








Anthropology (ANTH) 278

Human Evolution and Diversity (Revision 4)

Status:	Replaced with new revision, see the course listing  for the current revision 
Delivery mode:	Individualized study online  with eText 
Credits:	3
Areas of study:	Arts or Social Science
Prerequisites:	None
Precluded:	None
Challenge:	ANTH 278 is not available for challenge.
Faculty:	Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences 

Overview

Anthropology 278: Human Evolution and Diversity is designed to introduce students to the varied subjects and avenues of study that comprise the field of biological anthropology. In so doing, students will gain an appreciation of what biological anthropology is and how it contributes to our understanding of who humans are as a species, when we emerged onto the global landscape, and what our bones, bodies, and historical artifacts can tell us about how we came to be here. As an introductory course, the material presented is primarily intended to engage students in the story of ourselves, and the hope is that students will be inspired to further explore the various topics and sub-fields that are available to biological anthropologists, either as an academic (or professional) pursuit, or simply out of personal interest.

Outline

The course consists of the following fifteen units.

- Unit 1: Introduction to Physical Anthropology

Part 1: Mechanisms of Evolution

- Unit 2: Science and the Development of Evolutionary Theory
- Unit 3: The Biological Basis of Human Variation
- Unit 4: From Variant to Species

Part 2: The Primates

- Unit 5: What it Means to be a Primate
- Unit 6: Primate Behavioural Ecology
- Unit 7: Primate Evolution

Part 3: Hominin Evolution

- Unit 8: What it Means to be a Hominin
- Unit 9: Hominin Origins: From Ape to Australopithecus
- Unit 10: The Emergence of the Genus Homo
- Unit 11: The Advent of Humanity: Archaic Hominins and the Neanderthals
- Unit 12: The Emergence of Anatomically Modern Humans

Part 4: Contemporary Human Evolution

- Unit 13: Contemplating Modern Human Diversity
- Unit 14: Biology of Contemporary and Past Populations
- Unit 15: Human Legacies, Human Prospects

Evaluation


To **receive credit** [↗](#) for ANTH 278, you must achieve a minimum grade of D (50 percent) on the final examination, and an overall grade of **D (50 percent)** [📄](#) for the entire course. The weightings for the course activities are as follows:


Activity	Weight
Quiz	5%
Assignment 1: Lab & Workbook	22%
Assignment 2: Lab & Workbook	18%
Midterm Exam	15%
Assignment 3: Lab & Workbook	20%
Final Exam	20%
Total	100%

The **midterm and final examinations** for this course must be requested in advance and written under the supervision of an AU-approved exam invigilator. Invigilators include either ProctorU or an approved in-person invigilation centre that can accommodate online exams. Students are responsible for payment of any invigilation fees. Information on exam request deadlines, invigilators, and other exam-related questions, can be found at the **Exams and grades** [↗](#) section of the Calendar.



To learn more about assignments and examinations, please refer to Athabasca University's **online Calendar** [↗](#) .

Materials

Keenleyside, Anne & Lazenby, Richard. *A Human Voyage: Exploring Biological Anthropology*, 2nd edition (2015). Nelson Education.  (eText)

France, Diane L. 2018. *Lab Manual and Workbook for Physical Anthropology*. 8th ed. Boston, MA: Cengage Learning.  (eText)

eTexts





Registration in this course includes electronic textbooks. For more information on **electronic textbooks**  , please refer to our **eText Initiative site**  .

Other Materials

The course materials also includes a course manual.

The course is also accompanied by measuring instruments, required for the lab exercises, available from the AU library.

Important links

- > [Academic advising](#) 
- > [Program planning](#) 
- > [Request assistance](#) 
- > [Support services](#) 

Athabasca University reserves the right to amend course outlines occasionally and without notice. Courses offered by other delivery methods may vary from their individualized study counterparts.

Updated February 26, 2024

View **previous revision** 
