



EAST TENNESSEE STATE
UNIVERSITY

College of Arts & Science

Department of Sociology & Anthropology

ANTH 1280 - Introduction to physical anthropology

Spring 2021

William N. Duncan
Email: duncanwn@etsu.edu

Office phone: 439-6650
Office: RS 223B

Overview of the course

This course will provide an overview of the four major topics physical anthropologists investigate: genetics; primates; paleoanthropology; and human microevolution.

Student requirements include:

- 1) Class participation
- 2) Reading
- 3) 3 exams
- 4) 10 quizzes
- 5) 10 discussion board assignments

Student outcomes:

At the end of this course, students will be able to do the following:

- 1) Identify the topics physical anthropologists investigate
- 2) Identify and discuss major debates in physical anthropology
- 3) Understand physical anthropology's place within the wider context of anthropology

Required texts

Larsen C. 2015. Essentials of physical anthropology. 4th ed. Norton Publishing, NY.

Reading

You are expected to read all assigned texts in a timely fashion. Lectures assume you have read the week's assignment before watching the lecture.

Assignments

There will be 3 exams, 10 quizzes, and 10 discussion board assignments that students will participate in. Quizzes and discussion board assignments are open note and open book. The exams are not open note or book. You will know when it is time to complete a quiz or a discussion board assignment because a slide in the powerpoint lecture will prompt you at the appropriate time. Similarly there will also be links to videos embedded in the powerpoint lectures at the appropriate time. If the links won't open automatically for you by clicking on them, you can copy and paste them into your url bar or you can find them in the appropriate module in D2L. Quizzes will have a 2 hour limit to complete (They won't take that long. I just put a long time to make sure you have time to refer to your book if you like). You will be able to take each quiz up to three times. Tests will have a 60 minute limit. The discussion board assignments will be graded on the basis of participation. If you participate appropriately, you will receive full credit. Most of the assignments will ask you to respond to a particular question and then post a response to a classmate's post. You will need to provide a substantive response to your classmate's post to receive credit. Simply

stating 'I agree' or 'I disagree' will not be sufficient. Your discussion posts will be scored as a 0, 1, or 2. A 2 means that you fulfilled all parts of the assignment appropriately. A 1 means that you fulfilled some parts of the assignment appropriately. A 0 means that you didn't do the assignment.

On both the quizzes and on the tests I use multiple select and multiple choice questions. Multiple select questions potentially have multiple correct answers and you have to select all of the correct answers and none of the incorrect ones to get credit for the question. So for multiple select questions, you may be presented with A, B, C, D, and E and you would need to select more than one answer to get credit, such as A, C, and D. Multiple choice questions only have one correct choice for you to mark. You can tell the difference between multiple choice and multiple select questions because the potential answers to multiple choice questions will have a circle next to them for you to mark, while the potential answers for multiple select questions will have a square next to them for you to mark.

Participation and punctuality

There are 4 content modules for this course. The dates that each of the modules will be open are listed below. Basically for a given module you will have the quizzes and discussion boards open for the entire date range. At the appropriate point during lectures you will be prompted to complete a quiz or a discussion board assignment. At the end of the last day of the module, it will be closed and (for the second, third, and fourth modules) a test will be available to take for one day. The subsequent module will be open following test day. You will not be able to open modules once they are closed. Punctual participation in the discussion board activities is mandatory for this course. These will explore side topics related to the lectures. Your job will be to participate in a respectful fashion. Disruptive, disrespectful, or rude behavior will result in your final grade being reduced by up to 15 points. Multiple events of such behavior will result in an F in the course.

Two tips from your professor

Please do not put off looking at the powerpoints until the last minute. If you do, you are greatly reducing your likelihood of doing well in the course. I narrate all of the powerpoints and there really is a similar amount of content presented here as in the classroom based course so you can't put a module off until the last week and hope to get through it all. Take the quizzes and discussion boards seriously. They are open book and note, but don't lose points on them by rushing through them.

Course ground rules

(Copied and modified from ETSU Memo of understanding)

In general

- Participation is required
- Learn how to navigate in the ETSU Course Management System
- Keep abreast of course announcements
- Use the *assigned* college or university e-mail address as opposed a personal e-mail address
- Address technical problems immediately
- Observe course *netiquette* at all times

Email

- Always include a subject line.
- Use standard fonts.
- Respect the privacy of other class members.

Discussion groups

- Review the discussion threads thoroughly before entering the discussion.
- Try to maintain threads by using the "Reply" button rather starting a new topic.
- Do not make insulting or inflammatory statements to other members of the discussion group. Be respectful of other's ideas.
- Be patient and read the comments of other group members thoroughly before entering your remarks.

- Respond in a thoughtful and timely manner.

Contacting the instructor

Email is the best way to get in touch with me, though I will be in my office most days and can be contacted by phone or fax (see above). Students are also encouraged to post questions or comments to the General Discussion Forum which is located in D2L, under the general information and resources module. I am not setting up regular physical office hours but I will respond to all emails or phone calls or questions on the General Discussion Forum within 24/36 hours. If you would like to come in to meet face to face in my office, I will be happy to set up a time with you.

Grading

Exams	80%			A	100-93	A-	90-92
Quizzes	10%	B+	87-89	B	83-86	B-	80-82
Discussion	10%	C+	77-79	C	73-76	C-	70-72
Boards		D+	67-69	D	60-66	F	< 60

Cheating

Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated in any form. Your student catalog provides an explanation of such dishonesty, but anytime you represent someone else’s ideas as your own without giving appropriate credit will be considered cheating. If you are unclear, ask me. Anyone intentionally representing other’s work as their own will receive an F for the course and will be dealt with as outlined in the university handbook.

Make up policy

Late work will only be accepted with instructor’s approval and a documented valid excuse, such as serious illness, death in the family, etc.

Accommodations

Any student with a special need for an accommodation in course activities should make arrangements with the instructor.

Student resources

A series of links on topics ranging from D2L, to Goldlink, to Disability services and counseling is available on D2L for download under the General information module.

Module 1 - Evolutionary theory, genetics

1/19-2/7

Read: Larsen 1-4
 D2L Lectures: 1,2,3,4,5,6
 Quizzes: 1,2,3
 Discussion board: 1,2

Module 2 – Primates

2/8-2/21

Read: Larsen 6-7
 D2L Lectures: 7,8,9,10
 Quizzes: 4
 Discussion board: 3,4

Test 1

2/22

Module 3 - Primate and hominin evolution

2/23-3/28

Read: Larsen 8-12
 D2L Lectures: 11,12,13,14,15,16,17
 Quizzes: 5,6
 Discussion board: 5,6

Test 2

3/29

Module 4 - Race and human variation; Forensics

3/30-5/2

Read: Larsen 5, 13

D2L Lectures: 18,19,20,21

Quizzes: 7,8,9,10

Discussion board: 7,8,9,10

Test 3

5/3

Faculty Bio

I am chair and professor in the Department of Sociology and Anthropology at ETSU. I study human remains from archaeological sites, primarily in Mesoamerica. Specifically, I study ritual violence and biological distance relationships among the Maya, Mixtec, and Zapotec. Other research interests include dental variation in modern humans and biohistorical forensic work.

SAMPLE