

Master Syllabus – ATH241: Introduction to Physical Anthropology

1. Course Information

College: Liberal Arts

Department: Sociology & Anthropology

Course Title: Introduction to Physical Anthropology

Course Designation & Number: ATH241

GE Area: VI. College Component

Writing Intensive: Yes No

For WI Courses: All sections Selected Sections are WI

Methods of instruction Lecture
 Discussion
 Web-enhanced
 Web-only
 Other

Includes Lab: Yes No
(Please see page 3 for description of lab exercises)

Prerequisites: None

2. Objectives

GE Program Objectives:

- To sharpen critical thinking, problem solving, and communication skills
- To increase knowledge and understanding of the past, of the world in which we live, and of how both past and present have an impact on the future

GE Area Six Objectives:

- To understand important relationships and interdependencies between the student's major and other academic disciplines, world events or life endeavors
- Communication with individuals who are in the student's major, in allied fields, and non-specialists

Course Objectives and GE Learning Outcomes:

This course surveys the discipline of Physical Anthropology, the scientific study of human biology and behavior. It provides some answers to the following questions:

1. What is evolutionary theory and how does it relate to human origins and behavior?
2. What are some biological and behavioral similarities and differences between human and nonhuman primates?
3. Where did the human species originate and how did we evolve?
4. How can we understand current human physical variation in light of evolutionary theory?

The course begins with an introduction to evolutionary theory and principles, the theoretical foundation for understanding human biology and behavior. Then it examines the biology, behavior and evolution of monkeys, apes and other nonhuman primates, with whom we share a common evolutionary ancestry; the fossil and genetic evidence for human evolution; current human biological variations and adaptations which are the outcome of thousands of years of evolutionary history. Finally the course considers the biological bases of race and sex and the rationales underlying racism and sexism. Successful completion of the course will enable students to understand principles and processes of human evolution, various lines of evidence for human evolution, and the consequences of evolution for biological diversity in modern human groups.

Area VI College Component learning outcomes addressed:

- Understanding important relationships and interdependencies between the major and other academic disciplines, world events or life endeavors
- Communication with individuals who are in the student's major, in allied fields, and non-specialists

WAC Objectives:

- To improve students' writing proficiency
- To encourage students to use writing as a learning tool
- To demonstrate for students the ways writing is integral to all disciplines

WAC will be integrated into the course in a variety of ways, including the writing of essay answers on tests, completing laboratory reports, summarizing articles discussed in class, and completing another specific writing assignment.

3. Suggested Course Materials:

Texts: *Essentials of Physical Anthropology*, by Jurmain, Nelson, Kilgore & Trevathan.
(packaged with *CD: Virtual Laboratories for Physical Anthropology*)
Annual Edition Physical Anthropology by Angeloni
Videos, slides and overhead transparencies for illustration

4. Suggested Methods of Evaluation:

Three tests shall be required. Laboratory reports and a written summary of one article from the reader are also recommended. A specific writing assignment shall also contribute to the final course grade.

5. Grading Policy

All GE courses are graded A-F.
WI component is graded Pass/Unsatisfactory

6. Suggested Weekly Course Outline Including Typical Assignments

<i>Week</i>	<i>Topic</i>	<i>Assignments</i>
1 & 2	Evolutionary Principles & Genetics	Chap 1-4
3 & 4	Our Relatives, the Nonhuman Primates <i>*Lab 1 due</i>	Chap 5-6
5 & 6	Primate Anatomy & Evolution <i>*Lab 2 due</i>	Chap 7
7 & 8	Our Fossil Ancestors <i>*Lab 3 due</i>	Chap 8-11
9 & 10	Human Diversity & Adaptability The Concept of Race <i>*Lab 4 due</i>	Chap 12-15

*Two lab exercises on the CD that accompanies textbook are completed by students at their convenience on their own computers. The other two lab exercises involve handling materials set up in the Anthropology Lab (065 Millett) during the quarter and are also completed at the convenience of the students during open lab times (9-4:30 each week day). Lab report forms must be filled out and submitted on due dates.

7. Other

Syllabus distributed to student should employ the format approved by UCAP and must include:

- Instructor name, office hours, and contact information
- Office of Disability Services information
- Information on how grades will be determined
- Attendance policy