
ANTH 201
Introduction to Biological Anthropology
GFC Hours 3-0
Summer 2023

Instructor:	Dr. Courtney McConnan Borstad	Lecture Location:	Online
Email:	cmconna@ucalgary.ca	Lecture Days/Time:	MW 0900-1145
Office Hours:	Online, by appt. only		
Teaching Assistant:	Steph McClennon		
Email:	stephanie.mcclennon@ucalgary.ca		

Prerequisite(s): None

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Introduction to the major fields of biological anthropology including evolutionary theory and processes, human paleontology, primatology, genetics, osteology, human adaptation, development, and variation, with special emphasis on the path of human evolution.

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

The Department of Anthropology and Archaeology is committed to student knowledge and skill development.

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

- Critically evaluate sources and arguments
- Identify key figures and ideas in the Western history of evolutionary thought
- Describe the basic genetic processes that result in biological variation
- Describe how natural selection and other evolutionary processes work
- List primate species traits and state why primatology is an important part of biological anthropology
- Identify the key hominid species and events in human evolution
- Explain why understanding of human skeletal variation is important for forensic anthropology, human osteology, and bioarchaeology
- Compare and contrast the main theories of how prehistoric peoples came to inhabit the Americas
- Discuss examples of contemporary human variation and adaptation

READINGS AND TEXTBOOKS:

Required readings from the relevant literature as indicated in the Schedule – links provided on D2L. There is no required textbook for this course.

REQUIRED TECHNOLOGY and EQUIPMENT:

- Computer with audio input (microphone) and output (speakers or headphones), webcam
- Reliable internet connection in order to access course content on D2L
- Microsoft Word, available to students through the University of Calgary Microsoft 365 service

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND ASSESSMENT:

Assessment	Total Weight of Final Grade
Five weekly D2L quizzes	40%
Bi-weekly Discussion Board participation	10%
Bi-weekly Zoom group work & discussion	15%
Final exam	35%

Weekly D2L quizzes (8% each): These will consist of approximately 10-15 multiple choice, true/false, and other short answer questions that cover the content presented in this course (lectures, readings, videos, discussions, etc.). The quizzes will be available through D2L starting the Thursday of the week and will close on the Sunday following, allowing 4 days for completion. Quizzes are non-cumulative and open book, which means you can refer to your notes, the lectures, the readings, etc. Since you will have a limited amount of time to complete each quiz once you start, it is to your benefit to have easily accessible notes and materials. You won't have the time to review or rewatch that week's content and search for the correct answer during the quiz.

For the first week of classes, there will be an optional practice quiz available on D2L to allow us to become familiar with the platform and the quiz-taking environment. I will be asking some questions about what you already may know about biological anthropology and what you are hoping to get from ANTH 201 this term.

Discussion Board (5% each): There are two **required** Discussion Board questions and prompts, not including the one starting the week of June 28th (this will be a practice discussion thread and not marked). You will choose one topic or question to respond to. You are also expected to substantially respond to at least one other student's thread. The prompts are based upon course content and require you to support your response with either course materials or sources you have found. Marks will be based upon participation and content. A marking rubric for the discussion board is posted on D2L with an explanation of what an acceptable response might look like. I will be reading all the discussion posts, although I cannot respond to each one.

Brief feedback on your discussion contributions will be available in your D2L Dropbox after that discussion has closed. Specific discussion dates are found in the course schedule below.

Zoom Synchronous Group Work (5% each): On **July 5th, July 19th, and August 2nd**, we will all meet over Zoom for 45-60 minutes towards the end of the scheduled class time (generally at 11 a.m.). During this time, you will be randomly assigned to a breakout room with other students and each group will be given questions or problems to work on together. These may cover content in the readings or videos or ask you to apply related concepts to a scenario. As a group, you will complete a collaborative document with your responses and ideas. Prior to the end of the class, we will rejoin in the main meeting room and a representative from each group will present their responses. You will then submit your own copy of the group document to the D2L Dropbox at the end of the class, along with a statement of what and how you contributed to your group's discussion. More information about these collaborative group sessions is posted on D2L. These Zoom sessions will not be recorded.

What if I can't attend the Zoom discussions because of time zone conflicts, work, other non-emergency commitments, etc.?

If you are not able to attend a Zoom discussion, please email me and let me know at least 24 hours before the scheduled discussion date. I will assign a series of questions for you to answer based upon the course content. These will be more challenging than what the groups will be doing during the collaborative breakout sessions on Zoom.

Final Exam (35%): The final exam for ANTH 201 will be online through D2L in a similar format to the weekly quizzes. It is cumulative and open book. As a Registrar-scheduled exam, deferral of the final exam requires Registrar approval. Exams may only be deferred in the case of serious illness or medical emergency, religious observance, or domestic affliction (see: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/exams/deferred-final-exams>).

Missed quizzes and exemption requests:

Missed quizzes may be exempted from the final grade in cases of serious illness or medical emergency, religious observance, or domestic affliction. Students who miss a test/exam have up to **48 hours once the quiz opens on D2L** to contact the instructor to ask for an exemption. Students who do not contact the instructor within this 48-hour period forfeit the right to this exemption.

Late assignments (discussion board responses and Zoom group work submissions) are **penalized 5% per day**, including holidays and weekends. If you are unable to contribute to the discussion board or attend the Zoom group activities due to serious illness or medical emergency, religious observance, or domestic affliction, you must contact me by email **within 24 hours** of the due date and preferably sooner. All assignments must be submitted to the appropriate Dropbox on D2L unless otherwise specified.

Regarding documentation: Students may provide supporting documentation for an exemption/special request. This may include, but is not limited to, a prolonged absence from a course where participation is required, a missed course assessment, a deferred examination, or an appeal. Students are encouraged to submit documentation that will support their situation. The decision to provide supporting documentation that best suits the situation is at the discretion of the student. Students cannot be required to provide supporting documentation. Falsification of any supporting documentation will be taken very seriously and may result in disciplinary action through the Academic Discipline regulations or the Student Non-Academic Misconduct policy.

Reappraisal of Graded Term Work: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/i-2.html>

Reappraisal of Final Grade: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/i-3.html>

Deferral of the registrar-scheduled final exam requires Registrar approval

<https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/exams/deferred-final-exams>

Department of Anthropology and Archaeology Grading Scheme:

A+	95 – 100%	B+	80 – 84.9%	C+	67 – 70.9%	D+	55 – 58.9%
A	90 – 94.9%	B	75 – 79.9%	C	63 – 66.9%	D	50 – 54.9%
A-	85 – 89.9%	B-	71 – 74.9%	C-	59 – 62.9%	F	< 50%

*****Please note that no extra credit or ‘make up’ work is available in this class*****
You do not need to pass each course component to earn a passing grade in the class

Land Acknowledgement

The University of Calgary, located in the heart of Southern Alberta, both acknowledges and pays tribute to the traditional territories of the peoples of Treaty 7, which include the Blackfoot Confederacy (comprised of the Siksika, the Piikani, and the Kainai First Nations), the Tsuut’ina First Nation, and the Stoney Nakoda (including Chiniki, Bearspaw, and Goodstoney First Nations). The City of Calgary is also home to the Métis Nation of Alberta Region 3.

Acknowledgment and Respect for Diversity

The Department of Anthropology and Archaeology views diversity of identity as a strength and resource. Your experiences and different perspectives are encouraged and add to a rich learning environment that fosters critical thought through respectful discussion and inclusion.

COURSE POLICIES

What do I need to do to get the most out of this course?

I realize that online courses require different skills from students (and instructors ☺) than in-person lectures. Time management is the most important one, especially since the Spring and Summer Terms are short. You can expect to put in about 15-20 hours a week to listen/watch

the recorded lectures, complete the required readings and videos, contribute to the course activities, and take the weekly quizzes. This is just an estimate, of course, and depends on your own study skills and reading speed, etc. You may need to read or watch something more than once to fully understand the concepts involved. You will also benefit from taking good notes to refer to during the quizzes and final exam.

To help with the time management aspect, I will post reminders, course news, and due dates on D2L and I will also email the class list. Please check your UCalgary email and D2L regularly so you don't miss anything important. If you feel you are falling behind in the course and can't catch up, please contact me ASAP so we can discuss your options.

Why are we doing Zoom group work and D2L discussion boards?

Online courses are great for working at your own speed, but they can be impersonal and isolating. In planning for ANTH 201, I've tried to find a balance between this online flexibility and the benefits that we get from actually talking with each other and sharing ideas. The discussion boards and Zoom collaborative group sessions are meant for us to be able to interact with each other with attitudes of community and of inquiry. We all have different backgrounds and experiences from each other, and discussions are truly the best way for us to learn. I understand that for some of you, you may have been hoping to avoid any kind of social interaction with others during this course. You may feel anxious or reluctant to participate in these activities for a variety of reasons. That's okay! There are others who feel the same way as you do, you're not alone in this. Take a moment or two to think about how you can approach these activities in a way that is helpful for you. If you have any specific concerns, please let me know.

On that note, be kind in your communications with others. ANTH 201 is not a cutthroat, high stakes course 😊. We will work as a class to develop some specific rules and expectations for our online interactions and how we can address any misunderstandings or issues that might arise.

Required Readings and Videos:

All readings and videos will be posted on D2L under the applicable course module. Most of the videos will be accompanied by a guided note-taking activity, where you can fill in the missing words or phrases from the video transcript. These guided note-taking activities are optional, but I highly recommend doing them. You will get a lot more out of the videos in terms of what you need to know for the quizzes and final exam.

Lectures:

Lectures will be presented live via Zoom during our class times on Monday and Wednesday. Each week, I will post the link for students who would like to watch the lectures in real time. Afterwards, the recorded lectures will be posted on D2L. The slides that I use for presentations can be found on D2L under the applicable module or topic. Please note, these course materials are my own intellectual property and are not to be shared outside of this course or altered in any way other than for your own personal learning (adding your own notes, etc.). I also reserve

the right to post asynchronous lectures to accommodate the time needed for course activities (mainly the Zoom discussions).

Online D2L Quizzes and Exam:

The weekly D2L quiz will open on the Wednesday afternoon of that week and close on the following Sunday night. After that, you will be unable to take the quiz. Once you have started the quiz, you will not be able to leave and log in again to finish it. Given the condensed schedule for summer term courses, quiz extensions will not be granted. See the above section on missed quizzes and exemption requests for further information. Please plan ahead to allow yourself the time and space to do well on these assessments. You are not permitted to:

- a. Communicate with other people in any way (remote or in-person) during the test.
- b. Share test information during or after you have taken the test or capture (screen shot or photo) or share images of the questions at any time.

Communication Policy:

You can contact me in several ways with your questions about course content. If you are viewing the lectures live, I will periodically respond to any questions that come up in the chat and I will be available afterwards as well. Outside of class time, email is the best way to contact me and I will do my best to respond within 24 hours. On the rare occasion when I am not available by email, Steph McClennon is the teaching assistant for ANTH 201 and you can direct your enquiry to her.

I may also respond to commonly asked questions or concerns on the FAQ discussion board so that everyone in the course has the same information.

UNIVERSITY POLICIES

ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATIONS

Students seeking an accommodation based on disability or medical concerns should contact Student Accessibility Services; SAS will process the request and issue letters of accommodation to instructors. For additional information on support services and accommodations for students with disabilities, visit <https://live-ucalgary.ucalgary.ca/student-services/access>. Students who require an accommodation in relation to their coursework based on a protected ground other than disability should communicate this need in writing to their Instructor or the Department Head. The full policy on Student Accommodations is available at <https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/university-policies-procedures/accommodation-students-disabilities-procedure>.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY POLICY

Academic integrity is the foundation of the development and acquisition of knowledge and is based on values of honesty, trust, responsibility, and respect. We expect members of our community to act with integrity. The University Calendar includes a statement on the principles of conduct expected of all members of the university community (including students, faculty, administrators, any category of staff, practicum supervisors, and volunteers), whether on or off

university property. This statement applies in all situations where members of the university community are acting in their university capacities. All members of the university community have a responsibility to familiarize themselves with the principles of conduct statement, which is available at: www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k.html.

ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT

The University of Calgary is committed to the highest standards of academic integrity and honesty. Students are expected to be familiar with these standards regarding academic honesty and to uphold the policies of the University in this respect.

Academic dishonesty is not an acceptable activity at the University of Calgary, and students are **strongly advised** to read the Student Misconduct section in the University Calendar at: www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k-3.html. Often, students are unaware of what constitutes academic dishonesty or plagiarism. The most common are (1) presenting another student's work as your own, (2) presenting an author's work or ideas as your own without adequate citation, and (3) using work completed for another course. Such activities will not be tolerated in this course, and students suspected of academic misconduct will be dealt with according to the procedures outlined in the calendar at: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/university-policies-procedures/student-academic-misconduct-procedure>

For students wishing to know more about what constitutes plagiarism and how to properly cite the work of others, the Department of Geography recommends that they attend Academic Integrity workshops offered through the Student Success Centre: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/student-services/student-success/learning/academic-integrity>

INSTRUCTOR INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

Course materials created by professor(s) (including course outlines, presentations and posted notes, labs, case studies, assignments and exams) remain the intellectual property of the professor(s). These materials may NOT be reproduced, redistributed or copied without the explicit consent of the professor. The posting of course materials to third party websites such as note-sharing sites without permission is prohibited. Sharing of extracts of these course materials with other students enrolled in the course at the same time may be allowed under fair dealing. Information on Instructor Intellectual Property can be found at <https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/university-policies-procedures/intellectual-property-policy>

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION AND PROTECTION OF PRIVACY ACT

Student information will be collected in accordance with typical (or usual) classroom practice. Students' assignments will be accessible only by the authorized course faculty. Private information related to the individual student is treated with the utmost regard by the faculty at the University of Calgary.

COPYRIGHT LEGISLATION

All students are required to read the University of Calgary policy on Acceptable Use of Material Protected by Copyright (<https://ucalgary.ca/legal-services/university-policies-procedures/acceptable-use-material-protected-copyright-policy>) and requirements of the copyright act (<https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/C-42/index.html>) to ensure they are aware of the consequences of unauthorized sharing of course materials (including instructor notes, electronic versions of textbooks, etc.). Students who use material protected by copyright in violation of this policy may be disciplined under the Non-Academic Misconduct Policy.

SUPPORTS FOR STUDENT LEARNING, SUCCESS, AND SAFETY

Please visit the Registrar's website at: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/registration/course-outlines> for additional important information on the following:

- Wellness and Mental Health Resources
- Student Success Centre
- Student Ombuds Office
- Student Union (SU) Information
- Graduate Students' Association (GSA) Information
- Emergency Evacuation/Assembly Points
- Safewalk

TENTATIVE CLASS SCHEDULE

Please note, that although the topics and readings/videos are subject to change, the discussion boards, Zoom group work assignments, and quiz due dates are firm.

Date	Topic	Activities	Readings and Videos	QUIZZES
M Jun 26	Module 1: Intro to the Course; Critically Assessing Sources	Discussion Board introductions D2L practice quiz	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Davis (2021) • Rutherford (2022) • Sagan (1996) 	
W Jun 28	Module 2: Development of Evolutionary Thought	Guided note-taking for video (optional)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keenleyside and Lazenby (2015), Chapter 2 • Video: <i>Darwin's Revolution in Thought</i> (48 min) 	
M Jul 3	Observance Day for Jul 1 (university closed)			
W Jul 5	Module 3: Mendelian and Molecular Genetics	Zoom Group Activity #1 (deliverables due by 1 pm)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Miko (2008) • Thomas (2015), pp. 191-200 (optional) 	D2L Quiz #1 opens (Modules 1, 2 and 3) DUE SUNDAY, July 9th by 11:59 pm
M Jul 10	Module 4: Population Genetics and Epigenetics	Discussion Board #1 opens	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bernstein (2016) • TEDEd video on epigenetics (5 min.) 	
W Jul 12	Module 5: From Variant to Species	Discussion Board #1 (closes July 16th) Guided note-taking for video (optional)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Video: <i>Life in the Trees</i> (55 minutes) • Video: <i>Galapagos Finch Evolution</i> (16 minutes) 	D2L Quiz #2 (Modules 4 and 5) DUE SUNDAY, July 16th by 11:59 pm
M Jul 17	Module 6: Primates		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Martin (2012) • Wanjek (2016) 	

Date	Topic	Activities	Readings and Videos	QUIZZES
W Jul 19	Module 7: Hominin Origins: From Ape to <i>Australopithecus</i>	Zoom Group Activity #2 (deliverables due by 1 pm) Guided note-taking for video (optional)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Video: <i>Becoming Human 1</i> • Garlinghouse (2019) • Lieberman (2022) • Ungar (2020) 	D2L Quiz #3 (Modules 6 and 7) DUE SUNDAY, July 23rd by 11:59 pm
M Jul 24	Module 8: The Origins of <i>Homo</i> sp.	Discussion Board #2 opens Guided note-taking for video (optional)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Video: <i>Becoming Human 2</i> • Werth (2022) • Goldfield (2021) • Singer (2017) 	
W Jul 26	Module 9: Human Osteology	Discussion Board #2 (closes July 30th) Guided note-taking for video (optional)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Video: <i>The Woman in the Iron Coffin</i> (55 min.) • Rodrigues (2021) • Forester- CBC News article, March (2023) 	D2L Quiz #4 (Modules 8 and 9) DUE SUNDAY, July 30th by 11:59 pm
M Jul 31	Module 10: The Peopling of the Americas		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Raff (2021) • Yasinki (2022) • Raja (2016) 	
W Aug 2	Module 11: Human Biology, Variation, and Adaptations	Zoom Group Activity #3 (deliverables due by 1 pm)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Video: <i>The Biology of Skin Color</i> (20 min.) • Fuentes (2022) • Science of the Cold blog • Beil (2014) 	D2L Quiz #5 (Modules 10 and 11) DUE SUNDAY, Aug. 6th by 11:59 pm
M Aug 7	Alberta Heritage Day (university closed)			
T Aug 8	Last Day of Classes			
Aug 10-14	Summer Final Exam Period			

IMPORTANT DATES

M Jun 26	First day of Summer Term lectures.
F Jun 30	Last day to drop a class without a financial penalty.
F Jun 30	Last day to add or swap a course.
W Jul 5	Fee payment deadline for Summer Term full and half courses.
S Jul 1	Canada Day, Observed M Jul 3 University closed. No classes.
M Aug 7	Alberta Heritage Day University closed. No classes.
T Aug 8	Summer Term Lectures End. Last day to withdraw with permission from Summer Term courses.
Aug 10-14	Summer Final Exam Period.