

ANTH1: Introduction to Biological Anthropology

SYLLABUS

Anthropology Department, UC Santa Cruz
2022 Summer Session 1
Remote Asynchronous Instruction

COURSE DESCRIPTION -----

Biological anthropology concerns all aspects of present and past human biology. This course introduces students to the various topics of interest to biological anthropologists: scientific theory, evolution, heredity, primatology, social behavior and ecology, paleoanthropology, early hominin evolution, genetic variation and adaptation, and biocultural dynamics in modern populations, among others.

LEARNING OUTCOMES -----

- Familiarity with the development of biological anthropology as a field of anthropology
- Discuss how extinct human ancestors and living primates inform us about the evolution of human variability
- Debate the transition from biology-driven to culture-driven evolution in the human species
- Recognize the role of plasticity in human evolution

EXPECTATIONS -----

Active engagement is crucial for learning but can be tricky in an asynchronous format. To get the most out of the course, it is recommended that you view all lectures, complete all readings and submit all assignments following the syllabus schedule. While it is not mandatory, you are also invited to attend the optional class meetings during which we will discuss contents more informally, together work through the homework activities, and “riff” on additional ideas as they come up.

I and the TAs are your learning resources – please use us! Please communicate with us as soon as possible if at any point you have questions, concerns, issues, or anything else that may come up. The earlier you reach out, the more resources and help we will be able to offer in terms of meetings, discussions, feedback, extensions, make-ups, etc.

COMMUNICATION -----

The best way to communicate with me and TAs is via **direct email and/or Canvas message**. I check my email regularly during work hours Monday through Friday and will usually respond within 48 hours but may take longer on weekends or holidays. Our virtual office hours will be posted on Canvas, but I am also available to schedule a Zoom meeting for a different time. I invite you to send me an email or stop by office hours, even if just to introduce yourself. Speaking with students is my favorite part of teaching and the asynchronous format limits our face-to-face interaction, so I am excited to hear from you.

Contact

kalina kassadjikova (instructor)
kalina@ucsc.edu

Alison Hanson (TA)
akhanson@ucsc.edu

Kirsten Keller (TA)
kikeller@ucsc.edu

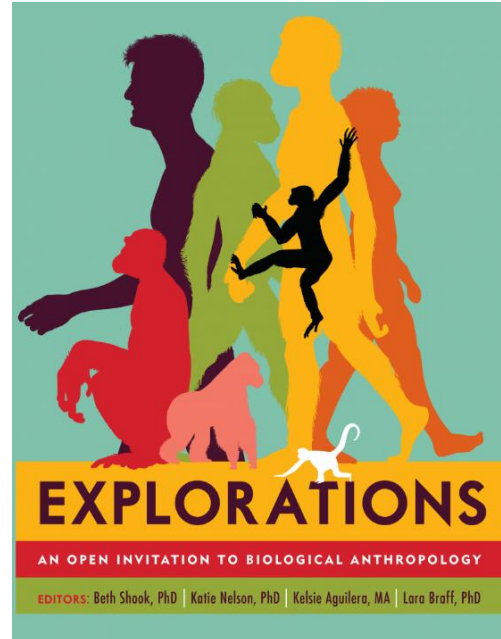
Seth Phillips (TA)
secphill@ucsc.edu

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TEXTBOOK -----

Class will be structured around [Explorations: An Open Invitation to Biological Anthropology](#). The full textbook is available online for free in a browser or to download. You can also explore the website for additional learning resources, activities, chapter summaries, videos, PowerPoints, etc., some of which we will go through together as part of the class.



ETIQUETTE -----

Learning occurs most effectively in a safe, welcoming, and inclusive environment. Please engage with fellow scholars in a respectful and kind manner. Discussing opposing views can be a generative and educational exercise but needs to be carried out with sensitivity to others. If at any point you have concerns about the classroom environment, please communicate with me or a TA as soon as possible and we will promptly address the situation.

ACCOMODATIONS -----

I prioritize providing you to the best of my abilities with all the resources that you need to succeed in this class. If you have a Disability Resource Center (DRC) accommodation, the earlier you forward it, the quicker we can arrange for a learning environment that works for you. If you suspect that you may benefit from such an accommodation, you can reach the DRC at 459-2089 V, 459-4806 TTY.

ASSESSMENT -----

Weekly activities and labs will challenge you to think more conceptually about the factual information presented in lecture and put some of the ideas into practice. There will generally be 2 activities to complete every week, and you should expect to spend about 3 hours on these. Activities can be completed on your own or with our guidance during the optional class meetings. The midterm and final exams will be on Canvas and will include multiple choice, short answer, and longer answer responses. Optional quizzes are available every week, which you can use to review materials and test your knowledge as we move through the course. More details for all assignments can be viewed on Canvas.

Course Grade Comprises:
Activities/Labs (50%)
Midterm (25%)
Final (25%)

Because of the asynchronous format, it is important to keep pace with the class syllabus and not miss out on concepts that build on each other. To encourage you to not fall behind, weekly assignments submitted past the due date will lose 20% of the grade per week late. All A, B, or C work will earn a “Passing” grade, but C- or D work will earn “Not passing.” Please note that per [university policy](#), grades of C- or lower will credit to the degree but will not satisfy general education, major requirements or prerequisites.

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COURSE STRUCTURE & SCHEDULE -----

While the course is asynchronous and you can work materials on your own time, the below syllabus and schedule are designed to ensure that we move through contents in tandem. If any changes are made to this schedule, I will notify the class via Canvas Announcements – **please check the Canvas Announcements page regularly and subscribe to receive emails regularly for class announcements to ensure that you don't miss any valuable updates.** Every week's material will be posted on Monday morning, and associated readings/activities are due by the **following Sunday night.**

Week	Topics Covered	Chapters	Activities
1. Introduction to Biological Anthropology & Evolution	Intro to course and field Evolutionary theory Heredity and evolution	1-4	Knowing and Believing activity Science & Belief activity
2. Evolution & Primates	Living primates Behavioral ecology Primate life histories and societies	5, 6, 8	Evolutionary Detectives activity Primate Tweets activity Life in the Trees documentary Modern Primate Museum
3. Paleo-environments and the Earliest Hominins	Fossil context and paleoenvironments Early hominin behavior Early <i>Homo</i>	7, 9-11	Australopithecine Locomotion lab Brain, Language, Lithics activity Midterm Exam
4. The genus <i>Homo</i>	Other hominins & technological traditions Origin & dispersal of modern humans Modern human variation	12-13	<i>Homo</i> virtual lab Culture-driven Evolution activity Power of an Illusion documentary
5. Contemporary Human Evolution	Race and evolutionary adaptation Contemporary human evolution Forensic anthropology	13-16	Patterns of Human Variation activity Health & Evolution activity Final Exam

Lectures will be available as pre-recorded Yuja videos including a PowerPoint presentation and voiceover narration. Powerpoints will be additionally available for download from Canvas. The introduction module features a Yuja tutorial on how to use all the available functions such as captioning, lecture transcript, and search functions.

PowerPoint is available to all students with a @ucsc.edu email as part of Microsoft Office 365. Instructions for how to download and install on your computer can be found here:

<https://its.ucsc.edu/software/office365.html>.

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ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT & INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY -----

It is vitally important that all work that you submit for this class is your own original work. Academic honesty will be taken seriously and students are expected to read and understand the UCSC policies and procedures on Academic Misconduct: www.ue.ucsc.edu/academic_misconduct. These policies include cheating, fabrication, falsification and forgery, multiple submission, plagiarism, complicity and computer misuse. Materials made available to you as part of this course are the instructor, UCSC and textbook publisher's intellectual property and it is illegal to record, copy, disseminate, sell, or post online any of them outside the scope of this course. This includes lectures, lecture slides posted to Canvas, lecture notes, chapter notes, assignments, quizzes, exams. If it seems that these policies have been infringed, we will contact you directly.