



Introduction to Physical Anthropology/Anth 2700

Instructor Information

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Email me to schedule to an appointment.

Required/Recommended Materials

- [Explorations: an open invitation to biological anthropology by Shook, Braff, Nelson, and Aguilera](#)[Links to an external site.](#)
- [Biological Anthropology: the natural history of humankind](#)[Links to an external site.](#) by Stanford, Allen, and Antón

I only recommend the second text if you are studying to become an anthropologist, or you are going into biology/medicine. If money is tight, use the first one.

- Technology: This course has digital components. To fully participate in this class, students will need internet access to access Canvas Learning Management System. If circumstances change, you will be informed of other technical needs to access course content. Information on how to be successful in a digital learning environment can be found at [Learn Anywhere](#). If you are experiencing technical difficulties contact [UNT's help desk](#).

Course Description and Structure

Study of human biological evolution from primate beginnings to the present era. Emphasis is placed upon anatomical and physiological variations and their adaptive significance.

This course takes place 100% online. We will have a couple synchronous video conferences using Zoom throughout the semester. Other than that, your interaction with me and with your fellow students will take place in Canvas. However, this is primarily an asynchronous course.

Course Objectives

1. Know the characteristics and basic history of the natural sciences.
2. Understand the basics of evolution and how it relates to natural selection, adaptation, speciation, and inheritance.
3. Explain what biological anthropology is and the sub-disciplines.
4. Understand the basics of skeletal biology and human variation.
5. Be able to utilize the correct formatting for binomial names.
6. List the physical and behavioral characteristics of the order primate, noting the taxonomic differences between specific suborders, parvorders, and superfamilies.

7. Discuss the evidence and limitations behind fossil analysis.
8. Understand the various waves of primate adaptive radiation.
9. Assess hominin evolution, including the evolution of early bipeds and later Genus Homo.

State Defined Learning Outcomes

- Describe key concepts and theories of physical anthropology.
- Explain the principles and processes of human evolution.
- Describe how the scientific method is used in physical anthropology.

Instructor Defined Learning Outcomes

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F-1 students

For F-1 students enrolled in classes for credit or classroom hours, no more than the equivalent of one class or three credits per session, term, semester, trimester, or quarter may be counted toward the full course of study requirement if the class is taken on-line or through distance education and does not require the student's physical attendance for classes, examination or other purposes integral to completion of the class. An on-line or distance education course is a course that is offered principally through the use of television, audio, or computer transmission including open broadcast, closed circuit, cable, microwave, or satellite, audio conferencing, or computer conferencing. If the F-1 student's course of study is in a language study program, no on-line or distance education classes may be considered to count toward a student's full course of study requirement.

University of North Texas Compliance

To comply with immigration regulations, an F-1 visa holder within the United States may need to engage in an on-campus experiential component for this course. This component (which must be approved in advance by the instructor) can include activities such as taking an on-campus exam, participating in an on-campus lecture or lab activity, or other on-campus experience integral to the completion of this course.

If such an on-campus activity is required, it is the student's responsibility to do the following:

- (1) Submit a written request to the instructor for an on-campus experiential component within one week of the start of the course.

(2) Ensure that the activity on campus takes place and the instructor documents it in writing with a notice sent to the International Student and Scholar Services Office. ISSS has a form available that you may use for this purpose.

Because the decision may have serious immigration consequences, if an F-1 student is unsure about his or her need to participate in an on-campus experiential component for this course, s/he should contact the UNT International Student and Scholar Services Office (telephone 940-565-2195 or email internationaladvising@unt.edu) to get clarification before the one-week deadline.

Lab Safety Procedures and Guidelines

While working in laboratory sessions, students enrolled in Anth 2700 are required to follow proper safety procedures and guidelines in all activities requiring lifting, climbing, walking on slippery surfaces, using equipment and tools, handling chemical solutions and hot and cold products. Students should be aware that UNT is not liable for injuries incurred while students are participating in class activities. All students are encouraged to secure adequate insurance coverage in the event of accidental injury. Students who do not have insurance coverage should consider obtaining Student Health Insurance. Brochures for student insurance are available in the UNT Student Health and Wellness Center. Students who are injured during class activities may seek medical attention at the Student Health and Wellness Center at rates that are reduced compared to other medical facilities. If students have an insurance plan other than Student Health Insurance at UNT, they should be sure that the plan covers treatment at this facility. If students choose not to go to the UNT Student Health and Wellness Center, they may be transported to an emergency room at a local hospital. Students are responsible for expenses incurred there.

How to Succeed in this Course

Bullet Tips:

- Login-in regularly and follow the suggested schedules at the top of each week's module.
- Navigate the course and assignments through the modules.
- Focus on the Pages documents, not the slides. Read for content, not as if you are reading a novel.
- Most due dates will fall on Thursdays and Sundays.
- Do not forget to respond to two other classmates during discussion boards.
- Make sure you are citing your working using CMS, author date format.
- Work ahead but no more than 2 weeks ahead. Revisit an assignment if you are not feeling confident about it.

Success in this course depends on regular logins, completing your readings, and staying on track with the discussion boards, labs, and weekly assignments. Online courses require self-discipline, and this often means figuring out a schedule that works best for you. If you can create a regular schedule or atmosphere for studying, the behaviors can improve your success and your focus. All of you are capable of success, you simply need the right tools. If you start to feel overwhelmed ask for help. Not only am I available but UNT has many resources, and [online writing center](#), [subject librarians](#) and guides (for this course try the department of anthropology, biology, or forensic science), as well as a variety of [online student supports](#).

The use of AI in this course for writing assignments, essays, or discussion boards is prohibited, with the exception of the critical analysis assignment. If your written responses are regularly scoring above 70% on multiple AI checkers, you will probably receive an email from your professors or a IA. If you receive scores that are upwards of 85% likely AI, you will be given a zero. Make sure you are not using editors like Grammarly to alter your sentence structure. Grammarly removes your unique voice and eliminates field specific jargon and key concepts the course is designed to cover. This can make your writing sound like gibberish. Ai is also guilty of misapplying generalized stereotypes to complex biological and behavioral trends. If you are having trouble with an assignment, I would rather you reach out to one of us or the writing center. Regardless of your major, communication skills like writing and critical thinking will improve your usefulness and success as a future employee, but only if you are committed to working on improving your skills and not just earning a grade. Ai may currently provide data retrieval benefits but the current consensus states it will still require expert human oversight, and if companies fail to provide this oversight, they could face lawsuits. Companies will not keep employees on staff that cost them court cases, so do yourself a favor and make a habit of doing your own work.

Every student in my class can improve by doing their own work and trying their hardest with access to appropriate resources. Students who use other people's work without citations will be violating UNT's Academic Integrity Policy. Please read and follow this important set of [guidelines for your academic success](https://policy.unt.edu/policy/06-003) (<https://policy.unt.edu/policy/06-003>). If you have questions about this, or any UNT policy, please email me or come discuss this with me during my office hours.

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Honor Code: *"I commit myself to honor, integrity, and responsibility as a student representing the University of North Texas community. I understand and pledge to uphold academic integrity as set forth by [UNT Student Academic Integrity Policy. 06.003](https://policy.unt.edu/policy/06-003) (<https://policy.unt.edu/policy/06-003>). I affirm that the work I submit will always be my own, and the support I provide and receive will always be honorable."*

UNT strives to offer you a high-quality education and a supportive environment, so you learn and grow. As a faculty member, I am committed to helping you be successful as a student. To learn more about campus resources and information on how you can be successful at UNT, go to unt.edu/success and explore unt.edu/wellness. To get all your enrollment and student financial-related questions answered, go to scrappysays.unt.edu.

ADA Accommodations

The University of North Texas makes reasonable academic accommodation for students with disabilities. Students seeking reasonable accommodation must first register with the Office of Disability Access (ODA) to verify their eligibility. If a disability is verified, the ODA will provide you with a reasonable accommodation letter to be delivered to faculty to begin a private discussion regarding your specific needs in a course. You may request reasonable accommodations at any time; however, ODA notices of reasonable accommodation should be provided as early as possible in the semester to avoid any delay in implementation. Note that students must obtain a new letter of reasonable accommodation for every semester and must meet with each faculty member prior to implementation in each class.

Students are strongly encouraged to deliver letters of reasonable accommodation during faculty office hours or by appointment. Faculty members have the authority to ask students to discuss such letters during their designated office hours to protect the privacy of the student. For additional information, refer to the [Office of Disability Access](https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/office-disability-access) website (<https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/office-disability-access>). You may also contact ODA by phone at (940) 565-4323.

Supporting Your Success and Creating an Inclusive Learning Environment

I value the many perspectives students bring to our campus. Please work with me to create a classroom culture of open communication, mutual respect, and belonging. All discussions should be respectful and civil. Although disagreements and debates are encouraged, personal attacks are unacceptable. Together, we can ensure a safe and welcoming classroom for all. If you ever feel like this is not the case, please stop by my office and let me know. We are all learning together. I encourage you to review UNT's student code of conduct so that we can all start with the same baseline civility understanding ([Code of Student Conduct](#)).

Course Requirements/Schedule

<i>Date</i>	<i>Topic</i>	<i>Assignment</i>	<i>Points Possible</i>	<i>% of Final Grade</i>
08/19, 21, 23	<i>Syllabus & Intro</i>	<i>Hunt, Survey, DB1</i>	<i>50 points</i>	<i>05%</i>
08/23	<i>Science & Community</i>	<i>DB2</i>	<i>50 points</i>	<i>05%</i>
8/23	<i>Intro to Bio Anth</i>	<i>Quizzes</i>	<i>50 points</i>	<i>05%</i>
8/27 & 30	<i>S c i e n c e B i a s & Evolution Basics</i>	<i>DB3, Lab, Quizzes,</i>	<i>130 points</i>	<i>13%</i>
9/3 & 6	<i>Skeletal anatomy</i>	<i>DB4, Labs, Quizzes, and Critical Analysis Assignment</i>	<i>180 points</i>	<i>18%</i>
9/13	<i>Skeletal Profile: Sex Assessment & Age Estimation</i>	<i>Labs & Quizzes*</i>	<i>110 points</i>	<i>11%</i>
9/17 & 20	<i>Locomotion</i>	<i>Short Discussion 1, Lab, & Quizzes</i>	<i>80 points</i>	<i>08%</i>
9/24 & 27	<i>Primates & Evolution</i>	<i>Short Discussion 2 (bonus) +15 Labs & Quizzes</i>	<i>90 points</i>	<i>09%</i>
10/1 & 4	<i>Hominin Evolution</i>	<i>Short Discussion 3, Labs & Quizzes & Zoo project</i>	<i>160 points</i>	<i>16%</i>
10/9	<i>Finals Week</i>	<i>Comprehensive</i>	<i>100 points</i>	<i>10%</i>
			<i>1000 points</i>	

* start as early as possible this week, labs and work loads these weeks can be challenging

Assessing Your Work

Grade Breakdown:

Intro activities = 25 points = 2.5%

Discussion boards = 210 points = 21%

Quizzes = 350 points = 35%

Labs & other activities = 315 points = 31.5%

Final exam = 100 points = 10%

A numeric example of a grading scale might be:

A = 900-1000 = GPA = 4.0

B = 800-899 = GPA = 3.0

C = 700-799 = GPA = 2.0

D = 600-699 = GPA = 1.0

F = 0-599 = GPA = 0

Grade-related Policies

Late Work

All assignments are due at 11:59 p.m., the date listed on this syllabus. You have a one day grace period with no penalty. Each subsequent day is a cumulative 10% reduction, thus the second day late is a 10% deduction, third day 20% deduction, fourth day 30%, and so on and so forth. After the third late assignment or 5 days, you will need to email me regarding your situation, unless you have been approved by the ODA to have more time. If you are experience an emergency, please check in with me as soon as possible, so we can configure the best steps for you going forward.

Turnaround Time

I aim to return graded work to you within one week of the due date. When this is not possible, I will send an announcement to the class.

Grade Disputes

You are required to wait 24 hours before contacting me to dispute a grade. Within that time, I expect that you will review the assignment details and reflect on the quality of the work you turned in. If you would still like to meet, email me to set up a meeting (I cannot discuss grades over email). You should come to our scheduled meeting with specific examples that demonstrate that you earned a higher grade than you received. If you miss your scheduled meeting, you forfeit your right to a grade dispute. If you do not contact me to schedule a meeting within seven days of receiving your grade, you also forfeit your right to a grade dispute.

Extra Credit

You are allowed four opportunities to earn extra credit (15 points each). You can choose any of the following:

- Short Discussion #2 is a bonus
- Write a biological anthropology short essay review (must be from approved journal list).

- Fill out an application for a field school, internship, or job for any position related to bio-anth.
- Watch a scholarly talk on biological anthropology and write a one paragraph review.
- Attend the [TAS conference at UNT's Denton campus Oct 2 - 4th, 2026](#) (60 points), must provide a review of one talk and a photo of yourself at the conference

You must clear the article/scholarly talk with me first.

Attendance and Participation

Research has shown that students who participate in class are more likely to be successful. Make time for regular participation in class, unless you have a university excused absence such as active military service, a religious holy day, or an official university function as stated in the [Student Attendance and Authorized Absences Policy \(PDF\)](#) (<https://policy.unt.edu/policy/06-039>). I have great respect for students who are balancing the demands of coursework, work, and/or caregiving. Our responsibilities to obligations outside of college should never be taken lightly, especially the responsibilities of caring for family members. If you run into challenges that require you to miss an assignment, please contact me. There may be some flexibility we can offer to continue supporting your academic success.