

# COURSE SYLLABUS

## ANTHROPOLOGY 760: SEMINAR IN BIOLOGICAL ANTHROPOLOGY

**Semester:** Fall 2009

**Section:** 1 (M 4:10 - 6:55, SCI 273)

**Instructor:** Mark C. Griffin

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**Office Hours:** MWF 12:00-1:00 or by appt.

### DESCRIPTION:

This is a graduate-level overview of the discipline of biological anthropology. The following topics will be covered in-depth: evolutionary theory, primatology, the primate fossil record, human diversity, anthropological genetics, and NAGPRA. Students must be enrolled in the graduate program in order to enroll in this course.

### COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

- (1) A précis will be prepared for each article from the assigned reading. Each précis should begin with the citation of the reading selection (using *Current Anthropology* style), be about two pages in length, and should summarize and briefly critically evaluate the reading. The précis will contribute 40% toward your final grade for the course.
  - (a) Readings will be completed in advance of the scheduled meeting. At least a week before the scheduled meeting, the instructor will suggest some questions that could be pursued during your reading and reflection. These questions will be intended to be only suggestive, not comprehensive, or definitive.
  - (b) The commentary portion of your précis should be a response to the issues they raise along with questions that you think should be addressed during our meetings. They should try to make connections across some or all of the week's readings. And, as the seminar unfolds week by week, it is especially productive to see what points can be made, and questions raised, that join readings and discussions one week with prior weeks' readings and discussions.
  - (c) The précis should be completed and emailed to the instructor in a WORD document no later than 5pm Friday.
  - (d) At least a day before the meeting of the seminar all of the précis will be posted on the course website as a pdf document. Students should read all of the précis before the meeting.
  - (e) Each week, four students will take the lead in opening the discussion by *teaching* us the material. The discussants will consult with one another and develop an *integrated* introduction to the discussion. Discussants will prepare two separate PowerPoint presentations to assist the collective in developing and directing the discussion. Two discussants will prepare and present a presentation on the context of the subject within the discipline of anthropology. The other two discussants will prepare and present a presentation integrating the material from the assigned readings into the overall context. **Discussants will not present a synopsis of each article for that week but rather should synthesize all of the material by its common theme.** At the first meeting student teams will be assigned to their respective weeks. This will contribute 20% to your final grade for the course.

Presenters should send their presentation to the instructor at least three days in advance of class for review.

- (2) Each student will prepare a series of oral presentations and a final paper on an assigned topic in biological anthropology. Topics will be assigned during the first class. Each student's topic will be developed over the course of the semester and the results will be presented to the class semi-weekly.
- (a) The semi-weekly presentations will follow the schedule below. Each presentation should be a PowerPoint presentation and be about 5-10 minutes in length. You will be evaluated on the quality of research as well as the quality of presentation. The semi-weekly presentations will contribute 20% toward your final grade for the course.
  - (b) A final paper will be due at the end of the semester. The final paper will be the culmination of the research and revisions from the semi-weekly presentations. The final paper (as well as all other written assignments for this course) will include citations using the style of *Current Anthropology*. The final paper will contribute 20% toward your final grade for the course.

*All written assignments will be typed (double-spaced) and are due at the announced time.*

### **TEXTBOOKS:**

*The required reader is available at PhotoDay - 3418 Geary Blvd. (across from the Coronet Theater and Mel's Diner).*

### **ATTENDANCE POLICY:**

**Be here.**

### **ASSIGNMENT POLICY:**

Due to the nature of the assignments, they cannot be turned in late. Failure to turn in an assignment by the due date will result in your removal from the course.

## SCHEDULE

TOPIC	PRESENTATIONS	READING
<i>The Discipline of Biological Anthropology</i>		
Sep 14		Calcagno 2003 Armelagos and Van Gerven 2003 Alter 2007
Sep 21	Thesis Statement with first ten references	
<i>The Evolutionary Perspective</i>		
Oct 5		Darwin <i>et al.</i> 1930 Freeman 1974 McDade 2005
Oct 12	Annotated bibliography with ten references	
<i>Primates</i>		
Oct 19		Strier 2003 Fuentes 2007 Perry 2006
Nov 2	Present (teach) your most important/pivotal/interesting article	
<i>The Fossil Record I</i>		
Nov 16		Ward 2003 Richmond <i>et al.</i> 2001 Proctor 2003 Trinkaus 2005

**SCHEDULE cont.**

<b>TOPIC</b>	<b>PRESENTATIONS</b>	<b>READINGS</b>
<i>Human Diversity</i>		
<b>Nov 30</b>		Templeton 1999 Brown and Armelagos 2001 Edwards 2003
<b>Dec 7</b>	Complete Presentations	
<b>Dec 14</b>	Complete Presentations	
<b>FINAL PAPERS DUE -- Monday 21 December 2009 @ 11:00</b>		

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Reduced funding from the California legislature and governor has necessitated a furlough program (time and pay cut) for all San Francisco State University employees. As a result, all employees are required to restrict their work hours for the fiscal year 2009/2010.

Due to these work restrictions the university is closed (and there will be no classes) on the following days:

Friday September 4 – Tuesday September 8  
Friday October 23 – Monday October 26

Due to the same furlough program, I am required to reduce my workload by taking additional days off. The following class days are therefore canceled for this class (please check with your other instructors as to their furlough schedule):

Monday August 31  
Monday November 9

## SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

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