

9-2002

ANTH 260.01: Introduction to Physical Anthropology

Randall R. Skelton

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

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Skelton, Randall R., "ANTH 260.01: Introduction to Physical Anthropology" (2002). *Syllabi*. Paper 1297.
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INTRO TO PHYSICAL ANTHROPOLOGY

ANTHROPOLOGY 260

MWF 11:10-12:00 in SS 352

Dr. Randy Skelton

225 Social Sciences Building Office Hours: MWF 1:10-2:00

Phone: 243-4245 Email rskelton@selway.umt.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.

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.

ADMINISTRIVIA

Required Text: Readings in the lecture and reading schedule should be read before class.

Boaz, Noel T and Almquist, Alan J., 1999. *Essentials of Biological Anthropology*. Prentice Hall.

Lecture notes for this course are accessible via the World Wide Web. Point a WWW browser, such as Internet Explorer or Netscape, at: <http://www.anthro.umt.edu/notes/260/> to access the notes. Physical anthropology is a rapidly changing field and there will be material covered in class that is not in the notes. If you need help with computing contact Computing and Information Services (located in the LA building) or one of the monitors at the many computing labs on campus.

Exams and Grading: Three non-cumulative midterm examinations 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 score in the course, assigned using this system: 100%-90% = A, 89%-80 = B, 79-60% = C, 59-50% = D, 49-0% = F.

Secret Numbers: In order to comply with University guidelines and federal regulations I will use a secret number system to return your exams and other work, and to post tentative and final course grades. Everyone will receive a secret number when they take the first midterm. Anybody who doesn't take the first midterm needs to get a secret number from me or I won't post their grades or return their exams. Remember your secret number or you won't be able to access any of your exams or scores.

LECTURE AND READING SCHEDULE

DATE	DAY	LECTURE	READING FROM BOAZ & ALMQUIST
9/4	W	1. What is Physical Anthropology?	1-11
9/6	F	2. Genes and Gene Expression	26-40
9/9	M	3. The history of evolutionary theory	40-46
9/11	W	4. Mendelian Inheritance	47-54
9/13	F	5. Mutation and genetic abnormalities	54-59
9/16	M	6. The mechanisms of evolution	60-73
9/18	W	7. The Evolution of behavior	75-81, 251-259
9/20	F	8. Macroevolution	73-75
9/23	M	9. Neontology and paleontology	
9/25	W	10. Principles of taxonomy	353-354
9/27	F	11. Principles of evolutionary analysis	11-25
9/30	M	12. What you can learn from bones	339-350
10/2	W	13. Interpreting the fossil record	352
10/4	F	*** FIRST MIDTERM EXAM ***	
10/7	M	14. Video: "A Life in the Trees"(VT 478)	
10/9	W	15. Vertebrates, mammals, & archontans	82-108
10/11	F	16. Strepsirhines, and Haplorhines	109-123
10/14	M	17. Evolution of Monkeys and Apes	124-130, 158-182
10/16	W	18. Introduction to primate behavior	131-157
10/18	F	19. Solitary & pair bonded primates	238-242,
10/21	M	20. One male & age graded groups	242-244
10/23	W	21. Multi-male/multi-female groups	
10/25	F	22. Fission/Fusion Social System	244-251
10/28	M	23. Video: "Monument for a Gorilla"	
10/30	W	24. Male vs female reproductive strategy	
11/1	F	*** SECOND MIDTERM EXAM ***	
11/4	M	25. Video: Mysteries of Mankind (VT 4954)	
11/6	W	26. The Origin of Hominids	183-188, 259-263
11/8	F	27. The Australopithecines	188-209
11/11	M	!!! VETERANS' DAY HOLIDAY !!!	
11/13	W	28. Early Homo	210-217
11/15	F	29. The beginnings of human culture	217-219 263-275
11/18	M	30. Middle Homo	220-222
11/20	W	31. Transitionals and Neanderthals	222-227
11/22	F	32. Modern H. sapiens sapiens	227-231
11/25	M	33. The origin of modern populations	232-237
11/27-29	WF	!!! THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY !!!	
12/2	M	34. Human adaptability	301-325
12/4	W	35. The nature of "racial" variation	276-287
12/6	F	36. Biological adaptation to disease	287-294, 326-339
12/9	M	37. Human morphological variation	294-300

12/11	W	38. The future of human evolution
12/13	F	*** THIRD MIDTERM EXAM ***
12/17	T	*** FINAL EXAM *** 8:00 - 10:00am