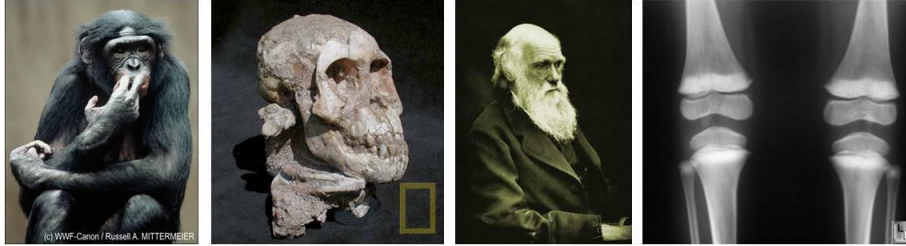


GANTH 196 Biological Anthropology
Spring 2010
Tu / Thu, 2:00-3:15pm
Burruss Hall 0044



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Office hours: Walk-in or by appointment

Teaching assistant: Brittany Suit
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COURSE DESCRIPTION

What does it mean to be human? Where did humans come from? Why do we have the adaptations that we do? What is the relationship between humans and the rest of the natural world? How does our environment influence our behavior and how does our behavior influence our natural environment?

Anthropology is the study of humankind. This course will introduce you to one of the four fields of anthropology, namely biological anthropology, which attempts to answer these kinds of questions and others related to understanding our present biology by tracing our evolutionary history. We will begin with an overview of the field of biological anthropology. From there, we will discuss the concept of evolution by reviewing the historical development of evolutionary thinking from pre-Darwinian ideas to the observations and conclusions of Charles Darwin and his contemporaries to the evolutionary synthesis of genetics and Darwin's theory of evolution. We will attempt to understand human origins and biology through a survey of extant non-human primate biology and by examining the primate and hominin (human) fossil record. We will finish the course by looking at the spread of modern humans throughout the world, modern human variation and adaptation, and the impact humans have had and continue to have on Earth's biodiversity.

GANTH 196 is a science course that fulfills your GenEd requirement for Cluster 3: The Natural World. Following the objectives of Cluster 3, this course will teach you to:

- Describe the methods of inquiry that lead scientific knowledge and be able to distinguish science from pseudoscience.
- Use theories and models as unifying principles that help us understand natural phenomena and make predictions.
- Recognize the interdependence of applied research, basic research, and technology, and how they affect society.
- Illustrate the interdependence between developments in science and social and ethical issues.
- Use graphical, symbolic, and numerical methods to analyze, organize, and interpret natural phenomena.
- Discriminate between association and causation, and identify the types of evidence used to establish causation.
- Evaluate the credibility, use, and misuse of scientific information in scientific developments and public-policy issues.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOK:

Larsen, C.S. 2008. *Our Origins: Discovering Physical Anthropology*, 1st edition. W.W. Norton and Company, Inc.

This book is also available for purchase online (\$37, half the price of a hardcopy) at:

- www.nortonebooks.com/welcome.asp (**do not buy the online version through the JMU bookstore!!**)
- Click on “Anthropology” – you will see the book “Our Origins” – click on “Buy online ebook”
- From the webpage, you can also see a demo of their online books. If you do not mind reading from your computer screen, buying the online book is a great, inexpensive option as it lets you highlight sections, post “post-its”, etc.

COURSE MATERIALS & BLACKBOARD

Lectures will be presented using *MS PowerPoint* and the *PowerPoint* presentations will be posted on *Blackboard* prior to each lecture. I will also use *Blackboard* to post updates, any readings in addition to your textbook, and exam grades.

EVALUATION

Exam 1	15%	Thu, Jan. 28 th
Exam 2	15%	Tue, Feb. 23 th
Exam 3	15%	Thu, Mar. 18 th
Exam 4	15%	Thu, Apr. 8 th
Exam 5	15%	Thu, Apr. 29 th
Final (cumulative) exam	25%	Tue, May 4 th (1-3pm)
Bonus quizzes	see below	

There are five in-class, non-cumulative exams that each count for 15% of your final grade and that will cover material from lectures, films, and readings. Each of the exams will take 20-30 minutes to complete and will be followed by a lecture.

Your final exam is cumulative and will cover everything that has been presented to you from the first to last day of class.

Bonus quizzes – I will give five “pop” quizzes throughout the semester, based entirely on the readings. Each quiz will consist of four multiple choice questions, each worth 1 point. You can earn a total of 20 points. These quizzes are like “extra credit”. If you do well on them, your final grade will improve. If you don’t do well, you will not be penalized. See the following chart to understand how these quizzes affect your final grade.

<u>Total Points on Quizzes (out of 20)</u>	<u>Points Added to Final Grade</u>
19-20	1.2
17-18	1.0
15-16	0.6
13-14	0.4
< 13	0

Exams will not be curved, although a curve may be applied to the final grade if it is deemed necessary. Please note the dates of each of the exams for this class. **There will be no make-up exams or extra-credit assignments offered, except in extraordinary circumstances.**

Final grades will be determined by the following grading scale:

93% and above	= A
90% - 92.9%	= A-
87.5% - 89.9%	= B+
82.5% -87.4%	= B
80% - 82.4%	= B-
77.5% - 79.9%	= C+
72.5% - 77.4%	= C
70% -72.4%	= C-
67.5% - 69.9%	= D+
62.5% - 67.4%	= D
62.4% and below	= F

Note that if you get an 89.9% (or even an 89.94%) you get a B+, there will be no rounding up to an A-. Please make sure you understand this.

You can only dispute a question or the grade on the in-class exams within **two weeks** of the exam.

SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS

Students with disabilities who require reasonable accommodations to fully participate in course activities and/or meet course requirements must register with the Office of Disability Services (ODS) and contact me to discuss access issues. ODS will provide you with an Access Plan Letter that will verify your need for services and make recommendations for accommodations to be used in my classroom. ODS is located in the Wilson Learning Center, Room 107; Phone: 568-6705.

STUDENT BEHAVIOR AND RESPONSIBILITIES

In order to do well in this class, you **must** keep up with the readings and attend all lectures. If you miss class due to illness, etc., it is your responsibility to obtain class notes from a fellow student.

Please do not hesitate to ask questions or make comments. Be engaged, but respectful. *If at any time during the semester you feel overwhelmed with the material presented to you, please come see me or Brittany immediately –we are here to help!*

By enrolling in this course, you agree to abide by the JMU Honor Code (www.jmu.edu/honor/code.shtml). Violation of the JMU Honor Code can result in disciplinary action that may affect your academic standing.

Policy for Adding or Withdrawing from Courses

Students are responsible for registering for classes and for verifying their class schedules on e-campus.

The deadline for adding a fall semester class without instructor and program coordinator signatures is Tuesday, January 19, 2010. After Tuesday, January 19, 2010, instructor and program coordinator signatures are required to add a class for Spring Semester 2010. **NO STUDENT WILL BE ALLOWED TO REGISTER FOR A SPRING SEMESTER CLASS AFTER Thursday, January 28, 2010.**

Lecture Schedule: The lecture schedule is flexible and adjustments may be made during the semester.

	Date	Topic	Reading in Larsen text
Week 1	Tue, Jan. 12	Introduction to course	
	Thu, Jan. 14	What is anthropology and biological anthropology?	Ch. 1
Week 2	Tue, Jan. 19	History of evolutionary thought	Ch. 2
	Thu, Jan. 21	History of evolutionary thought	Ch. 2
Week 3	Tue, Jan. 26	Movie: <i>What Darwin Never Saw</i>	
	Thu, Jan. 28	Exam 1 Lecture: Genetics	pp. 38-51; Ch. 3
Week 4	Tue, Feb. 2	Genetics	Ch. 3&4
	Thu, Feb. 4	Genetics	Ch. 3&4
Week 5	Tue, Feb. 9	Genetics	Ch. 3&4
	Thu, Feb. 11	Speciation and organizing the diversity of life on Earth	TBD
Week 6	Tue, Feb. 16	Speciation and organizing the diversity of life on Earth	TBD
	Thu, Feb. 18	Movie: <i>Great Transformations</i>	
Week 7	Tue, Feb. 23	Exam 2 Lecture: Humans as primates, so what's a primate?	Ch. 6
	Thu, Feb. 25	Survey of the living primates	Ch. 6

	Date	Topic	Reading in Larsen text
Week 8	Tue, Mar. 2	Primate ecology and behavior	Ch. 6
	Thu, Mar. 4	Primate ecology and behavior	Ch. 6
Week 9	Tue, Mar. 9	Spring Break	
	Thu, Mar. 11	Spring Break	
Week 10	Tue, Mar. 16	Movie: <i>Life of Mammals - Social Climbers</i>	
	Thu, Mar. 18	Exam 3 Lecture: How do paleoanthropologists know what they know?	Ch. 7
Week 11	Tue, Mar. 23	How do paleoanthropologists know what they know?	Ch. 7
	Thu, Mar. 25	Primate origins	Ch. 8
Week 12	Tue, Mar. 30	What's a hominin? The earliest hominins	Ch. 9
	Thu, Apr. 1	Movie: <i>Ardipithecus</i>	
Week 13	Tue, Apr. 6	The Australopithecines	Ch. 9
	Thu, Apr. 8	Exam 4 Lecture: The genus <i>Homo</i>	Ch. 10
Week 14	Tue, Apr. 13	The genus <i>Homo</i>	Ch. 10
	Thu, Apr. 15	The genus <i>Homo</i>	Ch. 10
Week 15	Tue, Apr. 20	Modern human variation and adaptation	Ch. 5
	Thu, Apr. 22	Modern human variation and adaptation	Ch. 5
Week 16	Tue, Apr. 27	The human legacy	Ch. 13
	Thu, Apr. 29	Exam 5	
FINAL EXAM Tuesday, May 4, 1:00-3:00pm			