

I. Human Prehistory

ANT 110

3 credit hours - 3 contact hours

Catalogue Description

An introduction to early human biological and cultural variability emphasizing evolution, cultural adaptation and cultural change within different environments using the subfields of physical anthropology and archaeology.

II. Course Objectives and Outcomes

Objectives

1. Explore the nature of human diversity, and integrate it into a holistic worldview.
2. Better understand the roles of biology and the natural environment in human physical and cultural evolution.
3. Introduce tools and methods of physical anthropologists and archaeologists, and the nature of anthropological materials, both written and visual.
4. Formulate, consider, and debate questions of the origins of human biological and cultural patterns.
5. Appreciate how human behaviors are inter-dependent.
6. Encourage and develop individual learning and critical thinking through a variety of processes including writing, hand-on exercises and group activities.
7. Study all human societies and cultures objectively, not in terms of our own culture and values.

Student Learning Outcomes

1. Read anthropological materials and explain orally/in writing the main idea(s), supporting data and author's point of view (reading, writing).
2. State questions about human behavior in the past that are personally meaningful and academically relevant (global concerns, values, citizenship).
3. Express effectively one's personal values and apply them in a cross-cultural context (ethics/ values).
4. Observe, describe, analyze and effectively report anthropological data (critical thinking, problem solving, writing, computer literacy).
5. Write an anthropological essay using evidence drawn from written, visual and oral sources (critical thinking, problem solving, computer literacy, writing).
6. Effectively use the information technology of the college library and department of audiovisual services (information resources, computer literacy).

College Competencies

Reading, Writing, Global concerns, Ethics/Values, Citizenship, Critical Thinking, Problem Solving, Computer Literacy, Information Resources

III. Methods of Instruction

Materials: may include textbook, lab workbook and other materials

Methods of Instruction: may include lecture, internet exercises, class laboratory exercises, discussions, videos and fieldtrips

Assessment Measures:

Students will conduct basic research into aspects of physical anthropology, biological anthropology or archaeology, and write papers describing the research.

Students will develop and apply hypotheses to common anthropological or archaeological events, such as site formation, biometric differences, or behavior/culture interactions

Students will conduct basic fieldwork on a physical, biological anthropology or archaeology event and write a paper describing the research.

Students will present an analysis and evaluation of their own fieldwork research

Students will complete objective test items that demonstrate understanding of major concepts in physical anthropology and archaeology

Methods of Evaluation: may include quizzes, exams, laboratory reports, current news article summaries and internet exercises

IV. General Topics Covered

I. The Study of Humankind	1. Introduction (a) Who are we, why are we here? (b) What is anthropology?
II. Methods of Studying the Human Past	2. Archaeology 3. Biology and Evolution
III. Primate Evolution	4. The Modern Primates 5. Fossil Primates
IV. Early Hominid Evolution	6. The Earliest Hominids 7. <i>Homo habilis</i> and Culture Origins 8. <i>Homo erectus</i>
V. Becoming Modern	9. Archaic <i>Homo sapiens</i> and Neanderthal 10. The emergence of Modern <i>Homo sapiens</i>
VI. Diversity and the Roots of Civilization	11. Cultivation and Domestication 12. Cities and the rise of Civilization 13. Modern Human Diversity