

University of Hawai`i-Mānoa
Physical Anthropology
Fall 2007

Anthropology 604 (1)
Mon 1:30-4:00
SAUND 345

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Course Objectives

This core course in physical anthropology offers a theoretical and conceptual basis for investigating evolution and variation in living and past human (and to a lesser extent non-human primate) populations. The general weekly topics to be covered include: the history of physical anthropology, theory of evolution, biological classification and systematics, primate studies, primate fossils, paleoanthropology, biological basis of life and heredity, human variation/diversity, human growth and fertility, human adaptability studies, adaptation to biotic stress (malnutrition and infectious disease), and studies of modernization. Where possible, issues and topics of recent concern in the field, will be discussed. The text and assigned readings provide background and perspective to the weekly topics. Class attendance and participation in the general discussion is mandatory.

Organization

The course is organized, when enrollment permits, in a structured seminar format. A basic reading list will be distributed at the first meeting of the seminar. Although everyone is expected to read all the assigned readings, each student will be assigned (prior to each weekly meeting) specific readings from this list that they will use to lead the discussion of the readings in the first half of each weekly meeting. To facilitate the discussion of the basic required readings, each student will prepare **written summaries** of the specific articles assigned to them. These summaries should be both descriptive and evaluative (i.e. critical). As well as summarizing the contents of each reading your summaries should assess the nature and value of the cited work informing us of the author's point of view and the accuracy of reporting. As well, these summaries should detail the sub-themes, pertinent contents of the readings, raise specific questions to clarify details, and/or formulate general questions to engage group discussion. Written summaries (one half to one page in length) should include the specific and/or general questions for discussion. The summaries should be distributed to the other members of the seminar on the day of the seminar. In addition to the assigned readings everyone is also expected to have read those reading(s) selected by students for their individual formal seminar presentations. A typical class meeting will include a discussion of the readings assigned for that particular week followed by (except for the first two weeks) a formal seminar (on a selected specialized topic) to be presented by a student. For those weeks when there are no formal seminar presentations scheduled, there will be a detailed discussion of the readings in lieu of a formal student seminar presentation. Everyone is expected to participate in the general discussion of the assigned readings and the formal seminar presentations.

Formal Seminars

Each student will present **two** seminars during the semester. A list of suggested seminar topics will be distributed the first day the seminar meets. Students must confer with Professor Pietrusewsky in the preparation stages of their seminars regarding the organization and presentation of topics. In addition to the assigned readings, each student will select one (or two, if these are short articles), additional readings appropriate to their seminar presentation. It will be the responsibility of each student presenting a seminar, to prepare a **general outline**, one week in advance, including the selection of one (or 2) **additional reading** that they feel is central to their seminar. Copies of these latter should be made available to the class and Prof.

Pietrusewsky one week in advance of the seminar. On the day of the seminar, students are expected to distribute a 1-2 page abstract of their seminar. A complete bibliography (all references that were used in preparing the seminar) should be appended to this abstract. Students are expected to consult the appropriate literature including textbooks and journals in the field of physical/biological anthropology (e.g., *American Journal of Physical Anthropology*, *Yearbook of Physical Anthropology*, *Annual Review of Anthropology*, *Human Biology*, *American Journal of Human Biology*, *Annals of Human Biology*, *Evolutionary Anthropology*, *Human Ecology*, *American Journal of Primatology*, *International Journal of Primatology*, *International Journal of Osteoarchaeology*, *Medical Anthropology*, *Human Evolution* etc.) Seminar presentations will be evaluated by the instructor based on content, organization, and the student's comprehension of theory and concepts. Clarity of presentation, originality, and delivery style will also be taken into consideration in this evaluation. Students are to confer with Prof. Pietrusewsky after their presentations for feedback and evaluation.

Assigned Readings

There will be weekly assigned readings for this course. Each member of the seminar is expected to read ALL of the assigned readings. A reading list will be assigned at the first meeting. Copies of the readings will be made available as pdf files through Sinclair Library or some other outlet.

Written Paper

Using one of his or her seminar presentations as its basis, each student will complete a 15-20 page (approximately 4,000- 5,000 words) typed paper due no later than Dec. 5.

Exams

There will be a written midterm (Oct. 17) and final (Dec. 12) examination consisting of essay type questions covering the material covered prior to each exam (i.e. the final will not be cumulative). Study questions will be distributed in advance of the each exam. The exams will be closed book.

Grade Evaluation

The final grade for the course will be based on the two seminar presentations (@20 pts. x 2= 40 pts. total); one written paper (20 pts.); two written examinations (midterm and final) @15 pts. x 2 = 30 pts. total; and general weekly discussion (10 pts.). [Total = 100 pts.].

Recommended Texts:

There are no assigned texts for the course but there are several texts that are highly recommended for basic reading:

R. Jurmain, L. Kilgore, W. Trevathan and R.L Ciochon (2008) *Introduction to Physical Anthropology*. 11th. Wadsworth Publ.

Kormondy, E. J., and D. E. Brown (1998) *Fundamentals of Human Ecology*. Prentice Hall.

Harrison, G A., J. M. Tanner, D. R. Pilbeam, and P. T. Baker (1988) *Human Biology. An Introduction to Human Evolution, Variation, Growth, and Adaptability*, 3 ed. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Stinson, S, B. Bogin, R. Huss-Ashmore, and D. O'Rourke (eds.) 2000. *Human Biology: An Evolutionary and Biocultural Perspective*. John Wiley & Sons.