



Class Location & Time: Online until further notice

Instructor: Christine Jones, PhD

Office: Heritage Hall 204C

Office Hours: By appointment (Virtual available: Zoom, Skype, or chat office hours)

Contact me: Via Canvas message or at [Bioarchjones@tamuct.edu](mailto:Bioarchjones@tamuct.edu)

### **Catalog Course Description:**

This course is an introduction to the anthropological study of human biology. Students will examine the basic anatomy of the human skeleton, evolutionary processes acting on human populations, non-human primate anatomy, the classification and ecology of primates, the primate paleontological record, and human variation and adaptation.

### **Mode of instruction and course access/ Student-instructor interaction**

*As of March 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2020, this course will be delivered online, using the A&M-Central Texas Canvas Learning Management System [<https://tamuct.instructure.com/>]. Since this is now an online class, most communication between the instructor and students will be electronic in nature (see contact information above).*

### **Warrior Shield:**

Emergency Warning System for Texas A&M University-Central Texas

Warrior Shield is an emergency notification service that gives Texas A&M University-Central Texas the ability to communicate health and safety emergency information quickly via email, text message, and social media. All students are automatically enrolled in Warrior Shield through their myCT email account. Connect to Warrior Shield by [911Cellular](#) [<https://portal.publicsafetycloud.net/Account/Login>] to change where you receive your alerts or to opt out. By staying enrolled in Warrior Shield, university officials can quickly pass on safety-related information, regardless of your location.

### **Technology Requirements**

This course will use the A&M-Central Texas Instructure Canvas learning management system.

**We strongly recommend the latest versions of Chrome or Firefox browsers. Canvas no longer supports any version of Internet Explorer.**

Logon to A&M-Central Texas Canvas [<https://tamuct.instructure.com/>] or access Canvas through the TAMUCT Online link in myCT [<https://tamuct.onecampus.com/>]. You will log in through our Microsoft portal.

Username: Your MyCT email address. Password: Your MyCT password

### **Canvas Support**

Use the Canvas Help link, located at the bottom of the left-hand menu, for issues with Canvas. You can select “Chat with Canvas Support,” submit a support request through “Report a Problem,” or call the Canvas support line: 1-844-757-0953.

For issues related to course content and requirements, contact your instructor.

### Other Technology Support

For log-in problems, students should contact Help Desk Central  
24 hours a day, 7 days a week

Email: [helpdesk@tamu.edu](mailto:helpdesk@tamu.edu)

Phone: (254) 519-5466

[Web Chat](http://hdc.tamu.edu): [http://hdc.tamu.edu]

*Please let the support technician know you are an A&M-Central Texas student.*

### Required Textbook/Readings:

- Larsen, CS. 2019 Essentials of Biological Anthropology, 4th ed. WW Norton & Co. ISBN: 9780393667431
- Soluri, KE. & Agarwal, SC. 2020 Laboratory Manual and Workbook for Biological Anthropology. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. WW Norton & Co. ISBN: 9780393680683

### Student Learning Objectives:

Students will learn:

- Basic anatomy of the human species
- Non-human primate anatomy, classification and ecology
- How primatology informs our understanding of the human species
- Evolutionary processes acting on human populations through time
- How the fossil record contributes to our understanding of human evolution
- Human variation and adaptation

### Course requirements:

1. **Reading assignments:** Readings from the textbook are listed in the course schedule below.
2. **Exams:** There will be two exams (midterm and final) that are mostly multiple choice but may contain a combination of multiple choice, fill in the blank or short answer style questions. Exams will cover textbook readings and assignments and are not cumulative unless stated otherwise. Study sheets will be provided for each exam.
  - a. **Online final exam.** The format for the final exam is similar to the midterm (see above). The final exam is open book/open notes and is not cumulative. Online exams will not be timed but you’ll only get one attempt. That means once you begin an exam, you will not be timed, but you must finish the exam in one sitting. This is different from time windows (see below), which describes how long exams are available.
  - b. **Time window for online final.** You will have a specific window of time during which you can choose the best time to take the exam. **THE FINAL**

**EXAM WINDOW WILL OPEN MONDAY MAY 4<sup>TH</sup> AT 8AM AND WILL CLOSE WEDNESDAY MAY 6TH AT 11:59PM.** If you miss this time window, you will not be able to enter the quiz/exam, so please plan accordingly. Please avoid taking your exam 1 hour before the exam window closes, as this will affect how long you have to complete the exam.

c. **More information on online exams (technical):**

- If you press back by accident, your internet or power cuts off, or some other known reason locks you out of your exam and you need your exam reset, please email me immediately so I can resolve the problem **BEFORE THE EXAM WINDOW CLOSES.**
- If you have a technical problem that is unknown or not resolvable by you such as Canvas gives you errors when you try to submit questions, or you can't get into Canvas at all because your password suddenly doesn't work, please send an email to notify the instructor and then proceed to contact either Canvas support or the help desk (contacts listed at top of syllabus). Once you receive a reply from Canvas/Help desk with a ticket number, forward that email to your instructor so she can reset your exam and you can resume it once your technical problem is fixed.

3. **Lab Assignments/Quizzes:** Prior to spring break we were working on short lab assignments in the lab using the lab workbook to reinforce the concepts for each section. Students are encouraged to continue to work in their lab workbooks as a way to keep up with the material.

- **After March 23, lab assignments will convert to open book/ open notes chapter quizzes. These assignments are still worth 25 points and will have suggested due dates posted on Canvas. Suggested due dates are provided so that students can remain on track with the material for each week, but students will be able to complete quizzes through the end of the semester at any time without a point deduction. Students should make sure to complete all quizzes before they close on May 8<sup>th</sup> at 11:59pm.**

4. **Final paper:** You will turn in a 2-3 page (double spaced, 12 pt font) article review on a peer-reviewed academic article of your choosing as your final paper **due on May 1st** on Canvas. **See the guidelines for the final paper assignment attached at the end of the syllabus.**

5. **Extra credit:** Students can earn extra credit by turning in an optional assignment during week 12 (see extra credit option information in the course schedule).

Coursework	Points
Exams (2 @ 200 pts each )	400
Labs/Quizzes (12 @ 25 pts each)	300
Final paper	300
<b>Total:</b>	1000

Points	%	Grade
900 – 1000	90 – 100%	A
800 – 899	80 – 89%	B
700 – 799	70 – 79%	C
600 – 699	60 – 69%	D
0 – 599	0 – 59%	F

**Grade posting:** All grades will be posted online; it usually takes about 1 week for me to grade your work. Be assured that I am grading your work as fast as I possibly can.

### COURSE SCHEDULE

#### Week 1

**Jan 13 M:** Syllabus review and introduction

**Jan 15 W:** History of Evolutionary thought, **LAB 1: Scientific method**

**Readings from textbook:** Ch. 1

**Readings from workbook:** Lab 1

#### Week 2

**Jan 20 M:** No CLASS, Happy MLK Jr. Day!

**Jan 22 W:** Principles of Evolution

**Readings:** Ch. 2

**Readings from workbook:** Lab 2

#### Week 3

**Jan 27 M:** Cellular genetics,

**Jan 29 W:** Mendelian genetics, **LAB 3: Inheritance**

**Readings:** Ch. 3, Ch. 4 to pg 80

**Readings from workbook:** Lab 3

#### Week 4

**Feb 3 M:** Modern synthesis

**Feb 5 W:** Forces of Evolution, **LAB 4: Forces of evolution**

**Readings from textbook:** Finish Ch. 4, Ch. 5

**Readings from workbook:** Lab 4 and 8

#### Week 5

**Feb 10 M:** Human variation **LAB 6: Bones of the skeleton**

**Feb 12 W:** Survey of primates, **LAB 9: Classification**

**Readings from textbook:** Ch. 6 to pg. 148

**Readings from workbook:** Lab 6 and 9 sections

#### Week 6

**Feb 17 M:** NO CLASS, **\*Complete LAB 10: LIVING PRIMATES--SUBMIT ONLINE\*\***

**Feb 19 W:** NO CLASS, **\*Complete LAB 11: PRIMATE BEHAVIOR—SUBMIT ONLINE\*\***

**Readings from textbook:** Finish Ch. 6

**Readings from workbook:** Lab 10 and 11

#### Week 7:

**Feb 24 M:** Living primates: anthropoids

**Feb 26 W:** Primate ecology & sociality, **LAB 12: Comparative primate anatomy**

**Readings from textbook:** Ch. 7

**Readings from workbook:** Lab 12

Week 8:

**Mar 2 M:** Study session/Review

**Mar 4 W: MIDTERM EXAM**

\*\*\*\*SPRING BREAK: WEEK OF MARCH 9\*\*\*\*

**Week 9 (Mar 16): Classes canceled for online preparation**

Students should familiarize themselves with Canvas and check for updates

**Week 10 (Mar 23): Fossils evidence and Primate Evolution**

**Topics:** Fossils and Dating, Early primate evolution

**To do:** Watch lecture videos posted in Week 10 module

**Assignment:** Chapter 9 Quiz on Early primate evolution (Suggested due date March 29).

**Readings from textbook:** Chapters 8 and 9

**Readings from workbook:** Lab 13

**Week 11 (Mar 30): Human Lineage**

**Topics:** Australopithecines

**To do:** Watch lecture videos posted in Week 11 module

**Assignment:** Chapter 10 Quiz on Identifying Human lineage (Suggested due date April 5).

**Readings from textbook:** Chapter 10

**Readings from workbook:** Lab 14

**Week 12 (Apr 6): Intro to Genus Homo**

**Topics:** Intro to Genus *Homo*

**To do:** Watch lecture videos posted in Week 12 module, submit your final paper topic in the “Paper topic” discussion board (directions posted there).

**Optional Assignment:** Submit ONE of the following by uploading a word document using the submission link titled “Extra Credit Final Paper Optional” located in the Week 12 module.

You can only submit ONE, you can’t receive credit for both.

- a. Turn in complete final paper draft on April 10<sup>th</sup> and receive 10 extra credit points. You will receive feedback on this paper draft to incorporate into your final paper. Your complete draft should be complete in every way (see note in Final paper guidelines at bottom of syllabus).
- b. Turn in the full reference for your selected article on April 10<sup>th</sup> and receive 5 extra credit points. Example of a full reference: Jones, C. 2019. Brucellosis in an adult female from Fate Bell Rock Shelter, Lower Pecos, Texas (4000-1300 BP). *International Journal of Paleopathology*. 24:252-264. Please submit your full reference typed up in a word document.

**Readings from textbook:** Chapter 11

**Readings from workbook:** Lab 15

**Week 13 (Apr 13): Homo erectus & dispersal**

**Topics:** *Homo erectus* & dispersal

**To do:** Watch lecture videos posted in Week 13 module

**Assignment:** Chapter 11 quiz on Australopithecines (Suggested due date Apr 19)

**Readings from textbook:** Start ch. 12

**Readings from workbook:** Lab 16

**Week 14 (Apr 20): Neanderthals**

**Topics:** Neandertals and Middle Pleistocene *Homo*

**To do:** Watch lecture videos posted in Week 14 module

**Assignment:** Chapter 12 quiz on Later Genus *Homo* (Suggested due date Apr 26)

**Readings from textbook:** Finish ch. 12

**Week 15 (Apr 27): AMH**

**Topics:** Anatomically modern humans (AMH)

**To do:** Watch lecture videos posted in Week 14 module

**Assignment:** FINAL PAPER DUE Friday May 1<sup>st</sup>. Submit paper following final paper guidelines listed at the bottom of the syllabus.

**Readings from textbook:** Ch. 13

**Week 16 (May 4): Finals week**

**Topics:** No new material this week

**To do:** Review notes and study guide

**Exam:** Final exam window opens Monday May 4<sup>th</sup> at 8am and closes Wednesday May 6<sup>th</sup> at 11:59pm.

**COURSE PROCEDURES AND POLICIES**

**Modification of the Syllabus**

This syllabus may be revised in minor ways at the discretion of the instructor. The student is responsible for noting any changes in the syllabus. More than likely, a change in the syllabus will pertain to events in the Course Schedule. If so, a revised course schedule will be posted on CANVAS.

**Diversity in the Classroom**

Respect for cultural and human biological diversity are core concepts within the Social Sciences. In this course, each voice in the classroom has something of value to contribute to class discussion. Please respect the different experiences, beliefs and values expressed by your fellow students and instructor, and refrain from derogatory comments about other individuals, cultures, groups, or viewpoints. In this course we welcome individuals of all ages, backgrounds, citizenships, disabilities, education, ethnicities, family statuses, genders, gender identities, geographical locations, languages, military experience, political views, races, religions, sexual orientations, socioeconomic statuses, and work experiences.

**Makeup exam policy (After March 23, 2020)**

Students who miss the exam due to legitimate illness of themselves or a family member are eligible for a makeup exam. Please contact the instructor if you know you will miss the exam window due to illness, or ASAP in the event of missing the exam window to review makeup options. Be aware that the semester end date may limit the ability for the student to turn in work after the exam window has closed.

**Late Work Policy (For all work assigned after March 23, 2020)**

All due dates are suggested due dates (with the exception of the final exam window, and any extra credit options). Assignments can be submitted at any time up through May 8<sup>th</sup> for full credit.

**UNIVERSITY RESOURCES, PROCEDURES, AND GUIDELINES**

*All University resources, procedures, and guidelines are available online through the A&M-Central Texas Canvas Learning Management System [<https://tamuct.instructure.com/>] in the modules section.*

**Copyright Notice.**

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**See next page for final paper guidelines**

## Final Paper Guidelines

This assignment gives students the opportunity to critically evaluate current research within biological anthropology. In this assignment, you will write a short article review on the article of your choice. This article must discuss topics pertinent to biological anthropology and must follow the guidelines below.

### Learning Objectives

Upon completion of this assignment, students will be able to:

1. Identify and explain the methods of scientific inquiry.
2. Identify and summarize current issues within biological anthropology.
3. Apply critical reading and thinking skills to evaluate scholarly arguments.

### Due Dates

The final paper must be submitted in a word document uploaded to the submission link online by Friday May 1st at 11:59pm. Late assignments will be accepted through Friday May 8<sup>th</sup> but students may not receive feedback on work submitted after May 1st.

**UPDATE AS OF MARCH 23:** In order for me to accept your final paper, all students must post their selected topic no later than APRIL 10 in the Paper Topic discussion board in the week 12 module. You may post your topic at any time once the discussion board opens.

### Extra credit option

Students may submit a draft version of the final paper for 10 points extra credit on or before April 10<sup>th</sup>. The submission link for the draft paper will be called “Extra Credit Final Paper Optional” and will be located in the Week 12 module.

- The draft must be a completed version of the final paper, including a full reference for the selected article (if the instructor cannot find the article due to an incomplete reference you will not receive full points). Do not attempt to attach the article pdf to the paper or to submit it in the submission window.
- I will not grade partially completed papers for extra credit but I can provide general feedback.

### **Guidelines for Article Selection**

1. First you must select a paper topic. There is a suggested topic list posted at the end of the guidelines below. You may select a topic that is not on the suggested list, but ALL topics must come from one of the journals listed below. **UPDATE AS OF MARCH 23:** In order for me to accept your final paper, you must post your selected topic no later than APRIL 10 in the Paper topic discussion board.
  - The instructor will give feedback on topic selection in the grade feedback window of the discussion board.
  - It is recommended that before deciding and submitting your paper topic in the discussion board that you conduct a search (below) to find if an appropriate article containing that topic is available.
2. After selecting a topic, you should then conduct online library research to choose an article. You are to look for a recently published (2015-present) article on your topic that is at least 5 pages in length. The article you choose to review must come from one of the following peer-reviewed academic journals:
  - *American Journal of Physical Anthropology*
  - *Nature*
  - *American Journal of Primatology*
  - *Science*
  - *American Anthropologist*
  - *American Journal of Human Biology*
  - *Anthropological Science*
  - *Current Anthropology*
3. A video reviewing these guidelines and how to search for articles will be posted in the weekly modules, but you should also contact Dr. Jones if you have any difficulties locating these sources.
4. Read your selected article. Write the paper following the requirements and template listed below.

### **Review Paper Formatting Requirements**

1. Paper length should be 2-3 typed pages (does not include works cited), double-spaced, Times New Roman 12-point font, 1-inch margins

2. Papers should have an introduction, body, and conclusion following the template below. Check spelling, use proper sentence structure, and use citations following a standard format such as APA. As this is a review paper, you should typically only have one citation (your selected article) and a works cited page which lists the full reference for the selected article.
3. Include your full name and assignment title in the upper right-hand corner of the first page. **Please do not make a separate cover page.**
4. **Include the full reference for the article you selected to review on a works cited page.** Example of a full reference: Jones, C. 2019. Brucellosis in an adult female from Fate Bell Rock Shelter, Lower Pecos, Texas (4000-1300 BP). *International Journal of Paleopathology*. 24:252-264.

### **Suggested Template for Review Papers (Grading rubric is based on this template)**

#### **1. Introduction**

- Short introduction to your selected topic
- Article's title, author, and source; summarize the main idea of the article
- Don't forget to cite the article you are reviewing if you refer to it directly
  - Example: In her article on brucellosis, Jones provides a full list of all known skeletal collections with evidence of brucellosis infection (Jones, 2019).
- Topic sentence: what will you be discussing?  
Example: "Smith's research on the agricultural revolution provides new data for a controversial topic, but his conclusions rely on too many assumptions."

#### **2. Body**

- Brief description of the article's contents (1-2 paragraphs only)
- Analysis: Describe how the article relates to course topics, textbook readings, and to other literature with which you are familiar
- Your opinion of the article. Do you agree or disagree with the author's conclusions? Does the evidence presented support the conclusions? Do you find the paper relevant or irrelevant, and why? Why did you choose this article?

#### **3. Conclusion**

- Summarize your main points; Expound upon the broader significance of the topic; if possible, suggest future lines of research

#### **4. Works cited section**

- Use a standard format (e.g. MLA, APA) to cite the article you reviewed.

### **Suggested Topics**

You CAN select a topic not listed here, these are just suggestions! If you select a

#### *Human Evolution*

- The evolution of the human diet
- Tool use and the brain
- The biological basis of language in humans
- Did Neanderthals, early *Homo*, and/or australopithecines have language capabilities?
- Recent genetic evidence on Denisovans
- The impact of disease on evolution

#### *Human Variation*

- High altitude adaptations
- Impact of exercise on the human body
- What can human teeth, stature, and/or skeletal remains tell us about dietary preferences?
- How and why have different human eye colors spread?
- Psychological and environmental stress and its impact on human health and growth

#### *Primate Behavior*

- What can primate behavior tell us about our earliest ancestors?
- Are primate females selected to be monogamous?
- How are bonobos and common chimpanzees different?
- What can primate behavior tell us about earliest human ancestors?
- Do non-human primates have culture?