ANTHROPOLOGY 1131-003
Introduction to Physical Anthropology and Human Origins
Fall 201130

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(Note: include “Anth 1131” in email subject headings or the email will be deleted without being read)

REQUIRED TEXT

Keenlyside, Anne and Lazenby, Richard

COURSE EVALUATION I

Exams will be based on class material, text and readings, in order of importance.
The grading system follows the official Anthropology Department policy.

GRADING SYSTEM *:

A+  95-100    Distinguished
A    87-94
A-   83-86
B+  79-82    Above Average
B    74-78
B-   70-73
C+  65-69    Average
C    60-64
C-   55-59
D    50-54    Credit granted, but insufficient mastery to proceed to next level
F    49 or less    Failing grade

* Provisional. These figures are a guideline and are subject to modification.

COURSE EVALUATION II

Laboratory exercises    10%
Critical reviews        08%
Library Workshop        02%
Exam #1                 25%
Exam #2                 25%
Final Exam              30%
Notes:

The final examination must be written in order to avoid an automatic incomplete ("N") letter grade. Class attendance is mandatory as the instructor does not necessarily tailor exams to textbooks. All coursework deadlines are fixed. They are not negotiable. Assignments must be handed in during regularly scheduled class periods on the date due. Penalties will be awarded for late submission of assignments. Completion of all assignments is required for a minimal passing grade. **Assignments turned in later than one week past the due date will not be marked, unless prior arrangements have been made with the instructor.

Exams:

Students will be given advance notice of the date of the 2 midterm exams. If a student does not write the exam on the day scheduled they will automatically receive an "F" grade for that exam. The instructor must be notified on the day of the exam in the case of illness or emergency. Medical documentation will be required. Students will not be allowed to write an exam once the exams have been returned to the class.

Student behaviour inhibiting the learning atmosphere (i.e. disruptive acts such as talking, cell phone use, consistently late arrival/early departure to/from class, etc.) may lead to dismissal with the student being barred from further attendance. This would mean an "F" or "N" letter grade (GPA=0).

**Cell phones MUST be turned off during class. Failure to do so may result in the student being excused from the class.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

By the end of this course successful students will:

- be able to demonstrate sufficient knowledge and comprehension of basic method and theory of the discipline, in addition to a basic grasp of analytic abilities required, that they may advance to further studies for which this course is a prerequisite.

Successful students will acquire an understanding of:

- palaeoanthropology and the human evolutionary sequence based upon the fossil record, archaeometry and evolutionary theory.
• the modern and earlier theories of evolution, particularly the roles of Natural Selection, Mutations, Genetic Drift, Gene Flow as well as Darwinian versus Punctuated Equilibria rates.
• modern biological human variation and the impacts of recent advances in molecular biology.
• field methods in palaeoanthropology (survey, excavation, dating, etc.)
• current and fossil primate evolutionary trends as well as how modern primate behavior can serve (or not) as models for early hominin behavior, and species variation in fossil hominins.

Textbook Readings

Chapter   Content
1 Introduction to the discipline
2 History of evolutionary theory
3-4 Genetics and modern evolutionary theory
5 Modern primates
6 Primate Behaviour (analogs for early hominids)
7 Primate Evolution, fossil record (fossil primates) and geological time
8 What it means to be a Hominin
9 The ape-hominid transition (early Hominins)
10 Plio-Pleistocene hominds and Genus Homo
11 Archaic Hominins (Neanderthals, etc)
12 Genus Homo
13-16 Modern Applications of Anthropology

** Additional Readings as assigned in class

Laboratory Exercises (10%): TBA – these are lab exercises that will involve human skeletal remains and/or InterNet research, analysis and reporting.

Library Research Assignments – Critical Reviews (8 % + 2% for library workshop…see Classroom workshops below)

These projects require you, the student, to read, summarize and evaluate two journal articles concerning course subjects.

You will read and evaluate two articles as a single exercise. An evaluation using standard reporting format (format etc will be posted on WebCT course page) is required for final submission (maximum 750 to 1000 words).
A list of articles and topics will be provided in class. Once you have chosen which articles you will be critiquing, download them from JSTOR, Science Direct, AnthroSource or a similar search engine. Access to search engines is via the Langara Library weblink on the college website (www.langara.bc.ca). Instructions for using these will be covered in mandatory class workshops.

**Examples of Research Topics:**

1) What are “ancient DNA” and “mitochondrial DNA” and how are they used in this discipline?  
   (Hint: tracing ancestral/descendant populations);

2) What do stable isotopes such as $\frac{^{13}}{^{12}}$C and $\frac{^{15}}{^{14}}$N tell us about human skeletal remains?  
   (Hint: palaeo-diets);

3) What is the nature and significance, if any, of the evidence that Neandertals could speak?  
   (Hint: hyoid bone, speech = culture);

4) What is the significance of Australopithecine bipedalism? Was it a “human” form of locomotion?  
   (Hint: were they “humans” or “quasi-apes”?);

Many other appropriate topics can be found at the end of each textbook chapter under “Critical Thinking Questions”.

**Classroom Workshops**  
(2%)

Mandatory Research workshops will be held during regular class times. Topics include: On-line journal searches, reputable sources and how to tell them from junk science as well as reading technical articles for comprehension (recognizing hypotheses and evaluation of arguments). Sample searches will be conducted on-line using JSTOR (Langara Library webpage).

Students will be expected to search for relevant articles, download and critique them for a library research project (see above). As such, all students must be able to access the InterNet either from home or from a college facility. Each student is automatically provided with a Langara email address as part of the registration process. On-campus access to computers is variable – try the library and open lab times in the various computer labs on campus. Students are advised to purchase an inexpensive flash-drive for downloads.

++ For questions regarding transfer and articulation, please go to the BC Transfer Guide, [http://bctransferguide.ca](http://bctransferguide.ca)