

COURSE SYLLABUS

ANTHROPOLOGY 760: *SEMINAR IN BIOLOGICAL ANTHROPOLOGY*

Semester: Fall 2010

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

Instructor: Mark C. Griffin

Office: 395 Science

Phone: 338-7519

E-mail: mgriffin@sfsu.edu

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, two students will take the lead in opening the discussion. The two discussants will consult with one another and develop an *integrated* (though not necessarily singular) introduction to the discussion. Discussants should prepare a brief PowerPoint presentation to assist the collective in developing and directing the discussion. **The discussants *should 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 10% 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 30% 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 except in extremely dire circumstances and *only with the prior approval* of the instructor. Jammed printers, obstinate computers, incompetent computer users, recalcitrant cars, dead pets, irritating viruses, busy schedules, and general lack of prior planning **are not** valid excuses for late assignments. Documented catastrophic illness (bubonic plague, typhoid, malaria) or death (yours) *may* be considered in exceptional cases.

You will be held responsible for all information presented in lectures, assigned readings, and any other media (i.e., films, video tapes, slides, etc.). The assigned readings are meant to compliment the material presented in class, not substitute for it (i.e., attend lectures if you plan to pass the course).

SCHEDULE

TOPIC	PRESENTATIONS	READING
<i>The Discipline of Biological Anthropology</i>		
Aug 25		Calcagno 2003 Armelagos and Van Gerven 2003
Sep 1	Thesis Statement with first ten references	
<i>The Evolutionary Perspective</i>		
Sep 8		Freeman 1974 McDade 2005
Sep 15	Annotated bibliography with ten references	
<i>Primates</i>		
Sep 22		Fuentes 2007 Perry 2006
Sep 29	Introduction and major headings	
<i>The Fossil Record I</i>		
Oct 6		Ross 2000 Richmond <i>et al.</i> 2001
Oct 13	Present (teach) your most important/pivotal/interesting article	

SCHEDULE cont.

TOPIC	PRESENTATIONS	READING
<i>The Fossil Record II</i>		
Oct 20		Proctor 2003 Trinkaus 2005
<i>Human Diversity</i>		
Oct 27		Templeton 1999 Edwards 2003
<i>Anthropology and NAGPRA</i>		
Nov 3		Dongoske 1996 Jones and Harris 1998 Ousley <i>et al.</i> 2005
Nov 10	Complete Presentations	
Nov 17	Complete Presentations	
FINAL PAPERS DUE -- Friday 17 December 2010 @ 11:00		

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