PRINCIPLES OF BIOLOGICAL ANTHROPOLOGY (ANTH 68630)
FALL 2009

Course Director: Dr. Marilyn A. Norconk
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Office Hours: TH 2-3 pm and by appointment

Participating Faculty:
Dr. Chi-hua Chiu
Dr. C. Owen Lovejoy
Dr. Richard Meindl
Dr. Mary Ann Raghanti

Class Hours and Location: Thursday, 5:30 – 8:15 pm • 143 Lowry Hall

Course description: The purpose of this course is to provide all Master's students in anthropology with a foundation in the core principles of biological anthropology. The five bioanthropologists in the department will give lectures that will not only highlight their own research, but will also provide you with a comprehensive survey of the history of evolutionary theory, relevant aspects of human biology and genetics, human paleontology, and primate social behavior and ecology. That covers quite a lot of the field. Biological anthropology has grown in diversity and breadth since Washburn declared that the “new” physical anthropology was underway in 1951. But, we could legitimately date the origins of research on the evolution of humans to the publication of the Origin of Species in 1859 – 150 years old this year. In fact, natural selection is essentially the leitmotif of the course.

Readings: The first reading will be a short book, The Triumph of Evolution: and the Failure of Creationism (Paperback) 2001 by Niles Eldredge (available in the bookstore). Subsequently, weekly readings will be assigned by each speaker from the primary literature. If the reading is in the form of a pdf, I will send that to you electronically a week before the material will be discussed. If photocopying is involved, I will make hard copies available to you in 228 Lowry Hall (mailroom).

Course requirements: Your grade in this course will be based on two exams (30% each), a short paper (30%), and class participation (discussant) (10%). Exams will take up a portion of the class period and consist of multiple choice, short answer and essay questions to be drawn from readings and lectures. You must attend all classes – failure to do so may result in a reduction in your final grade. The class participation portion of your grade will be assessed on the basis of your day-to-day involvement in general class discussion during and after guest lectures and as a designated discussant.

To stimulate discussion, two students will serve as discussants each class meeting. Discussants should prepare 3-5 questions based on the readings, modify them during lecture, and lead a discussion with the lecturer and students after the lecture.
You may choose to write a short 5-page paper on any aspect of biological anthropology, but please have your topic approved by me no later than November 5th. Consider any of the lecture titles as appropriate material, but given the length of the paper you should scale down the topic. Please use American Journal of Physical Anthropology style for the paper. Go to the following web site: American Journal of Physical Anthropology http://www3.interscience.wiley.com/journal/28130/home and click on “For Authors.” Follow instructions under Categories of Submission: research articles.

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<td>Biology and evolution of the brain</td>
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<td>Midterm exam &amp; Survey of the primates</td>
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