ANTHROPOLOGY 110: INTRODUCTION TO HUMAN EVOLUTION
FALL 2016 (CLASS 1020)
MONDAY & WEDNESDAY 12:35-1:30, LECTURE CENTER 18

Instructor: Adam Gordon, Ph.D.
Office: AS 246
gordon@albany.edu
Office hours: Wednesday, 9:30 to 11:30 am. (NOTE: Please contact your lab instructor regarding anything lab-related. If you need to reach me, the best way is to come to my office hours. The next best way is by email. However, please be aware that I receive a large amount of email, so it may take several days before I respond.)

Laboratory Director: Mercedes Fabian, Ph.D.
Office: AS 201
mfabian@albany.edu
Office hours: Monday, 3:45 to 5:45 pm, and Thursday, 12:00 to 1:00 pm.

Teaching Assistant: Erica Tyler
Office: AS 110
etyler@albany.edu
Office hours: Tu & Th, 12:30 to 1:30 pm.

Teaching Assistant: Lauren Walters
Office: AS 209
lwalters@albany.edu
Office hours: Tu, 9:45 to 10:45 am, Wed., 1:45 to 2:45 pm.

Lab Sections:
(1022) Monday 9:20-10:15 am  (1023) Monday 4:15-5:10 pm  (8448) Thursday 7:35-8:30 pm
(1021) Monday 10:25-11:20 am (5768) Tuesday 8:45-9:40 am  (8571) Friday 12:35-1:30 pm
(5767) Monday 2:45-3:40 pm  (7488) Thursday 6:30-7:25 pm  (7487) Friday 2:45-3:40 pm

All labs meet in room AS 11 in the basement of Arts and Sciences. You must attend the lab section in which you are enrolled.

Prerequisites: There are no required prerequisites for this class.

Course Objectives: This course provides students with a basic introduction to the facts, skills and concepts needed to understand human evolution. Topics covered include the history of evolutionary biology, human osteology, primatology, functional anatomy, and the human fossil record. This course provides a springboard to subsequent classes in Biological Anthropology and Human Biology.

General Education: The course fulfills the objectives of General Education in the Natural Sciences Course. The university identifies the objectives of these courses as follows (from http://www.albany.edu/generaleducation/):

“Natural Sciences: Approved courses show how understandings of natural phenomena are obtained using the scientific method, including data collection, hypothesis development, employment of mathematical analysis, and critical evaluation of evidence. Courses provide an overview of major principles and concepts underpinning a discipline's current base of knowledge and discuss major topics at the current frontiers of disciplinary knowledge. Courses show how answers to fundamental questions in science can change the world in which we live and often explore how social issues can influence scientific research. Opportunities for scientific inquiry within laboratory and/or field settings may be provided.”

We will meet these requirements by investigating the theoretical basis and empirical evidence underlying the discipline of biological anthropology, both in lecture and in the lab sections.
**Textbook and Website**

**Required Textbook:**

The course schedule at the end of the syllabus specifies the chapters in the textbook that you are expected to read in advance of each class. Note that the text is designed to supplement the material presented in lecture, not to duplicate it. In addition, there will be instances in which the material presented in lecture contradicts or otherwise disagrees with material presented in the text. In those cases, the material presented in lecture will be considered correct for the purposes of exams.

**Course Website:**
Course materials such as lab assignments, lecture slides, grades, and this syllabus will be posted on Blackboard. In addition, course announcements such as amendments to this syllabus will be posted on Blackboard. Please note: I discuss many concepts in much greater detail in lecture than they appear on the slides, and some material covered in lecture does not appear on the slides at all. Do not expect to earn a good grade in this course if you try to learn the material from the online slides alone.

**Course Requirements**

**Exams:** There will be two exams given during the regular course of the semester plus a final exam. Exams may include questions drawn from lecture, lab, and the textbook. The midterms will focus on material covered since the previous exam, and the final exam will focus on the second half of the semester; however, be aware that the material in later parts of the course builds upon material in earlier parts of the course, so expect to see questions on later exams which incorporate concepts from earlier in the semester. Also, please note the following exam policies:

- Anyone arriving after any student has completed the exam and left the lecture hall WILL NOT be allowed to take the exam. In addition, please arrive several minutes early on exam days so that we may begin the exam on time.
- During exams, all bags and notebooks must be placed on the floor under your seat. No phones or headphones will be allowed (I will display the time on the screen at the front of the room so you will know how much time you have left). Any hat with a brim or bill must be removed or turned so that the brim does not project forward.
- You will be required to write and bubble-in your name and student ID number on your exam scantron sheet. Please be sure to bring your student ID with you to the exam.

**Lab Grade:** A total of ten lab exercises will be due over the course of the semester. These are completed during your lab section and turned in to the lab instructor at that time. Please refer to the lab syllabus for more information.

**Final Grade:**
Midterm exams: 45% (Note: the higher score of your two midterms will count for 30%, the lower score for 15%)

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<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>93.33%</td>
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<td>A-</td>
<td>90%</td>
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<tr>
<td>B+</td>
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<td>B</td>
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<td>B-</td>
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<td>C+</td>
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<td>C</td>
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<td>D-</td>
<td>60%</td>
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<td>E</td>
<td>below 60%</td>
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Your final grade is based on your overall percentage according to standard cutoffs. Below are the minimum percentages required for each grade:

A: 93.33%  A-: 90%  B+: 86.67%  B: 83.33%  B-: 80%  C+: 76.67%  
C: 73.33%  C-: 70%  D+: 66.67%  D: 63.33%  D-: 60%  E: below 60%
**Note on Extra Credit:** I count the higher grade of your two midterms twice as much as your lower midterm exam grade, which gives you an opportunity to dramatically improve your grade if you are unhappy with your performance on the first midterm. However, I do not allow students to complete extra credit assignments to bring up their final grade.

**Course Policies**

**Make-up Exams:** In general, there will be no make-up exams. If you miss an exam, you will receive a zero for that exam. Exceptions will be made only 1) with proof of dire emergency or illness, 2) with advance notice of a compelling time conflict in some cases (see web link below), or 3) due to religious observance. I will not provide alternative exam times for students who have personal travel plans or commitments. Please refer to the “Attendance and Timely Compliance with Course Requirements” section of the university’s Undergraduate Academic Regulations for more details ([http://www.albany.edu/undergraduate_bulletin/regulations.html](http://www.albany.edu/undergraduate_bulletin/regulations.html)). Be aware that the University Health Center will provide medical excuses only under very specific situations ([http://www.albany.edu/health_center/medicalexcuse.shtml](http://www.albany.edu/health_center/medicalexcuse.shtml)).

**Students with Disabilities:** Students with disabilities who need special accommodations should notify me and have appropriate documentation on file with the Disability Resource Center ([http://www.albany.edu/disability/index.shtml](http://www.albany.edu/disability/index.shtml)). I will be happy to accommodate your needs with sufficient advance notice.

**Lecture Attendance:** While it is important for you to attend every class, I will not take attendance in lecture. However, whether you come to class or not, you are responsible for keeping up with what happens in class. This applies to the content of the class, handouts, and announcements about class policies, events, deadlines, etc. In particular, I reserve the right to change deadlines and exam dates, and you will be held to those dates regardless of whether you were in class for the announcement or not. Announcements and amendments to this syllabus will be posted on Blackboard, but it is easy to miss other pertinent information if you are absent from class.

**Lab Attendance:** Lab attendance is mandatory. Please refer to the lab syllabus for more information.

**Grades:** The grade you receive, either on an individual exam or assignment or as your final grade, is not subject to negotiation. It is your grade unless an error has been made (e.g., if you marked “B” and the correct answer was “B”, but your answer was marked incorrect). If you think an error has been made, let me know within one week of receiving the assignment or exam grade.

**IMPORTANT NOTE:** If you are struggling in the course, please come for help during the semester when there is still time for me to help you. Take advantage of my office hours or make an appointment with me. Do not wait until the course is over and ask me to change your grade because you are trying to graduate, you are on academic probation, or you have had a tough time with your personal life this semester. By then it is too late for me to help you.

**Academic Integrity:** Students who violate university policy on academic integrity are subject to disciplinary penalties, including the possibility of a failing grade for the course, disciplinary probation, suspension, or expulsion from the University. Prohibited activities include, but are 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. For more information, refer to the section “Standards of Academic Integrity” in the Undergraduate Academic Regulations ([http://www.albany.edu/undergraduate_bulletin/regulations.html](http://www.albany.edu/undergraduate_bulletin/regulations.html)).
Course Schedule

**Week 1 (Introductory Lab)**
- **M 8/29** Introduction  
  Reading: Stanford Introduction.
- **W 8/31** History and principles of evolutionary biology I  
  Reading: Stanford Chapter 1

**Week 2 (NO LAB)**
- **M 9/5** NO CLASS (Labor Day)
- **W 9/7** DNA: the molecular basis of heredity  
  Reading: Stanford Chapter 2

**Week 3 (Lab 1)**
- **M 9/12** History and principles of evolutionary biology II  
  Reading: Stanford Chapter 3
- **W 9/14** Species and speciation  
  Reading: Stanford Chapter 4

**Week 4 (Lab 2)**
- **M 9/19** Primate diversity  
  Reading: Stanford Chapter 6
- **W 9/21** Humans as primates and human variation  
  Reading: Stanford Chapter 5

**Week 5 (Lab 3)**
- **M 9/26** Primates in the wild
- **W 9/28** Primate ecology and behavior  
  Reading: Stanford Chapter 7

**Week 6 (NO LAB)**
- **M 10/3** NO CLASS (Rosh Hashanah)
- **W 10/5** EXAM 1

**Week 7 (NO LAB)**
- **M 10/10** Principles of geology and paleontology  
  Reading: Stanford Chapter 8
- **W 10/12** NO CLASS (Yom Kippur)

**Week 8 (Lab 4)**
- **M 10/17** History of the earth
- **W 10/19** Primate origins and primate evolution  
  Reading: Stanford Chapter 9

**Week 9 (Lab 5)**
- **M 10/24** Origin of bipedalism  
  Reading: Stanford Chapter 10
- **W 10/26** Early hominins  
  Reading: Stanford Chapter 10
**Week 10 (Lab 6)**

M 10/31 Australopiths I  
   Reading: Stanford Chapter 10

W 11/2 Australopiths II  
   Reading: Stanford Chapter 10

**Week 11 (Lab 7)**

M 11/7 Origin of the genus *Homo*  
   Reading: Stanford Chapter 11

W 11/9 *Homo erectus* and Out of Africa I  
   Reading: Stanford Chapter 11

**Week 12 (Lab 8)**

M 11/14 Pleistocene climates  
   Reading: Stanford Chapter 12

W 11/16 Middle Paleolithic / Middle Stone Age tools  
   Reading: Stanford Chapter 12

**Week 13 (NO LAB)**

M 11/21 EXAM 2

W 11/23 NO CLASS (Thanksgiving)

**Week 14 (Lab 9)**

M 11/28 Neanderthals  
   Reading: Stanford Chapter 12

W 11/30 Anatomically modern humans  
   Reading: Stanford Chapter 13

**Week 15 (Lab 10)**

M 12/5 Origin of modern humans: Hypotheses and evidence  
   Reading: Stanford Chapter 13

W 12/7 Evolution of the human brain  
   Reading: Stanford Chapter 14

**Week 16 (NO LAB)**

M 12/12 Evolution of life history and Summary  
   Reading: Stanford Chapter 15

**Exam Period**

Tu 12/20 **FINAL EXAM** (8:00 am-10:00 am in Lecture Center 18)