



LIFE SCIENCES: HUMAN ORIGINS
CORE-UA 305
SPRING 2021

(4 credits) This course provides a comprehensive introduction to the field of biological anthropology and explores the evolutionary history of our lineage. Topics include but are not limited to human and non-human primate genetics, behavior, osteology, paleoanthropology, bioarchaeology, and forensics. Particular emphases are placed on modern human biological variation and the human fossil record. In doing so, we will reconstruct the behavior—locomotor, social, sexual, and cultural—of our ancestors and close relatives using modern analogs including modern humans, our closest living relatives the great apes, and other primates and non-primate animals. This course begins with a review of cellular and molecular biology and evolutionary theory in general, then establishes our place in nature and geological time, and ends with a detailed foray into modern human origins, including fossils, artifacts, and inferred cultural behaviors. Additionally, we will explore modern human variation, including discussions of topics such as race, genetics, and sexuality.

Dr. Scott Williams (sawilliams@nyu.edu)

Office: Department of Anthropology, 304 Rufus Smith Hall (25 Waverly Place)

Office Hours: Tues 2-3, Thurs 1-3, or by appointment (please email me to set it up)

Lecture schedule: Lecture meets Tues/Thurs 3:30-4:45 at 19 University Place, room 102.

Lecture attendance is strongly recommended but not mandatory; you must attend your registered lab.

Lab schedule: Lab meets at 25 Waverly Place, room 204, at the following times:

Mon 12:30-1:45, Julia Galway-Witham

Mon 4:55-6:10, Christina Costa

Mon 2:00-3:15, Julia Galway-Witham

Tues 9:30-10:45, Xue Wang

Mon 3:30-5:45, Christina Costa

Tues 11:00-12:15, Xue Wang

Lab instructor office hours (room): Christina Costa: Tues 2:00-3:00 or by appt (404), Julia Galway-Witham: Tues 5:00-6:00 or by appt (904), Xue Wang: Tues 12:30-1:30, Thurs 2:00-3:00 (room 302)

Course Requirements: There will be three exams and weekly lab attendance and assignments.

Point distribution:

Exams (I: 24 February, II: 31 March, III: 10 May)

45% (10, 10, 25%, respectively)

Lab reports/quizzes/activities (assigned/submitted in lab)

55% (5% each; lowest dropped)

Makeup exam and lab policy: Makeup exams, lab reports, and quizzes will not be given unless the student is sick or has another medical condition AND provides a doctor's note dated the day of or applicable to the day missed OR has to attend a significant event (involving exceptional circumstances) or be away for related reasons in that timeframe, in which case documentation is again required. Makeups must be completed as soon as possible in arrangement with the prof/instructor and will be given in essay format when applicable.

Grade scale: Final grades will be rounded to the nearest whole number, and grades assigned using the following scale: A 100-93, A- 92-90, B+ 87-89, B 83-86, B- 80-82, C+ 77-79, C 73-76, C- 70-72, D+ 67-69, D 63-66, D- 60-62, F 59 or below. An exact 0.5 or anything above will be rounded up, but not 0.49 or below.

Textbook: Stanford, Allen Antón (2016) *Exploring Biological Anthropology: The Essentials*, 4th edition
*****This course uses the Follet Access program. You will automatically be charged \$27.75 for a digital version of the textbook, which should appear in the first week of classes.** The cost is substantially lower (nearly half the regular digital price of \$44.99) than it would be if we did not use Follet, and you will have perpetual access to the digital book (whereas access outside the Follett Access program ends after 180 days). **By all means, feel free to opt out the program, which can be done during the first two weeks of class and will result in the charge being dropped/reimbursed.** Contact the NYU Bookstore with any questions: <https://www.bkstr.com/nyustore/home> **The link to opt out is here:** <https://includedcp.follett.com/2015>

If you prefer a hard copy, the bookstore is carrying them, and you are welcome to use the 3rd edition or another similar textbook by the same authors: *Biological Anthropology: The Natural History of Humankind*. The schedule lists readings for *Exploring* (both editions) and *Biological Anthropology* (3rd and 4th editions).

Accommodations for students with disabilities

Academic accommodations are available for students with disabilities. The Moses Center website is www.nyu.edu/csd. Please contact the Moses Center for Students with Disabilities for further information. Students who are requesting academic accommodations are advised to reach out to the Moses Center as early as possible in the semester for assistance. 726 Broadway, 2nd Floor, New York, NY 10003.
Phone: [212-998-4980](tel:212-998-4980); Voice/TTY Fax: [212-995-4114](tel:212-995-4114); Web site: www.nyu.edu/csd

Student Wellness

In a large, complex community like NYU, it's vital to reach out to others, particularly those who are isolated or engaged in self-destructive activities. Student wellness (<https://cas.nyu.edu/content/nyu-as/cas/academic-programs/student-wellness.html>) is the responsibility of all of us.

The NYU [Wellness Exchange](#) is the constellation of NYU's programs and services designed to address the overall health and mental health needs of its students. Students can access this service 24 hours a day, seven days a week. wellness.exchange@nyu.edu; (212) 443-9999. Students can call the Wellness Exchange hotline (212-443-9999) or the NYU Counseling Service (212-998-4780) to make an appointment for Single Session, Short-term, or Group counseling sessions.

Academic Integrity, Plagiarism, and Cheating (adapted from the College of Arts & Science website: <https://cas.nyu.edu/content/nyu-as/cas/academic-integrity.html>):

Academic integrity means that the work you submit is original. Obviously, bringing answers into an examination or copying all or part of a paper straight from a book, the Internet, or a fellow student is a violation of this principle. But there are other forms of cheating or plagiarizing which are just as serious; for example, presenting an oral report drawn without attribution from other sources (oral or written), writing a sentence or paragraph which, despite being in different words, expresses someone else's idea(s) without a reference to the source of the idea(s), or submitting essentially the same paper in two different courses (unless both instructors have given their permission in advance). Receiving or giving help on remote work (papers, quizzes, exams, etc.) is also cheating, unless expressly permitted by the instructor. **In short, don't cheat—it's not worth it! If you suspect you might be plagiarizing something, please check with us.**

***No cell phone or unrelated online activity in lecture/lab. Please step out if you must use your phone.**

SCHEDULE (*subject to modification* Readings are from Exploring and Biological Anthropology)

TUESDAY	THURSDAY	LAB
25 January 1. Intro and Our Place in Nature Exp. Ch1, Ch7 (BA Ch1, Ch6)	27 January 2. Survey of the living primates Exp. Ch7 (BA Ch6)	Week 1 (24-25 January) NO LAB
1 February 3. Primate behavioral ecology Exp. Ch8 (BA Ch7)	3 February 4. Primate societies Exp. Ch8 (BA Ch7)	Week 2 (31 Jan-1 Feb) Lab 1: The Primates I
8 February 5. History of evolutionary thought Exp. Ch2 (BA Ch5)	10 February 6. Molecular biology and inheritance Exp. Ch3-4 (BA Ch2-3)	Week 3 (7-8 February) Lab 2: The Primates II
15 February 7. Forces of evolution and speciation Exp. Ch5 (BA Ch4); Appendix B	17 February 8. Our place in time Exp. Ch9 (BA Ch8)	Week 4 (14-15 February) Lab 3: Genetics and Evolution
22 February Review for Exam I	24 February EXAM I Covers lectures 1-7 and labs 1-3	Week 5 (21-22 February) NO LAB – PRESIDENT’S DAY
1 March 9. Primate comparative anatomy Exp. Ch7 (BA Ch6); Appendix A	3 March 10. Overview of primate evolution I Exp. Ch9 (BA Ch9)	Week 6 (28 Feb-1 Mar) Lab 4: Human Skeleton
8 March 11. Overview of primate evolution II Exp. Ch9 (BA Ch9)	10 March 12. Anatomy of humans and living apes Exp. Ch9 (BA Ch9)	Week 7 (7-8 March) Lab 5: Quantitative Data
15 March SPRING BREAK	17 March SPRING BREAK	Week 8 (14-15 March) NO LAB
22 March 13. The earliest hominins BA Ch10 (3 rd ed. Ch11); Exp. Ch10	24 March American Association of Biological Anthropology Conference, Denver CO	Week 9 (22-23 March) Lab 6: Comparative Anatomy
29 March Review for Exam II	31 March EXAM II Covers lectures 8-12 and labs 4-6	Week 10 (28-29 March) Lab 7: Phylogenetics
5 April 14. Origin of Australopithecus BA Ch10 (3 rd ed. Ch11); Exp. Ch10	7 April 15. Diversity of the australopiths BA Ch10 (3 rd ed. Ch11); Exp. Ch10	Week 11 (4-5 April) Lab 8: Bipedalism
12 April 16. Origin of the genus Homo BA Ch11 (3 rd ed. Ch12); Exp. Ch11	14 April 17. Homo erectus and relatives BA Ch11 (3 rd ed. Ch12); Exp. Ch11	Week 12 (11-12 April) Lab 9: Human Fossil Record I
19 April 18. Archaic humans BA Ch12 (3 rd ed. Ch132); Exp. Ch12	21 April 19. The Neandertals BA Ch12 (3 rd ed. Ch13); Exp. Ch12	Week 13 (18-19 April) Lab 10: Human Fossil Record II
26 April 20. Modern human origins BA Ch13 (3 rd ed. Ch14); Exp. Ch13	28 April 21. Human variation and adaptations I BA Ch5; Exp. Ch6	Week 14 (25-26 April) Lab 11: Human Fossil Record III
3 May 22. Human variation and adaptations II BA Ch5; Exp. Ch6	5 May Review for Exam III	Week 15 (2-3 May) Lab 12: Skin Color, Race and Racism
10 May EXAM III (regular classroom and time) Covers lectures 13-22; labs 7-12	12 May REMAINDER OF FINALS WEEK Congrats on completing Human Origins!	Week 16 (9-10 May) NO LAB