

# Physical Anthropology

## Anthro 1      Fall 2009

Tues & Thurs: 9:30-10:55am  
Soc Sci Rm 207                      Section #2014

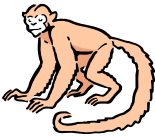
**Instructor: Janaki Natalie Parikh**

1<sup>st</sup> name pronounced (Jon-uh-key)

last name pronounced: (Puh-reekh)

Office hours: by appointment

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### Course description:

This course introduces the biological and physical aspects of what it means to be human from a scientific and evolutionary perspective. This includes an introduction to human genetics, principles of natural selection and other forces of evolution, physical and behavioral characteristics of non-human primates, fossil evidence of primate and human evolutionary change, and information about modern human variation.

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Analyze cellular biology & the processes by which genetic information is transmitted
- Describe the history of the development of evolutionary theory & analyze modern theory of Darwinian evolution by natural selection
- Discuss the various adaptations that organisms have undergone in response to selectional pressures
- Identify & explain the physical & behavioral characteristics of the various primate groups
- Evaluate theories of human behavior by applying primate models to the evolution of human social behavior
- Outline the evolution of the various fossil hominid species & assess the various theories regarding their evolution & relationship to modern human beings

### **Required Texts:**

Biological Anthropology, 4th edition, Michael Alan Park. Mountain View, CA: Mayfield Publishing Company, 2005. ISBN: 0-07-299635-8

Annual Editions/Physical Anthropology 09/10, Elvio Angeloni, editor. Guilford, CT: Dushkin/McGraw-Hill. ISBN: 0-07-351591-4.

*Note: Use of prior edition (1 previous from current) is acceptable for either texts.*

### **Student Course Requirements:**

**Readings:** It is recommended that you read the assigned text prior to class lecture. Class lectures will not necessarily cover all of the material in your book, however, you may be tested on assigned readings even if they are not covered in class.

**Films:** Films will be shown throughout the course. The exam will include questions that are specific to the information covered in the films. Note-taking during films is advised.

**Classroom Conduct:** Creating a positive classroom culture is a joint effort between the instructor and the students. We can all contribute to a positive learning environment by actively participating in class discussions and activities. At times we may disagree on a particular point; however, our discussions will always remain respectful of these differences. Insulting or discriminating comments to the instructor, to other students, or to individuals or groups outside the classroom are not acceptable classroom behavior.

Also, chatting with a classmate while instruction is taking place is distracting and impolite towards the instructor and your fellow classmates. Please be aware that such conduct may result in you being asked to leave the class for the remainder of that session with **no attendance credit** for that meeting.

**Lectures:** Lectures given in class will cover material from the assigned text and may include material not found in the text as well. Overheads and handouts may elaborate on concepts brought forth in the readings. **If you miss class, it is your responsibility to see the instructor for any handouts which may have been provided and to obtain notes from another student.**

**Attendance Policy:** To successfully complete this class you must attend regularly and a portion of your grade is based on attendance and class participation. Excessive absences will adversely affect your course grade (see grading section for specific information.) Attendance will be recorded at the beginning of class. Students will be allowed **3 unexcused absences** without grading penalty. If a student is absent 4 or more times the attendance/class participation portion of the grade will be lowered accordingly.

Arriving late and/or leaving class before dismissal is disruptive to the class. If you must leave class early, as a courtesy, please notify me at the beginning of class and make arrangements to find a seat near the exit to minimize disruption. You are encouraged to come into class as long as we are in session, however, please be aware that **arriving**

**more than 15 minutes late or leaving more than 15 minutes early may be considered an absence for that class period.**

**Homework Assignments:** In addition to class readings, students are expected to complete 2 out-of-class homework assignments. These assignments are due **at the beginning of class** on the day they are due, refer to the class schedule for specific assignments and due dates. Homework will be graded primarily on correct completion of the assignment, although neatness and timeliness of the assignment will be considered as well. **Late homework:** Homework is due on the date in the schedule. Assignments will be accepted a maximum of **2 class meetings** after the deadline, but one letter grade worth of points will be immediately deducted as a late penalty. Please be advised that grading of late homework receives a lower priority than on-time submissions and that the instructor offers no guarantees on the timely return of materials that are deemed late submissions.

**Exams:** There will be 3 in-class exams, consisting of multiple choice, fill-ins, true/false, and short answer/essay questions. For exams you will need an 882-E scantron form and a #2 pencil. Exam questions will be based on assigned readings (text and handouts), films, lecture, homework assignments and class discussions. **Students are expected to take the exam at the scheduled time, make-up exams will not be given.**

**Student Services:** El Camino College offers a variety of services to aid students in being successful. These services include: learning skills center, tutoring, and supplementary workshops. If you are struggling with the material, it is recommended that you seek out and utilize these support services. To learn more, please visit the Learning Resources Center website at: <http://www.elcamino.edu/library/lrc/>

**Academic Honesty Policy:** Students are expected to abide by ethical standards in preparing & presenting material which demonstrates their level of understanding & which is used to determine course grades. Students are expected to observe the following guidelines:

- 1) Students shall not plagiarize, this includes: claiming credit for the words or ideas of another as your own and/or utilizing another person's creative production without crediting the source. You may study together, **but you may not turn in the same work, use your own words** in completing the assignments.
- 2) Students shall not cheat, this includes, using notes, aides or the help of other students on the exams/quizzes in ways other than those expressly permitted by the instructor.

I consider academic dishonesty a serious offense, and it will be treated accordingly should the situation arise. Academic dishonesty is a disservice to yourself and your peers. As your instructor I may deal with the situation in one of the following ways: assignment of an "F" grade on all or part of the exam, paper, or project, assignment of an "F" in the course, and/or reporting the student to the appropriate administrators for further disciplinary action.



Finish race unit, begin speciation, adaptive radiation, pace of evolutionary change

**Week 9: 10/27 & 10/29**

Text: Chap 7                      AE: Why Are Some Animals So Smart? (#13)  
Homology & analogy, shared derived & ancestral traits, begin primates

**Week 10: 11/3 & 11/5**

Text: 8 & 9                      AE: The Mind of a Chimpanzee (#9)  
Living primates: diversity & socio-ecology

**Week 11: 11/10 & 11/12      Exam 2 (11/12) Primate Hmwk Due (11/12)**

Text: no new readings                      AE:  
**Exam Review & Exam**

**Week 12: 11/17 & 11/19**

Text: Chap 10                      AE: The Littlest Human (#31)  
Fossilization & dating methods, Geologic Time

**Week 13: 11/24 & 11/26      No class mtg. 11/26: Thanksgiving**

Text: no new readings                      AE: We Are All Africans (#33)  
Anatomy of bipedalism, begin hominids (Note: We Are All Africans is in 08/09 edition,  
&/or library reserves)

**Week 14: 12/1 & 12/3**

**Great Debates-Group Presentations**

Text: Chap 11                      AE: no new readings  
**Group Debates Presentations (Individual write-ups all due Tues 12/1)**

**Week 15: 12/8 & 12/10**

Text: Chap 12                      AE: Mysterious Migrations (#30)  
Orig. of bipedalism, cont. hominids, mod. human origins

**Week 16: 12/15 & 12/17**

**Final Exam Review & Exam**

**Final Exam: Thurs 12/17: reg. class time & place**

**Course grading:**

Attendance/Class Participation: 5%

Primate Hmwk: 5%

Great Debates Presentation Project: 15%

Exams 1, 2 & 3: 25% each for a total of 75%

It is your responsibility to keep track of your prospective grade. Keep all of your graded papers until you have received your final grade. If you need assistance calculating your prospective grade, make an appointment to see me and I will gladly help.

**Extra credit:** Students will have the option of turning in one extra credit assignment, which will be worth up to 5% of the course grade. Students may either read one of the Annual Editions articles other than the articles assigned for the class, **or** attend a museum, **or** view a film pertaining to physical anthropology; a **3 paged typed** critical response paper must be submitted for any of the options above. The format for the paper is as follows: 1) describe what you saw, 2) incorporate **at least 2** concepts or terms learned in class, 3) provide personal analysis of your reaction to the experience. Prior verbal approval of the instructor is recommended if you choose a location or film not listed below.

Papers that do not meet these criteria will not be eligible for full points. Prior verbal approval of the instructor is recommended if you wish to choose a film or location not listed below. Location visits & article papers will be graded out of 50 pts, while film papers will be graded out of 40 pts. Other opportunities to earn bonus points will be announced throughout the term & are considered separate of this extra credit assignment.

**Recommended Locations for Museum option:**

California Science Center or Discovery Science Center  
Gibbon Center (Los Angeles)  
La Brea Tar Pits  
Museum of Natural History  
Museum of Tolerance  
Zoo for Primate Exhibit: LA, Santa Ana or San Diego

**Pre-approved Films for Biological/Physical Anthro:**

12 Monkeys  
28 Days Later  
2001: A Space Odyssey  
A.I. (Artificial Intelligence)  
Andromeda Strain  
Children of Men  
Congo  
Contagion  
Crash  
Equilibrium  
Frankenstein (book)  
Gorillas In the Mist  
I Am Legend  
Jurassic Park (film or books, sequels acceptable)  
Mighty Joe Young  
Outbreak  
Planet of the Apes  
The Constant Gardener  
The Island  
Ultraviolet

X-Men (& sequels)

**Books:**

Diamond, Jared. *The Third Chimpanzee*, or *Guns, Germs & Steel*

Marks, Jonathan. *What It Means to Be 98% Chimpanzee*.

Gould, Stephen J. *The Mismeasure of Man* or *The Richness of Life*

Graves, Joseph Jr. *The Race Myth*

Diamond, Jared. *Guns, Germs & Steel* (& other titles by the same author)