

Course and Contact Information

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Office Hours:	W 10:30 ó 11:30 am
Class Days/Time:	TTh 10:45 am ó 12:00 pm
Classroom:	Online Synchronous
GE/SJSU Studies Category:	B2/Life Science

ANTH 12: The human organism from an evolutionary perspective. The foundations of life and evolutionary theory. Introduction to primate behavior and the fossil record. Human biocultural evolution over the last sixty million years. Prerequisites: None.

Course Description

I am excited to work with you this semester! In this course, we will be exploring human and primate variation within an evolutionary framework. This is a scientific course with roots in evolutionary biology, primatology, and paleoanthropology. As part of this class, we will carry out several activities that will allow you to observe evolutionary processes in action. These activities will also give you a better understanding of the scientific processes involved in conducting research and critically evaluating the validity of claims using the scientific method.

Throughout this course, we will examine where humans fit into the animal kingdom, and we will synthesize the biological & cultural processes at work in s ll syu 341.35 Tm0 g

Faculty Web Page and MYSJSU Messaging

Course materials such as syllabus, handouts, notes, assignment instructions, etc. can be found on [Canvas](#)

questions, and be prepared to contribute. Some assignments will require the use of Excel or Google sheets. If you are looking for free options, check out [Excel Online \(https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/microsoft-365/free-office-online-for-the-web\)](https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/microsoft-365/free-office-online-for-the-web) or

This schedule is subject to change with fair notice; any changes will be announced and posted to Canvas.

Course Schedule

Week	Date	Topics	Readings, Assignments, and Deadlines
1	8/19 ó 8/20	Introduction to Physical Anthropology Course overview, scientific method	Reading: Ch. 1 Syllabus, CS 1
2	8/23 ó 8/27	History of Evolutionary Theory The scientific revolution, the geologic timescale, natural selection	Reading: Ch. 2 CS 2
3	8/30 ó 9/3	Cellular Genetics and Molecular Anthropology Cell biology, chromosomes, DNA	Reading: Ch. 3 CS 3
4	9/6 ó 9/10 9/6 <i>Labor Day</i>	Mendelian Genetics Genetic inheritance, human genetics, genetic disorders	Reading: Ch. 3 CS 4
5	9/13 ó 9/17	Modern Synthesis of Evolution Forces of evolution, population genetics, nature vs. nurture	Reading: Ch. 4 CS 5
6	9/20 ó 9/24	Applications Cladistics, homology and homoplasy, speciation, physical anthropology applications	Reading: Ch. 4 CS 6 Debate sign-up due
7	9/27 ó 10/1	Mammalian Evolution Osteology, skeletal determinations, mammal characteristics, primates	Reading: Ch. 15 CS 7
8	10/4 ó 10/8	Primate Evolution Strepsirrhines and tarsiers, New World and Old World monkeys	Reading: Ch. 5 Exam 1 opens/due 10/7
9	10/11 ó 10/15	Apes Lesser and great apes, social structures, social behavior	Reading: Ch. 6 CS 8, CS 9
10	10/18 ó 10/22	Paleoanthropology Paleoecology, Early hominins, Australopithecines	Reading: Ch. 7, Ch. 9 CS 10
11	10/25 ó 10/29	Genus Homo	Reading: Ch. 10 CS 11

Week	Date	Topics	Readings, Assignments, and Deadlines
		Early <i>Homo</i> , dietary and cultural adaptations, genetic determinism	
12	11/1 ó 11/5	Anthropological Methods Analyzing human populations, debates, advanced species in genus <i>Homo</i>	Reading: Ch. 11
13	11/8 ó 11/12 11/11	Behavioral Ecology <i>Homo sapiens</i> , biocultural behavior studies, experiments	Reading: Ch. 12 CS 12