

**PRINCIPLES OF BIOLOGICAL ANTHROPOLOGY (ANTH 68630)**  
**FALL 2011**

**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:** Tuesday, 5:30-7:30 pm (lecture) – Lowry 249  
Thursday, 5:30-6:15 pm (discussion) – Lowry 249

**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 "text" for the course is Jonathan Marks' An alternative introduction to Biological Anthropology (available in the bookstore). I will assign chapters from the Marks book to correspond generally with the course lectures, but weekly readings may also be assigned by each speaker. I will post pdfs to the Vista course website. If you are enrolled for the course, you will have access to that site. It is essential that you read the materials before lecture. The "discussion hour" will serve to integrate readings with guest lectures.

**Course requirements:** Your grade will be based on two exams (30% each), a short research paper (25%), and Thursday's discussion (15%). Of course, you are encouraged to ask questions during or after lectures on Tuesdays, as well.

The midterm exam will be given during the "discussion hour" that will be extended as necessary. The final exam will take place during finals' week. Expect that the exams will consist of both objective (multiple choice) and short answer and essay questions. Questions will be drawn from both readings and lectures.

It is assumed that you will attend all classes (lectures and discussions) – and it is hard for me to imagine why you would miss a class. Missing 3 classes will result in a 20% reduction in your final grade. Yes, it is that important!!

Thursday's discussion hour will be led by a discussant, but everyone must participate. The role of the discussant is to read the assigned material carefully, integrate with the Tuesday lecture and prepare a) a brief summary of the material (no powerpoint lectures), b) some points of synthesis between lecture and reading material and c) prepare 3-5 questions that will be used to encourage discussion. Bringing in additional, relevant, illustrative material is encouraged. Please plan to turn in an outline of your summary, list of questions, and provide references to other material if you use it.

Your 7-page paper may be on any aspect of biological anthropology **except the subject of your discussion section (or your thesis)**. It should be a research paper in the sense that you are addressing a question and providing support for a solution. Please submit the paper title and brief outline to me by November 3<sup>rd</sup>. 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 "Author guidelines." Scroll down to "Research articles" and follow instructions for how to format references and citations. Also, take a look at the papers in the journal to see how Literature Cited and in-text citations are formatted.

### LECTURE SCHEDULES (TUESDAYS)

WEEK	DATE	TOPIC	LECTURER
1	8-30	Course introduction and history of evolutionary theory	NORCONK
2	9-6	Natural selection & introduction to sexual selection	NORCONK
3	9-13	Introduction to genetics	CHIU
4	9-20	Evo-devo	CHIU
5	9-27	Human variation: malaria, sickle cell anemia	RAGHANTI
6	10-4	Biodemography I	MEINDL
7	10-11	Biodemography II	MEINDL
8	10-18	Biodemography III	MEINDL
9	10-25	Survey of the primates & evolution of primate mating patterns	NORCONK
10	11-1	Biology and evolution of the brain	RAGHANTI
11	11-8	Evolution of language	RAGHANTI
12	11-15	Primate ecology and conservation	NORCONK
13	11-22	Evolution of bipedality	LOVEJOY
14	11-29	Human paleontology I	LOVEJOY
15	12-6	Human paleontology II	LOVEJOY
FINAL EXAM	TUESDAY 12-13	5:45-8PM	