

Dr. Michael Findlay (Anthropology)

Syllabus: Anthropology 2: Physical Anthropology

Office Hours: MTWTH 1pm to 2pm; F after class

LRC 283 (Office) (Tel. 895-2972) e-mail findlaymi@butte.edu

3 Units

I. PREREQUISITES: NONE

Recommended Prep: Reading Level IV, English Level IV.

COURSE DESCRIPTION: This course introduces the concepts, methods of inquiry, and scientific explanations for biological evolution and their application to the human species. Issues and topics will include, but are not limited to, genetics, evolutionary theory, human variation and biological adaptations, comparative primate anatomy and behavior, the fossil evidence for human evolution. The scientific method serves as the foundation of the course.

II. OBJECTIVES: Upon completion of this course students will be able to:

- A. Describe the scientific process as a methodology for understanding the natural world.
- B. Define the scope of anthropology and discuss the role of biological anthropology.
- C. Identify the main contributors to the development of evolutionary theory.
- D. Explain the basic principles of Mendelian, molecular and population genetics.
- E. Evaluate how the forces of evolution produce genetic and phenotypic change over time.
- F. Demonstrate an understanding of classification, morphology and behavior of living primates.
- G. Summarize methods used in interpreting the fossil record, including dating techniques.
- H. Recognize the major groups of hominin fossils and describe alternate phylogenies for human evolution.
- I. Identify the biological and cultural factors responsible for human variation.

SUBJECTS COVERED: In this course students will learn basic principles of evolution, theories regarding the emergence of primate-hominid divergence, primatology including primate behavior, factors influencing the emergence of *Homo sapiens sapiens*, factors contributing to the emergence of human culture, and contemporary issues relevant to physical anthropology. Finally, students will learn some of the basics of human osteology.

III. ASSIGNED READING:

1. Required: *Essentials of Physical Anthropology* (latest edition) Nelson, Jurmain, and Trevathan.

Assigned Written Work: Each student will write a research paper to be five pages in length. At the end of week seven (**Friday, October 11**) each student will hand in the first "rough" draft. In order to receive the 20 points for the first draft each paper must be exactly five pages in length; have references cited, and the paper should be as polished as possible. I will edit each paper and return them. A final paper will be written and turned in with the first draft **paper clipped** to the final draft at the end of week 13 (**Friday, November 22nd**).

All papers are to be typed, double spaced and must include a **references cited section** at the end of the paper. References, when applicable, must be cited within the main body of the paper as well.

I will hand out in-class a more specific guide for the paper assignment early in the semester.

EXAMINATIONS: We will have two regular exams and a final. These tests, coupled with your Writing assignments, attendance, and in class work will make up 100% of your earned grade. Each student is entitled to a make up exam if they missed an exam due to an excused absence. Make up exams are similar to the exam missed. Check CAS for proctoring hours.