

**Physical Anthropology – Section 2022 – Fall 2009 – Dr. Mari Womack**  
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**COURSE OBJECTIVES:** Analyze cellular biology and the processes by which genetic information is transmitted. Describe the history of the development of evolutionary theory and analyze modern theory of Darwinian evolution by natural selection. Discuss the various adaptations that organisms have undergone in response to selectional pressures. Identify and explain the physical and 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 and assess the various theories regarding their evolution and relationship to modern human beings.

**TEXT:** *Biological Anthropology*; Michael Alan Park

**GRADING PROCEDURES:** Grades will be based on three exams of 100 points each. Exams consist of 50 multiple choice questions of 2 points each. The lowest exam score will be dropped and the two highest scores will be averaged. **THE FINAL EXAM WILL NOT BE DROPPED.** Grades will be assigned on a percentage basis as follows: 90-100% = A; 89-89% = B; 70-79% = C; 60-69% = D; 0-59% = F. A 15-point extra credit assignment consists of writing a report on your trip to the Los Angeles Zoo or San Diego Zoo according to guidelines provided in the course. **NO OTHER EXTRA CREDIT WILL BE ACCEPTED UNLESS APPROVED IN ADVANCE BY THE INSTRUCTOR.**

**CLASSROOM COMPORIMENT:** Obtaining a college degree requires a major commitment of time and energy. To ensure that everyone in the classroom has the opportunity to learn in an optimum environment, any student engaging in disruptive behavior, as determined by the instructor, will be subject to disciplinary action as defined by El Camino College.

**Topics will be covered in the following order:**

1. Biological anthropology and the methods of science, Chapter 1
2. The development of evolutionary theory, Chapter 2
3. Evolutionary genetics: the biological basis of life, Chapters 3 and 4
4. Heredity and evolution, Chapter 5

**First exam: September 21**

5. An overview of the living primates, Chapter 7
6. Primate behavior, Chapter 8

**Second exam: October 12**

7. The evolutionary timetable, Chapter 6
8. Paleoanthropology, Chapter 9
9. The origins of primates, Chapter 10
10. The evolution of the *Homo* genus, Chapter 11
11. The debate over modern human origins, Chapter 12

**Third exam: November 16**

12. Human variation and adaptation, Chapter 13
13. Human biological diversity, Chapter 14
14. Does the human species have a future? Chapter 15.

**Fourth exam: December 14**