

Fall 2009

Glendale Community College presents

**ASM 104: Bones, Stones
and Human Evolution
Section 15426**

T/TH 2:30-4:50

Location: HU-101

INSTRUCTOR: **Dr. Lillian Spencer**
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Office hours: M 11-12; by appt.

COURSE DESCRIPTION: This course is an introduction to the topic of Biological Anthropology. Biological Anthropology addresses a diverse range of topics united by their focus on the biology of the order Primates (including prosimians, monkeys, apes and humans). Topics of interest to Biological Anthropologists include the origin and evolutionary history of both humans and non-human primates, as well as the physical and behavioral differences among and between primate groups. The specific goal of this course is to familiarize students with each of these topics. A more general aim is to place humans within the context of the natural world, considering the factors that unite us with other members of the animal kingdom, as well as factors that may make us unique. The unifying framework for understanding these diverse issues is evolutionary theory.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOK:

Essentials of Physical Anthropology 7th edition (2008) by R. Jurmain, L. Kilgore, & W. Trevathen. Wadsworth Publishing.

COURSE COMPETENCIES

1. Identify the major areas of anthropology
2. Evaluate contrasting scientific viewpoints regarding the process of evolution
3. Explain the basic terms and processes of Mendelian genetics
4. Describe the structure of DNA and the process of mutation
5. Identify and define the forces of evolution
6. Describe one human physiologic variation as an adaptation to environmental factors

7. Distinguish between the major biological categories of living primates and describe the anatomical differences between those categories
8. Relate aspects of primate social behavior to group cohesion and/or environmental factors
9. Identify major trends in early primate evolution
10. Compare and contrast various early hominid fossils and sites
11. Describe the skeletal characteristics and the culture of later hominids
12. Evaluate different theories regarding the origins of anatomically modern humans

COURSE POLICIES

ATTENDANCE POLICY: The best way to know what material is covered in class is to attend class. I will take roll each class until I learn names- I will be paying attention to who attends class and this could be important for your grade! Please let me know ahead of time if you know you will need to miss class. Please make every effort to be ready to pay attention when class starts- coming in late is distracting for everyone.

AUDIO TAPING POLICY: You are allowed to tape lectures.

REQUIREMENTS and GRADING: Each student is responsible for the material covered in lecture, labs, and for assigned readings (to be read before each class period). Readings come from the required textbook, *Essentials of Physical Anthropology*, and are listed on the course schedule.

This course contains a lab component. Each week a portion of class time will be devoted to a lab activity. The lab is a way to reinforce some of the material from lecture and can also be a source of new material. You will gain hands-on experience and one-on-one instruction that will be very useful to you in the exams. The completed labs will also form a portion of your final grade. If you miss a lab, it might be possible for you to make up all or some of the work, as long as you can do this within one week of the missed class.

Lab Sheets and Other Class Handouts: The handouts that you will need for lab, as well as other class handouts such as terms lists and extra copies of the syllabus, will be posted on the Blackboard component of this class. **YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR HAVING YOUR LAB SHEETS WITH YOU IN CLASS EACH WEEK.** The labs are in Word format and are readable by either Mac or PC, as long as you have those programs.

Grades will be assigned on the basis of four equally-weighted exams and your average lab grade. No exams are cumulative, except concerning material that is relevant throughout the course. Exams are a combination of multiple choice questions and short essays. You will receive a score for each lab. Your lowest lab score will be dropped before figuring your average lab grade.

Each exam is worth 20% of your grade, and your average lab grade will be the final 20%. A standard formula for determining final grades is used: A: 90-100%; B: 80-89%; C: 70-79%; D: 60-69%; F: below 60%.

Regarding Missed Exams: Few excuses are acceptable for missing an exam, and **permission must be obtained from me prior to the listed exam date to be considered for taking a make-up exam.** No make-up is allowed for the final exam.

This syllabus may be modified during the course of the semester to fit the particular circumstances of this class.

Conduct in course: I take issues related to academic honesty very seriously. Acts of academic dishonesty on the part of any student will result in failure of the course. Such acts are defined in the current catalog, and include plagiarism, cheating, fabrication and falsification, multiple submission and misuse of academic materials. Make sure you understand and avoid these behaviors. I also expect that you will conduct yourself with courtesy: no talking during lecture, no use of cell phones during class, and exhibiting respect toward me and your classmates at all times.

Student Responsibilities: Please be advised that your continued enrollment and participation in this class implies that you have read and accepted the terms and conditions of this syllabus. Also please be advised that you are responsible for being aware of and in compliance with the college policies included in the college catalog and the student handbook.

Disabilities: I will make any reasonable accommodations for limitations due to disabilities, including learning disabilities. Please see me personally before or after class or during my office hours to discuss any special needs you might have. If you have a documented disability and require specific accommodations, you will need to contact the Disability Resources and Services Office at 623-845-3080.