

SYLLABUS
ANT s301 - INTRODUCTION TO PHYSICAL ANTHROPOLOGY
Summer 2012

INSTRUCTOR: **Gabrielle A. Russo**
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512.471.2720
Office: SAC 5.130
Office hours: Monday 1:00-3:00 PM. You may also meet with me by appointment, or email/call me with questions or concerns.

TEACHING ASSISTANT: **Amber N. Heard-Booth**
Email: amber.heardbooth@utexas.edu
Office: SAC 5.130
Office hours: Wednesday and Friday 9:00-10:00 AM

LECTURES: **Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday**
10:00 AM - 11:30 AM SAC 5.172

LAB: **Lab is held once a week (Wed or Fri) during normal class time (i.e., there is no separate lab section)**
10:00 AM - 11:30 AM SAC 5.172
See syllabus for weekly schedule
NOTE: Lab will be held the first week of class, on Friday, July 13.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS: How Humans Evolved by Boyd and Silk
W.W. Norton & Co., 2012
6TH Edition.
This textbook is available at the University Co-Op or as an ebook: nortonebooks.com. Additional **required** article readings will be made available on Blackboard.
All readings are to be completed before lecture on the date indicated. Check the syllabus daily.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Physical anthropology is the study of primates (including humans) from a biological perspective. This course will provide an introduction to the field and an overview of its sub-disciplines.

The lecture material will be divided into four sections:

- 1) **(Week 1) Primate diversity:** We will begin the course with an introduction to the mammalian order Primates, starting with how primates are distinguished from other living mammals. Broad focus: geographic distribution, taxonomic classification, and biological, social and ecological diversity.
- 2) **(Week 2) Primate locomotion, diet and behavior:** We will examine the differences and similarities in anatomy and behavior among the living primates. Broad focus: locomotion, ecology, social structures, mating systems and communication.
- 3) **(Week 3) Evolution and phylogeny:** We will begin this section with the history of evolutionary theory, followed by an overview of the basic mechanisms of the evolutionary process. Broad focus: Darwin, evolution and natural selection, reconstructing evolutionary relationships.
- 4) **(Weeks 4 & 5) Primate and human evolution:** We will apply concepts developed in the former part of the course to an understanding of primate and human evolution. Broad focus: paleontology, the primate fossil record, *Australopithecus* and *Homo*, evolution of bipedalism and tool technologies.

Labs will generally expand on concepts presented in lectures, and will provide students with an opportunity to handle and examine skeletal and fossil materials.

PREREQUISITES:

There are no prerequisites or co-requisites for this course.

ONLINE MATERIALS:

All lab materials and additional required readings will be made available online through Blackboard at:

<http://courses.utexas.edu/>

You can find Blackboard support at the ITS Help Desk at 475-9400, Monday through Friday, 8 AM to 6 PM.

Class lectures will not be posted on BB, nor will they be provided to students who have missed lectures. If you miss a lecture it is your responsibility to obtain notes from a fellow classmate.

LABS:

Lab Homework

A short homework is due *by* 10:00 AM on the morning of each lab. These assignments draw directly from the text and lab readings and will prepare you for the day's lab. **Late homework**

assignments will not be accepted. All homework assignments will be made available on Blackboard within the weekly lab folders located under the Assignments tab. Assignments are to be completed directly on Blackboard.

Lab Assignment

A lab assignment will be completed *during* normal class time (10:00 – 11:30 AM; see schedule for lab days). You are required to download, printout, and bring lab assignments to class.

Students arriving without appropriate materials will not receive credit for lab.

Missed Labs

If miss lab due to sickness, observance of religious holiday or military service, you must email your TA **within 24 hours** from the start time of lab. In other words, if you miss lab Wednesday at 10:00 AM, you must email your TA by Thursday 10:00 AM for a make-up to be considered by your TA. **Permission to make up a lab is considered by your TA on a case-by-case basis. You have up to 72 hours to hand-in documentation for your absence, and you must make-up the lab within one week.** If a student fails to abide by the conditions stated above concerning make-up labs, the option for a make-up lab will be revoked and the student will receive a score of zero.

ASSESSMENT & EVALUATION:

Your grade for the TERM will be calculated based on the formula:

Midterm -----	33.33%
Final -----	33.33%
Lab Grade -----	33.33%

Your cumulative LAB grade will be calculated based on the formula:

Lab Homework -----	45.00%
Lab Assignments -----	50.00%
Lab Participation* -----	05.00%

* Your participation grade is based on your attendance, asking questions, engaging in discussions, etc.

There will be a mid-term and a final (non-cumulative) covering all lectures, lab material and reading assignments. All general exam questions will be objective format (e.g., true/false, matching, fill-in-the-blank, short answer and essay).

DO NOT MISS AN EXAM. Make-up exams will be given only if an emergency (medical or family) can be documented. If you miss an exam due to an emergency, you must contact your instructor ASAP and provide documentation **within 3 days** of the exam.

Exam scores will not be curved. If you have any questions about an exam grade, I will recheck your exam. Re-grades will only be considered for exams completed in indelible ink. Questions about your grade must be addressed to the instructor in writing **within 3 days** after exams are returned. The exam should be handed to the instructor along with the written request.

Final Grade Ranges(includes pluses and minuses):

A	93-100	B-	80 to <83
A-	90 to <93	C+	77 to <80
B+	87 to <90	C	73 to <77
B	83 to <87	C-	70 to <73

D+	67 to <70	D-	60 to <63
D	63 to <67	F	<60

Final grades are non-negotiable. Your final grade is the grade you have *earned*. There is no “extra credit” offered in this class. If you are struggling in class, please come to me or the TA for help. **Do not wait until the end of the semester to ask for help.**

If your performance during the semester is adversely affected by personal problems (e.g., death of a family member, mental health issues, etc.), please contact your dean’s office as soon as possible to discuss your options.

University of Texas Honor Code:

The core values of The University of Texas at Austin are learning, discovery, freedom, leadership, individual opportunity, and responsibility. Each member of the university is expected to uphold these values through integrity, honesty, trust, fairness, and respect toward peers and community

Scholastic Dishonesty

Scholastic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, collusion, falsifying academic records, misrepresenting facts, and any act designed to give unfair academic advantage to the student (such as, but not limited to, submission of essentially the same written assignment for two courses without the prior permission of the instructor), or the attempt to commit such an act. Any student found cheating on an exam or lab assignment will receive a grade of zero for the exam or assignment and will be referred to the dean’s office for further disciplinary action. Any attempt to alter a graded, returned exam in order to improve the score IS considered cheating and will result in an exam grade of zero. Students who violate University rules on scholastic dishonesty are subject to disciplinary penalties, including the possibility of failure in the course and/or dismissal from The University.

For a tutorial and information on plagiarism, see <http://www.lib.utexas.edu/services/instruction/learningmodules/plagiarism/>

Also, see <http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/sjs/scholdis.php> and

Section 11-802 in the General Information Catalog <http://registrar.utexas.edu/catalogs/gi09-10/app/gi09.appc03.html#subchapter-11-800-student-standards-of-conduct>

Students will not be permitted to wear hats or possess/use electronic devices (e.g., cell phones, iPhones, iPods, etc.) during exams. Remember that all exams must be completed using a pen or the opportunity to request a re-grade is forfeited.

On exam days, all backpacks, book bags, purses, etc. must be left at the front of the classroom. You will need only a writing utensil to take the exam. If you're worried that someone might take your bag by mistake, don't bring it to class.

DISRUPTIVE BEHAVIOR:

Every student has the *right* to learn as well as the *responsibility* not to deprive others of their right to learn. Every student is accountable for his or her actions.

Attend all scheduled classes and arrive on time. Late arrivals and early departures are very disruptive and violate the first basic principle listed above. To ensure that late arrivals do not

disturb the learning of others, the classroom door will be locked ten minutes after lecture or lab has started.

Be polite. Do not sleep, talk, text, or read the paper in class. Students engaging in disruptive behavior of any kind will be asked to leave the class. I will try to make class as interesting and informative as possible, but I can't learn the material for you.

Please feel free to take notes on a computer. However, do not make any audio or video recordings of lectures/labs. Inform your professor or TA if you see anyone making audio or video recordings of the lecture/lab.

All cell phone ringers should be turned to SILENT (*not* vibrate) at the beginning of lecture/lab. If your cell phone rings during class/lab you will be given one warning. Thereafter, any student whose cell phone rings/vibrates will be asked to leave the room.

UNIVERSITY POLICIES:

Use of E-mail for Official Correspondence to Students

All students should become familiar with the University's official e-mail student notification policy. It is the student's responsibility to keep the University informed as to changes in his or her e-mail address. Students are expected to check e-mail on a frequent and regular basis in order to stay current with University-related communications, recognizing that certain communications may be time-critical. It is recommended that e-mail be checked daily, but at a minimum, twice per week. The complete text of this policy and instructions for updating your e-mail address are available at <http://www.utexas.edu/its/help/utmail/1564> .

Documented Disability Statement

If you require special accommodations for exams (e.g., a reduced-distraction environment or extra time), you must contact your instructor and teaching assistant IN ADVANCE in order to discuss the necessary arrangements. There will be no exceptions to this rule. Proof of qualification for accommodations from the UT Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) office must be provided. Faculty are not required to provide accommodations without an official accommodation letter from SSD.

Any student with a documented disability who requires academic accommodations should contact Services for Students with Disabilities at 471-6259 (voice) or 1-866-329-3986 (video phone) or reference SSD's website for more disability-related information:

http://www.utexas.edu/diversity/ddce/ssd/for_cstudents.php

A student is free *not* to use an approved accommodation. However, if a student opts out of an accommodation for one exam and then decides to use it for another exam, it is the responsibility of the student to make advance arrangements with the professor and TA.

Religious Holy Days

By UT Austin policy, you must notify me of your pending absence at least fourteen days prior to the date of observance of a religious holy day. If you must miss a class, an examination, a work assignment, or a project in order to observe a religious holy day, I will give you an opportunity to complete the missed work within a reasonable time after the absence.

Q drop Policy

The State of Texas has enacted a law that limits the number of course drops for academic reasons to six (6). As stated in Senate Bill 1231:

“Beginning with the fall 2007 academic term, an institution of higher education may not permit an undergraduate student a total of more than six dropped courses, including any course a transfer student has dropped at another institution of higher education, unless the student shows good cause for dropping more than that number.”

Emergency Evacuation Policy

Occupants of buildings on the UT Austin campus are required to evacuate and assemble outside when a fire alarm is activated or an announcement is made. Please be aware of the following policies regarding evacuation:

- Familiarize yourself with all exit doors of the classroom and the building. Remember that the nearest exit door may not be the one you used when you entered the building.
- If you require assistance to evacuate, inform me in writing during the first week of class.
- In the event of an evacuation, follow my instructions or those of class instructors.

Do not re-enter a building unless you're given instructions by the Austin Fire Department, the UT Austin Police Department, or the Fire Prevention Services office.

Course Outline

Readings

B = Book

A# = Article

Introduction to Primate Diversity

9 Jul (M)	Introduction and Primate Characteristics	B Prologue& Ch. 5
10 Jul (T)	Survey and Taxonomy of Living Primates: Prosimians	B Ch. 5
11 Jul (W)	Survey and Taxonomy of Living Primates: Monkeys	B Ch. 5
12 Jul (Th)	Survey and Taxonomy of Living Primates: Hominoids	B Ch. 5
13 Jul (F)	Lab 1 : Skeletal Anatomy & Taxonomy	HW#1 due by 10:00AM

Primate Locomotion, Diet and Behavior

16 Jul (M)	Locomotion	B Ch. 5
17 Jul (T)	Ecology and Diet	B Ch. 5
18 Jul (W)	Lab 2 : Locomotor and Dietary Adaptations	HW#2 due by 10:00AM
19 Jul (Th)	Group-Living and Mating Systems	B Ch. 6-7 / A1
20 Jul (F)	Social Behavior, Intelligence and Communication	B Ch. 8

Evolution and Phylogeny

23 Jul (M)	MIDTERM	
24 Jul (T)	History of Evolutionary Theory	B Ch. 1-3 / A2
25 Jul (W)	Microevolution	B Ch. 1-3
26 Jul (Th)	Macroevolution	B Ch. 4
27 Jul (F)	Lab 3 : Cladistics	HW#3 due by 10:00AM

Primate and Human Evolution

30 Jul (M)	Paleontology and Early Primates	B Ch. 9
31 Jul (T)	Fossil Anthropoids and Hominoids	B Ch. 9
01 Aug (W)	Early Australopithecines and Bipedalism	B Ch. 10-11 / A3
02 Aug (Th)	Later Australopithecines	B Ch. 10-11
03 Aug (F)	Lab 4 : Fossil Primates and Australopithecines	HW#4 due by 10:00AM
06 Aug (M)	Origins of Genus <u>Homo</u>	B Ch. 12
07 Aug (T)	Later <u>Homo</u>	B Ch. 12-13 / A4
08 Aug (W)	Lab 5: <u>Homo</u> and Paleolithic Archaeology	HW#5 due by 10:00AM
09 Aug (Th)	<i>Cave of Forgotten Dreams</i>	
10 Aug (F)	Review	

13 Aug (M) **FINAL EXAM (non-cumulative)9:00 AM – 11:00 AM***

*Since the final exam is non-cumulative, it will be two hours instead of three

This syllabus represents my current plans and objectives. As we go through the semester, these plans may need to change to enhance the class learning opportunity. Such changes, communicated clearly, are not unusual and should be expected.

Other Important dates (see <http://registrar.utexas.edu/calendars/12summer>):

July 10 – Last day of official add/drop for second session; after this date changes in registration require the approval of the department chair and usually the student's dean.

July 12 - Last day to drop a second-term class for a possible refund

July 27 - Last day a student may change registration in a second-term class to or from the pass/fail or credit/no credit basis.