

Introduction to Biological Anthropology (ANT3514C)

Syllabus – Spring 2026

Lectures: **Tuesday 7th period and Thursday 7-8th period in LIT 0113**

Laboratories: **Monday 4th (10335) or 5th (10336) period in TUR B304**

Credit Hours: **4**

Instructor: **Dr. Valerie Burke DeLeon**
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University of Florida
352-294-7602

Email: **vdeleon@ufl.edu * Best to Communicate with Instructor in CANVAS ***

Office hours: **TUR B374; Monday 11:45am-2:45pm and by appointment**

Teaching Assistants: **Lisseth Rojas Pelayo**
Office hours (TUR B307): TBD
lrojas.pelayo@ufl.edu; *** Best to Communicate with TA in CANVAS ***

Catalog Description:

Introduces the subfield of anthropology that focuses on the natural history of humankind. Through lecture and laboratory, surveys a range of materials that focus on the diversity of the Order Primates with an emphasis on human and primate variation, adaptation, and evolution.

Course Overview and Goals:

Anthropology is the holistic study of the human condition. Biological anthropology is a subfield of the larger discipline that studies humankind as a zoological species. As biological anthropology is firmly rooted in evolutionary theory, the evolutionary biology of humans is the central focus of the course. Basic concepts of genetics, geology, paleontology, comparative anatomy, primate biology, and material culture provide the foundation for understanding humanity's place in nature. My goal is that each of you enjoy this class and come away confident that you have learned something new!

Students in this course are introduced to basic concepts, theories and terms of the scientific method in the context of the life sciences. Content focuses on major scientific developments and their impacts on society, science and the environment, and the relevant processes that govern biological systems. Students will formulate empirically-testable hypotheses derived from the study of living things, apply logical reasoning skills through scientific criticism and argument, and apply techniques of discovery and critical thinking to evaluate outcomes of experiments. ANT 3514C satisfies the CLAS Science Laboratory Requirement. A minimum grade of C in this 'core' course is required of all Anthropology majors.

Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs):

Content: Identify, describe, and explain the basic concepts, theories and terminology of natural science and the scientific method; the major scientific discoveries and the impacts on society and the environment; and the relevant processes that govern biological and physical systems.

At the end of this course students will be able to identify, describe, explain, and apply factual, conceptual, and procedural knowledge in the scientific method as applied to biological anthropology and related disciplines. Achievement of this learning outcome will be assessed through in-class and online quizzes, three in-class exams, eleven graded lab-based reports, and two lab-based practical exams.

Critical Thinking: Formulate empirically-testable hypotheses derived from the study of physical processes or living things; apply logical reasoning skills effectively through scientific criticism and argument; and apply techniques of discovery and critical thinking effectively to solve scientific problems and to evaluate outcomes.

Through class-based lecture, lab-based exercises and problem sets, and assigned reading, students will apply the scientific approach to investigate human variation in its biological, social and cultural dimensions. Students will also integrate different sources and types of knowledge into holistic perspectives about human variation. Finally, students will evaluate the significance, quality and veracity of information and apply it effectively to solve problems.

Communication: Communicate scientific knowledge, thoughts, and reasoning clearly and effectively. In lab, students must synthesize and write cogent answers to questions posed about materials covered in weekly meetings. Each week, lab-based reports will be submitted and evaluated for content and clarity.

Course Materials:

Required text: Jurmain R, Kilgore L, Trevathan W, Ciochon RL, Introduction to Physical Anthropology, 15th edition (2017), Cengage Learning. **Note:** Digital and/or paper copies of the textbook are acceptable.

Socrative: We will use an audience participation program to go over review questions in class. You can access the FREE student version on a browser (socrative.com) or by downloading the app (Socrative Student). Our classroom code is JGR0FKKB. There is one practice question posted to try it out in advance.

Website: This course is administered through e-learning in Canvas (<http://elearning.ufl.edu>). The syllabus, lab worksheets, supplemental materials, quizzes and your grades are all accessed here.

Communication: You are encouraged to contact me and/or the teaching assistants with any questions or concerns about the course. Canvas is the best way to send emails to me or the teaching assistants. If you email me directly, please be sure to include “ANT3514C” in the subject line. The TAs and I communicate with students using Canvas, and you are responsible for this information. Please update your Canvas notifications to receive prompt notification of announcements and course updates. Ensure that you monitor your official UFL email.

Grading: Grades are based on three (3) online exams (60%), five (5) online quizzes (10%), and laboratory performance (30%). The UF Grading policy on assigning grade points is available at <https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/grades-grading-policies/>.

300 pts	Exams (3)	Grade Points to Letter Conversion Chart:					
50 pts	Online Quizzes (5)	A	500-465	B-	414.9-400	D+	349.9-335
100 pts	Lab Reports (10)	A-	464.9-450	C+	399.9-385	D	334.9-315
50 pts	Lab Practicals (2)	B+	449.9-435	C	384.9-365	D-	314.9-300
500 pts	Total Points	B	434.9-415	C-	364.9-350	E	299.9-0.0

Exams are non-cumulative, objective exams administered in lecture and designed to test vocabulary, concepts, and associations relevant to biological anthropology. **Online quizzes** are available in Canvas after Thursday's lecture and will remain available until the start of the following Tuesday lecture. Upon beginning a quiz, you will have 50 minutes to complete it. **Lab reports** feature questions intended to guide students through hands-on activities in the biological anthropology lab. Some labs will contain additional work to be performed outside of class. Students are expected to print or save a copy of the lab from the Canvas site and bring it to lab each week; failure to do so may result in missed lab points. Students will be required to complete the lab and return it to the TA one week after the lab activity. **Lab practicals** are hands-on exams focused on testing your identification skills. Students will move through the exams in timed rotations. These are taken during your lab periods as indicated in the schedule.

Make-up exams, lab activities, and lab practicals will be allowed under extraordinary circumstances, including excused absences documented through the Dean of Students Office (<http://care.dso.ufl.edu>). Exams may not be retaken. Late online quizzes will be accepted on request for reduced credit.

Course Policies: This course complies with all UF academic policies. For information on those policies and for resources for students, please see this link: <https://syllabus.ufl.edu/syllabus-policy/uf-syllabus-policy-links/>.

Attendance: Attendance in laboratory sections is **mandatory**, and you must attend the section for which you are registered to receive credit. Neither the instructor nor teaching assistants will distribute lab notes outside of class. Attendance in lectures is **recommended**. Students are allowed to record video or audio of class lectures for strictly limited purposes, but please ask the instructor in advance. Recording of lab sessions is not allowed.

University Policy on Accommodating Students with Disabilities: Students requesting accommodation for disabilities must first register with the Disability Resource Center (<https://disability.ufl.edu/get-started>). The DRC will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the instructor when requesting accommodation. You must submit this documentation prior to submitting assignments or taking the quizzes or exams. Accommodations are not retroactive; therefore, students should contact the office as soon as possible in the term for which they are seeking accommodations.

Use of AI: Written lab reports are subject to and in accordance with the student conduct code and academic honesty. Assignments will use the tool Turnitin to assess plagiarism and are subject to ChatGPT/AI detection. Assignments will be checked by the instructional team if more than 20% of the assignment suggests the content did not come from the student or is not properly cited. If there is any evidence of violation of the [Student Honor Code](#), that suggests the student has not written the majority of the content on their own and is egregiously plagiarized, the instructor may do one or more of the following: ask the student to redo the assignment, deduct major points from the score, or receive a *grade of zero* for the assignment. The instructor may offer a make-up assignment, but multiple offenses will be reported to the Anthropology department administration for review and could result in a report to the [Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution](#) Office.

Why This Matters: The goal of this course is to help you develop your own writing skills and critical thinking. Although AI tools can be helpful, over-reliance on them can hinder your learning and growth. If you are unsure whether your intended use of AI tools is appropriate, please consult me or this [UF guide on AI use](#) before proceeding.

Religious observances: The Florida Board of Education and state law govern university policy regarding observance of religious holidays. The following guidelines apply:

- Students, upon prior notification to their instructors, shall be excused from class or other scheduled academic activity to observe a religious holy day of their faith.
- Students shall be permitted a reasonable amount of time to make up the material or activities covered in their absence.
- Students shall not be penalized due to absence from class or other scheduled academic activity because of religious observances.

See <https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/attendance-policies/#religiousholidaytext>

Procedure for conflict resolution: Any issues, disagreements or grade disputes should be discussed first between the instructor and the student. If the problem cannot be resolved, please contact Prof. John Krigbaum (krigbaum@ufl.edu, [\(352\) 294-7540](tel:(352)294-7540)), Chair of Anthropology. Be prepared to provide documentation of the problem, as well as all graded materials for the semester. Issues that cannot be resolved departmentally will be referred to the University Ombuds Office (<http://www.ombuds.ufl.edu>
[Links to an external site.](#); [352-392-1308](tel:352-392-1308)) or the Dean of Students Office (<http://www.dso.ufl.edu>
[Links to an external site.](#); [352-392-1261](tel:352-392-1261)).

Materials and Supplies Fees: N/A

Campus Resources:

Technical Issues: If you have any problems accessing course content on Canvas, visit the helpdesk website at <https://it.ufl.edu/helpdesk/> or call 352-392-4357.

UF Libraries: The [UF Libraries](#) provide access to numerous resources and services that will help you succeed in this course. Access thousands of [online databases, books, and articles](#) or visit one of the [branch locations](#) for additional [resources, services, and study spaces](#). Can't find what you are looking for? You can [Ask A Librarian](#) for help by email, chat, text, or phone.

Health and Wellness U Matter, We Care: If you or someone you know is in distress, please contact umatter@ufl.edu, 352-392-1575, or visit <https://umatter.ufl.edu/> to refer or report a concern and a team member will reach out to the student in distress.

Counseling and Wellness Center: Visit <https://counseling.ufl.edu/> or call 352-392-1575 for information on crisis services as well as non-crisis services.

Student Health Care Center: Call 352-392-1161 for 24/7 information to help you find the care you need, or visit <https://shcc.ufl.edu/>.

University Police Department: Visit <https://police.ufl.edu/> or call 352-392-1111 (or 9-1-1 for emergencies).

UF Health Shands Emergency Room / Trauma Center: For immediate medical care call 352-733-0111 or go to the emergency room at 1515 SW Archer Road, Gainesville, FL 32608;
<https://ufhealth.org/locations/uf-health-shands-emergency-room-trauma-center/>

Course Schedule:

Date	Lecture	Readings	Lab	Assessment
Jan 13 15	Introduction The scientific method	3-19 19-33	No Labs	Online Quiz 1
20 22	Darwin and natural selection Heredity	33-47 81-98	No Labs (MLK Holiday)	
27 29	Genetics Microevolution	49-78 98-110	Lab 1: Classification	Online Quiz 2
Feb 3 5	The tree of life The human body	113-140 507-517	Lab 2: Microevolution	
10 12	Comparative primate anatomy EXAM 1	143-155 none	Lab 3: Osteology	EXAM 1
17 29	Primate diversity Anthropoids	155-160 160-182	Lab 4: Primate Anatomy	
24 26	Primate behavior Communication and culture	185-193 194-223	Lab 5: Primate Function	Online Quiz 3
Mar 3 5	Primate origins Early anthropoids	225-237 237-261	Lab Practical 1	Lab Practical 1
10 12	EXAM 2 Australopithecines	none 287-310	Lab 6: Primate Evolution	EXAM 2
17 19	SPRING BREAK SPRING BREAK	none none	No Labs	
24 26	Paleoanthropology Early <i>Homo</i>	263-284 310-327	Lab 7: Australopiths	
31 Apr 2	<i>Homo erectus</i> Premodern humans	327-345 347-379	Lab 8: Early <i>Homo</i>	Online Quiz 4
7 9	Modern human variation Forensic anthropology	383-430 458-463	Lab 9: Premodern humans	
14 16	Human biology Life history	430-458 467-488	Lab 10: Human variation	Online Quiz 5
21	EXAM 3 <i>Spring classes end Wed, Apr 22</i>	none	Lab Practical 2	Lab Practical 2 EXAM 3