



UCSC

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, SANTA CRUZ

---

**Anthropology 1: Introduction to Biological Anthropology Session B July 29-August 28**

Lecture and Group Discussions: Tuesdays, Thursdays 9-12:30pm

Social Sciences 1, Room 110

Instructor: Dr. Susan Kuzminsky  
Email: [skuzmins@ucsc.edu](mailto:skuzmins@ucsc.edu)  
Office: Social Sciences 1, Room 305  
Office Hrs.: Tuesdays, 12:45-2:45pm, or by appointment

Teaching Assistant:

Emma Britton: [ebritton@ucsc.edu](mailto:ebritton@ucsc.edu)

Emma's Office Hours: Thursdays, 12:45-1:45pm, SS1 Room 423

**Textbooks:** *Our Origins: Discovering Physical Anthropology* (2014, Third Edition). Clark Spencer Larsen, W.W. Norton & Company, Inc.

*Biological Anthropology* (2013) National Geographic Learning Reader, Wadsworth Cengage Learning.

Several book options are available at the UCSC bookstore, Amazon, or by visiting the publisher's websites: ebooks for rent or purchase, paperback texts, and *Our Origins* looseleaf

**Course Description:**

The purpose of this course is to introduce students to biological (physical) anthropology, a broad discipline that covers a variety of subfields. Through lectures, readings, and discussion, students will learn about the history of the discipline, the different areas of study within it, and the "big questions" in biological anthropology. Drawing from the biological and social sciences, students will learn how researchers employ theory and applications to understand human behavior, adaptation, evolution, and culture. Course topics will include human evolutionary biology and scientific theory, which is central to studying how humans evolved, adapted, and migrated around the globe. Students will also learn about the extinct hominid ancestors and the living primates and how they inform us about human evolution. The end of the course delves into changes that occurred within the last 10,000 years of human history.

**Goals of Student Learning:**

- Understand the development of biological anthropology and the subfields within the discipline
- Learn concepts (e.g., genetics, inheritance) and major events in human evolution
- Understand how extinct human ancestors and living primates inform us about human evolution
- Develop critical thinking skills to review and understand anthropological literature

**Grading:**

Midterm Exam	30%
Final Exam	35%
Weekly Assignments (5)	25%
Attendance and Discussion group participation	10%

**Grade Breakdown:**

Percentage Points	Letter Grade
100-97	A+
96-93	A
92-90	A-
89-87	B+
86-83	B
82-80	B-
79-77	C+
76-70	C
69-60	D
Below 60	F

**Course Expectations:** To earn a good grade in this course, you are expected to attend lecture, complete assignments, do all the weekly readings, and take the midterm and final exams. Late assignments in are not accepted in this course. Make-up assignments and exams are only allowed with formal documentation of an illness or emergency (a doctor's note, for example). In the event of a major emergency (e.g., injury or illness), please contact your TA **BEFORE** the exam.

**Midterm and Final Exams:** The exams will be multiple choice. The midterm will cover all the lecture, reading, and lab material from Chapters 1-6 and the final exam will cover all the lecture, reading, and lab material from Chapters 7-14.

**eCommons:** The course syllabus and lecture slides are available on the UCSC eCommons website. The website will also have copies of the discussion section assignments, deadlines, and any other updates for the course.

**Academic Integrity:** A reminder that it is your ethical responsibility as a student to follow the UCSC policy on academic dishonesty, plagiarism, and cheating:

[http://undergraduate.ucsc.edu/acd\\_integrity/student.html](http://undergraduate.ucsc.edu/acd_integrity/student.html)

**Lecture Hall Rules:** Please arrive to lecture on time and leave when the lecture ends. If you must leave lecture early, please sit in the back to avoid disrupting other students. Unless I ask students to do so, there is no talking during lecture. Please turn cell phones off while in lecture. You may use laptops or other tablet devices to take notes, but no filming is allowed. Cheating during exams is absolutely not tolerated and will lead to serious disciplinary action.

**Discussion and Weekly Assignments:** Your weekly assignments are mandatory and 25% of your grade. Up to one hour of the class time will be dedicated to group work each week. The

groups are designed to foster discussion of the weekly assignments, form study groups, and supplement your lectures. You can print a PDF of your weekly assignment *before class*. Attendance and participation in lectures and weekly discussion groups is mandatory and will comprise 10% of your final grade.

**Weekly readings:** The assigned chapters cover each week's topic, with some overlap from week to week. The purpose of this is to disperse the readings evenly over the condensed five-week summer session. **Warning:** this class moves quickly and it is strongly advisable not to fall behind with readings and the online study materials for the chapters.

**Note:** This syllabus is subject to change. If changes occur, students will be notified in class or through the ecommons course website. Please note that the lecture schedule below is also subject to change, depending on the amount of material covered each week.

<b>Week 1</b>	<b>Topics Covered</b>	<b>Reading/Assignment</b>
7/29, 7/31	Intro to Biological/Physical Anthropology The scientific method Evolution The big events of human evolution History of the discipline Darwin and mechanisms of evolution	Read Chapters 1-3 in Larsen  Assignment 1 and Discussion Group Questions (The Scientific Method, Human Evolution Coloring Book)
<b>Week 2</b>	<b>Topics Covered</b>	<b>Reading/Assignment</b>
8/5, 8/7	Genetics, inheritance ABO Blood Systems Ancient DNA, population genetics Race, biology of living people, Adaptations The other living primates  Video: What Darwin Didn't Know	Read Chapters 4-6 in Larsen  Assignment 2 (Human Evolution Coloring Book assignments)
<b>Week 3</b>	<b>Topics Covered</b>	<b>Reading/Assignment</b>
8/12, 8/14	<b>8/14 MIDTERM (Chapters 1-6, video)</b> Primate behavior Fossils Primate origins and evolution (first 50 million years) Early Hominin origins  TED Talks: Dr. Sue Savage, Dr. Zeresenay Alemseged; Interview-Dr. Jane Goodall	Read Chapters 7-10 in Larsen, Almost Human and Downside of Upright in Nat Geo Reader  Assignment 3 (Discussion Group)
<b>Week 4</b>	<b>Topics Covered</b>	<b>Reading/Assignment</b>
8/19, 8/21	Origins and evolution of early <i>Homo</i> <i>H. habilis</i> , <i>H. erectus</i> , out of Africa  Origins and dispersal of modern people, ancient global migrations	Read Chapters 11-12 in Larsen and the Great Journey and Last of the Neanderthals in Nat Geo reader  Assignment 4 and Discussion Group (Out of Africa Debates and current evidence)
<b>Week 5</b>	<b>Topics Covered</b>	<b>Reading/Assignment</b>
8/26, 8/28	The last 10,000 years: agriculture, population, and bioarchaeology –major cultural transitions Ongoing evolution  <b>FINAL 8/28 (Chapters 7-14, Nat Geo, videos)</b>	Read Chapters 13-14 in Larsen  Assignment 5 and Discussion (bones and behavior; the human skeleton)