Biological Anthropology  
(ANTH M01)

John Baker, Dr.phil.  
Moorpark College  
Spring 2017

Office: LMC-211  
Office Telephone: (805) 553-4720  
Office Hours: Monday - Thursday: 12:00 – 1:00  
Monday: 5:30-6:30 pm  
(other times by appointment)  
e-mail: johnbaker@vcccd.edu

Class web site:  
http://sunny.moorparkcollege.edu/~jbaker/classes/

Required Text:  
Larsen, Clark Spencer, *Essentials of Physical Anthropology*  

*Anthropology* is the study of humans. Reflecting the fact that humans can be studied from a variety of viewpoints, anthropology in North America has traditionally been a four-field discipline. *Cultural Anthropology* considers the achievements of the human mind and the methods that humans have utilized to explain and exploit the environment. *Archaeology* investigates the evidence that tells us what humans did in the past. *Linguistic Anthropology* considers the diversity and the commonalities in the most important tool which humans have developed to shape their world: language. *Biological Anthropology* considers humans from a biological point of view – asking questions about such topics as the range of diversity that exists among human groups, how this diversity came about, what the relationship is between the needs of our physical bodies and the manners in which cultures choose to fulfill these needs, and what the relationship is between our species and other species of animals that resemble us in a number of ways.

In this course, we shall be dealing with humans primarily from the biological perspective. Support for the view that humans are the product of an extremely long line of development comes from a variety of sources, including physics, biology, geology, chemistry, comparative anatomy, embryology, genetics, and paleontology. The concept that links all of this diverse knowledge together, however, only emerged in the nineteenth century: the theory of evolution. In this class, we will discuss the rise of evolutionary theory and the science of genetics. We will also see that real understanding, both within science and without, comes from placing fact before doctrine, and thus involves subjecting ideas to continual revision as new evidence becomes available.
Important Information about this Course

Course Description: ANTH M01 introduces the scientific method as used in the study of humans as biological organisms. Focuses on human evolution and diversity, including genetics, evolution, primatology, paleoanthropology, human variation, and biocultural adaptation. Students completing this course will understand how humans relate to other living organisms, and how the tools of science are used to reconstruct the past history of our species.

Student Learning Outcome: Students will be able to understand the biological basis for human evolution, in terms of evolutionary theory, primate studies, and the human fossil record.

Course Objectives - upon the successful completion of ANTH M01, you should be able to:

1. Describe the scientific process as a methodology for understanding the natural world.
2. Define the scope of anthropology and discuss the role of biological anthropology within the discipline.
3. Identify the main contributors to the development of evolutionary theory.
4. Explain the basic principles of Mendelian, molecular and population genetics.
5. Evaluate how the forces of evolution produce genetic and phenotypic change over time.
6. Demonstrate an understanding of classification, morphology and behavior of living primates.
7. Summarize methods used in interpreting the fossil record, including dating techniques.
8. Recognize the major groups of hominin fossils and describe alternate phylogenies for human evolution.
9. Identify the biological and cultural factors responsible for human variation.

At Moorpark College, the Anthropology Program is part of the Life Sciences Department. The Life Sciences Department is part of the EATM, Life & Health Sciences Division. Here is the contact information you will need if you wish to contact either the Department Chair or the Division Office:

Life Sciences Department
Chair: Andrew Kinkella
Office: LMC-205
Voice Mail: (805) 553-4714
Email: akinkella@vcccd.edu

Division of EATM, Life and Health Sciences
Dean: Norman Marten
Administrative Assistant: Stephanie Kostezak
Office: EATM 212
Division Office: (805) 378-1459
Email: Division124@vcccd.edu

Important!
Students with a disability, whether physical, learning, or psychological, who believe they will need accommodations in this class, are encouraged to contact ACCESS as soon as possible so accommodations can be set up in a timely fashion. Accommodations are based on eligibility and can only be provided if you have submitted verification from ACCESS in the form of a Confidential Memo. The ACCESS office can be reached at (805) 378-1461 and is located in the ground floor of the LMC Building.
Grades: Your grade will be based upon your scores on four (4) examinations (each worth 100 points) as well as a mandatory individual field trip to the Los Angeles Zoo (worth 100 points). You may also earn extra credit (due with either Exam 2 or Exam 3) by completing assignments that will be announced in class and/or posted on the class web page.

Grade scale: A = 450 and above
B = 400 - 449
C = 350 – 399
D = 300 - 349
F = 299 and below

SEMESTER OUTLINE

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No papers will be accepted via email, i.e., all assignments must be turned in in “hard copy” form.

Each student will be allowed to make up a maximum of one missed exam. The make-up will take place immediately after the final, and will be worth a maximum of 75 points.

The last day to drop this (or any other full-semester) class with a “W” is Friday, April, 2017.

Please switch off all phones prior to entering the classroom (= no texting during class!). Persons using computers must sit in one of the first two rows of class.

This syllabus is subject to change.