pgs 147-147
11	21	11/9	Inheritance of Intelligence II & discussion	Outline DUE
	22	11/11	No Class	
12	23	11/16	Molecular anthropology	Brown chapter 8
	24	11/18	Basic Epigenetics & Microbiome	
13	25	11/23	No Class	First Draft of Paper DUE**
	26	11/25	No Class	
14	27	11/30	Human genome diversity project & ethics	Cavalli-Sforza (2005), Sherkow and Greely (2015), Brown chapter 15
	28	12/2	Student Presentations	
15	29	12/7	Student Presentations	
	30	12/9	Review for final exam	Final Paper DUE
		12/16	FINAL EXAM Online	

*Small changes to this syllabus may be made but will be announced widely.

**Remember: this can be turned in early.