**School of Liberal Arts**

ANTH 101

# Biological Anthropology

Fall 2025

4 Credits

## Course Outline

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| **INSTRUCTOR** | Dr. Victoria Castillo | **OFFICE HOURS** | Wednesday 2:30 – 3:30 pm |
| **OFFICE** | A2505 | **CLASSROOM** | A2801 |
| **E-MAIL** | vcastillo@yukonu.ca | **PHONE** | 867.456.8615 |
| **CLASS TIME** | T/Th 1:00 – 2:20 pm | **LAB TIME** | Th 2:30 – 3:20 pm |
| **CLASS CRN** | | | |

**Liberal Arts office:** Ayamdigut Campus A2501, liberalarts@yukonu.ca, 867-668-8770

## COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course introduces students to the sub-discipline of biological anthropology. Students examine the emergence of the human species and the theoretical and methodological frameworks used to understand present-day human biological variation and adaptation. This is done through the analysis of fossil and modern primates, including *Homo sapiens*. Topics include basic history and principles of evolutionary theory, hominid evolution, environmental stress in living and archaeological primate populations, human skeletal biology, and comparative primate anatomy and behaviour.

## COURSE REQUIREMENTS

**Prerequisite(s):** ANTH 140. Note that ANTH 205 is designated as an eligible course to fulfil the Liberal Arts science requirement.

## EQUIVALENCY OR TRANSFERABILITY

Find course transfer at: https://www.bctransferguide.ca/

Students are reminded that it is always the receiving institution that determines whether a course is acceptable as an applicable, equivalent course or if it may be transferred to their program for credit. Find further information at: https://www.yukonu.ca/admissions/transfer-credit

## LEARNING OUTCOMES

*Instructor Learning Outcomes*: Upon successful completion of the course, students will be able to:

- Explain the emergence of Western scientific thought on evolution, including the contributions of key thinkers;

- Analyze modern human adaptation, developmental plasticity, and variation, in the context of basic principles of genetics and evolutionary biology;
- Evaluate key methods used to reconstruct life in the past, including the dating of fossil finds and the use of skeletal remains to study health and diet in archaeological populations;
- Identify and classify bones of the modern human skeleton, and analyze their key features;
- Compare and contrast the main groups of living primates and evaluate their anatomical differences;
- Analyze key events in primate evolution, with a focus on hominins, and evaluate the evidence for them. This includes the ability to identify casts of key fossil finds and describe their important features.

# COURSE FORMAT

## Delivery format

This is a synchronous face-to-face course. The course outline and other relevant materials, including grades, will be posted for viewing or downloading on Moodle. Lecture slides will be posted on Moodle prior to the lecture, but these are supplementary material and will not provide all material covered in lecture. Classes will consist of lectures and discussions on the current week's topic and weekly laboratory assignments.

## Workload

Students will have two hours of lecture and one hour of lab per week. It is expected that students will spend an additional 3-5 hours outside of class on readings and assignments. It is important to note that the time required for successful course completion will vary by individual.

# EVALUATION

## Engagement and Participation

Students are expected to attend, and actively participate in class. This means doing the required readings prior to that week's lecture and sharing perspectives in class. Students are also expected to engage actively in lab activities. Students are expected to arrive on time and not walk in and out of class as this is disruptive to the classroom environment. Once the door is shut, late students will not be let in.

## Midterm

There is one midterm that consists of multiple choice, true or false, and short answer questions. The midterm follows the textbook and lectures. A study guide will be provided one week prior to the midterm.

## Lab Assignments

There are ten lab assignments. These will focus on genetics and evolutionary theory, modern humans, primatology, and paleoanthropology. Students are expected to hand in the lab assignments biweekly, at the end of each topic section. Students are required to attend all labs to complete their assignments.

### Lab Exam

There is one lab exam that will involve a timed (bell-ringer) hands-on examination of archaeological material with associated short answer questions.

### Final Exam

The final exam is not cumulative. It will consist of multiple choice, true or false, and short-answer questions. The midterm follows the textbook and lectures. A study guide will be provided one week prior to the midterm.

* **Use of AI is prohibited in this class.** You must submit your own work. It cannot be copy or pasted from a website, course notes, Chat GPT, AI, etc. **An automatic penalty of 20% will be added to any late assignment.**

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|---|---|
| Engagement and Participation | 10% |
| Lab Assignments (11 labs) | 20% |
| Lab Exam | 20% |
| Midterm | 20% |
| Final Exam | 30% |
| **Total** | **100%** |

## TEXTBOOKS & LEARNING MATERIALS

Free eBook:
Shook, Beth, Nelson, Katie, Aguilera, Kelsie, and Lara Braff (editors). 2023. *Explorations: An Open Invitation to Biological Anthropology.* 2nd Edition. American Anthropological Association: Arlington.
https://pressbooks.calstate.edu/explorationsbioanth2/

## COURSE WITHDRAWAL INFORMATION

Students may officially withdraw from a course or program without academic penalty up until two-thirds of the course contact hours have been completed. Specific withdrawal dates vary, and students should become familiar with the withdrawal dates of their program. See withdrawal information at www.yukonu.ca/admissions/money-matters

Refer to the YukonU website for important dates: www.yukonu.ca/admissions/important-dates

Refunds may be available. See the Refund policy and procedures at www.yukonu.ca/admissions/money-matters

## ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Students are expected to contribute toward a positive and supportive environment and are required to conduct themselves in a responsible manner. Academic misconduct includes all forms of academic dishonesty such as cheating, plagiarism, fabrication, fraud, deceit, using the work of others without their permission, aiding other students in committing academic offences, misrepresenting academic

assignments prepared by others as one's own, or any other forms of academic dishonesty including falsification of any information on any Yukon University document.

Please refer to Academic Regulations & Procedures (updated bi-annually) for further details about academic standing, and student rights and responsibilities: www.yukonu.ca/policies/academic-regulations

## ACCESSIBILITY AND ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION

Yukon University is committed to providing a positive, supportive, and barrier-free academic environment for all its students. Students experiencing barriers to full participation due to a visible or hidden disability (including hearing, vision, mobility, learning disability, mental health, chronic or temporary medical condition), should contact Accessibility Services for resources or to arrange academic accommodations: access@yukonu.ca.

## TOPIC OUTLINE

| **Lecture Date** | **Topic** | **Readings in Textbook** |
|---|---|---|
| **Week 1**<br>Sep 4 | Introduction / What Is Biological Anthropology? | Chapter 1 |
| Intro Lab | Knowing and Believing | |
| **Week 2**<br>Sep 8 + 11 | Evolution | Chapter 2 |
| Lab 1 | Misconceptions About Evolution | |
| **Week 3**<br>Sep 16 + 18 | Molecular Biology and Genetics | Chapter 3 |
| Lab 2 | Blood Typing Lab | |
| **Week 4**<br>Sep 23 + 25 | Forces of Evolution | Chapter 4 |
| Lab 3 | Evolutionary Detectives | |
| **Week 5**<br>Sep 30 + Oct 2 | National Day of Truth and Reconciliation – No Classes / Meet the Living Primates | Chapter 5 |
| Lab 4 | Primate Tweets | |
| **Week 6**<br>Oct 7 + 9 | Primate Ecology and Behaviour | Chapter 6 |
| Lab 5 | Watching Primates | |
| **Week 7**<br>Oct 14 + 16 | ***Reading Week – No Classes*** | |

| Lecture Date | Topic | Readings in Textbook |
|---|---|---|
| No Lab | | |
| **Week 8**<br>Oct 21 + 23 | Stones and Bones: Understanding the Fossil Context | Chapter 7 |
| Lab 6 | Reconstructing Palaeo-environments | |
| **Week 9**<br>Oct 28 + 30 | Primate Evolution | Chapter 8 |
| Lab 7 | Fossil Primates | |
| **Week 10**<br>Nov 4 + 6 | Early Hominins / **MID-TERM LECTURE EXAM** | Chapter 9 |
| No Lab | | |
| **Week 11**<br>Nov 11 + 13 | Early Hominins Cont.; Early Members of the Genus Homo | Chapter 10 |
| Lab 8 | Early Homo Lab | |
| **Week 12**<br>Nov 18 + 20 | Archaic Homo | Chapter 11 |
| Lab 9 | Brain, Language, Lithics | |
| **Week 13**<br>Nov 25 + 27 | Modern Homo sapiens | Chapter 12 |
| Lab 10 | What Does It Mean to Be Human / Modern Human Art | |
| **Week 14**<br>Dec 2 + 4 | Race and Human Variation | Chapter 13 |
| Lab 11 | **LAB EXAM** | |
| **Week 15**<br>Dec 9 | Forensics | Chapter 15 |
| **Week 16**<br>Dec 11 | **Final Exam – A2801 – 1:00 – 4:00 pm** | |