ANTHROPOLOGY 502: PROSEMINAR IN PHYSICAL ANTHROPOLOGY
SPRING 2014
TUESDAY 4:15-7:05, AS 011

Instructor: Adam Gordon, Ph.D.
Office: AS 246
Email: agordon@albany.edu
Office hours: Monday, 10:20 am to 12:20 pm, or by appointment. (NOTE: The best way to reach me is to come to office hours. The next best way is by email. However, please be aware that I receive a large volume of student email, so I will not be able to respond right away.)

COURSE DESCRIPTION
Nearly all academic disciplines rely on an underlying body of theory, and physical anthropology is no exception. In this course we will read and discuss seminal works in the modern evolutionary synthesis, as well as works that apply that body of theory specifically to anthropology.

This course will use a discussion format, and you and your fellow students are responsible for leading and participating in the discussions. Do not expect to be passive note-takers. This course will be enjoyable and successful for you only if every student actively participates. Read every assigned reading closely and be prepared to comment on all of them during every class. There is a lot of reading for this course, and everyone is expected to do all of it!

The prerequisite for this course is graduate standing in the Department of Anthropology or permission of the instructor.

REQUIRED READINGS
- Darwin, Charles. 1859. On the Origin of Species. (We'll be reading the 6th edition, which is available online for free at http://www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/2009)

Additional readings will be assigned for the guest lectures towards the end of the semester; we will discuss this in more detail on the first day of class.

GRADING
This course uses the A-E grade system. Your final grade is determined based on two components: class participation (50% of grade) and a final exam which will be modeled after a departmental comprehensive exam (50% of grade).
COURSE WEBSITE
The course website can be found on Blackboard. Readings and announcements may be posted there. Check the website regularly for announcements about changes to office hours, readings, or anything else important.

COURSE STRUCTURE
This course is roughly split into two halves. The first half of the course will focus on foundational readings for the discipline of physical anthropology, and the second half consist of a series of guest lectures by the department’s physical anthropology faculty on their areas of expertise. Readings will be assigned for every class, and all students are expected to read all of the material for every class. In addition, every week each student will be assigned a subset of the week’s reading for which they will be responsible for identifying important topics for discussion. We will begin each class in the first half of the course by writing these topics on the board to use as a starting point to select topics for class discussion. In the second half of the course, class style will likely vary by guest lecturer, but all students will be expected to have completed the assigned reading and be prepared to engage in discussion on the material.

ATTENDANCE
Attendance is mandatory in this course and is reflected in your participation grade, although it is not the sole component of the participation grade! Poor attendance suggests that you are not committed to doing well in the course. I will allow excused absences in the case of religious holidays, documented illness, professional conferences, and possibly other activities, but please let me know about these absences with as much advance notice as possible. I understand that people have family emergencies, have car trouble, suffer power failures that render alarm clocks useless (although this should not be a problem for a 4:15 pm class), etc. – however, it is common courtesy to let me know in advance if you know you are going to miss a class, or to let me know afterwards why you missed a class.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY
Academic dishonesty of any kind will not be tolerated in this course. Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, cheating, plagiarizing, fabricating information or citations, facilitating acts of academic dishonesty by others, submitting work of another person or work previously used without informing the instructor, or tampering with the academic work of other students. Students who are found to be academically dishonest will receive academic sanctions as outlined in the university’s Graduate Regulations and Degree Requirements:
http://www.albany.edu/graduatebulletin/requirements_degree.htm#penalties

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES
If you have special needs, please notify me immediately; I will be happy to work with you. Let me know if you anticipate needing any type of special accommodation in this course or have questions about physical access. For more information about “reasonable accommodation”, please see the Disability Resource Center’s Reasonable Accommodation Policy:
http://www.albany.edu/disability/docs/RAP.pdf
## COURSE SCHEDULE

Note that this schedule is subject to change.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WEEK</th>
<th>READINGS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1: 1/28</td>
<td>Introduction to course (no readings)</td>
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<tr>
<td>2: 2/4</td>
<td>Mayr, <em>The Growth of Biological Thought</em>, Introductory chapters and Section I</td>
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<tr>
<td>3: 2/11</td>
<td>Mayr, <em>The Growth of Biological Thought</em>, Section II</td>
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<td>4: 2/18</td>
<td>Darwin, <em>On the Origin of Species</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>5: 2/25</td>
<td>Huxley, <em>Evidence of Man’s Place in Nature</em></td>
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Mendel, *Experiments in Plant Hybridisation* |
| 7: 3/11 | Dawkins, *The Selfish Gene*  
Rose and Oakley, “The new biology: beyond the Modern Synthesis” |
| 8: 3/18 | **NO CLASS**  
(SPRING BREAK) |
| 9: 3/25 | Lecture: Gordon, Evolution of Sex and Sex-Specific Strategies in Mammalian Evolution  
Readings (please read in the order given below):  
| 10: 4/1 | Lecture: Strait, Overview of Human Evolution  
Readings: TBA |
| 11: 4/8 | Movie: *Walking with Cavemen* |
| 12: 4/15 | **NO CLASS**  
(PASSOVER) |
| 13: 4/22 | Lecture: Schell, Development  
Readings: TBA |
| 14: 4/29 | Lecture: Gage, Demography  
Readings: TBA |
| 15: 5/6 | Shubin, *Your Inner Fish* |
| 16: 5/13 | **FINAL EXAM** (NOTE: The final exam is from 5:45 to 7:45 pm) |