

Anthropology 111A - Human Ancestry & Adaptations

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Winter Term 2025-26
100% Online Asynchronous – 3 weeks

Please read this syllabus and complete the “Syllabus Quiz” on Blackboard by 11:59pm the 1st Mon of term. Submitting this quiz verifies you are attending the class. If you don’t, you will be dropped from the course.

COURSE DESCRIPTION: This beginning course in archaeology and biological anthropology is designed to introduce you to these rich and quite varied subfields of anthropology. This basic survey will cover language, primatology, human genetics and variation, human origins and the fossil record, human adaptations of domestication and settlement, as well as the rise and fall of cities and states. We will examine the evolution and biological adaptations of the human species, and the development of culture through archaeological investigation.

GOALS: This course strives to familiarize students with anthropology and introduce them to the varieties of human adaptations and the past. Through the readings, activities and projects, students will be encouraged to use anthropological concepts to critically reflect on their lives and call into question things taken for granted, to ‘push open the door’ of our assumptions. It also strives to improve students’ critical thinking abilities.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES At the end of the course, students should be able to:

- ❖ describe the fundamentals of biological anthropology and archaeology.
- ❖ explain how anthropologists study these topics.
- ❖ apply some of the methods anthropologists use in conducting research at a beginning level.
- ❖ critically reflect on their lives and call into question things taken for granted, to ‘push open the door’ of our assumptions.
- ❖ frame useful questions from the perspective of cultural relativism.

NO TEXTBOOKS ARE REQUIRED FOR THE COURSE.

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS for students can be found here: <https://kb.siue.edu/104656>

COURSE STRUCTURE - BLACKBOARD: This online course uses BlackBoard, a web site that will be used as a closed interactive environment for the students and instructor of this class. Many necessary items will be available throughout the semester on this site including: grades (broken down by item), video links, topic presentations, reading assignments, exams, and quizzes. Contact ITS at 618-650-5500 or at help@siue.edu with any technical concerns. You can also check the functionality of University systems, including Blackboard, at the [ITS System Status page](#), or search the [ITS Knowledge Base](#) for various how-to and troubleshooting guides.

BLACKBOARD ACCESS: Supported web browsers can be found at <http://www.siue.edu/its/bb/browsers.shtml>. To access this course on BlackBoard go to: http://www.siue.edu/its/bb/students/getting_started.shtml. The web address for this is: <http://bb.siue.edu>. You then click “Log in.” A window will come up asking for your ID and Password. Example: student’s SIUE email address is atorrel@siue.edu. That would make her ID=atorrel. The Password is the same as for your SIUE email account. Then click “[ANTH111A - Human Ancestry & Adaptations](#).” If you are having any trouble, check out <http://www.siue.edu/its/bb/index.shtml> (far right column for students) for assistance. View the [Anthology Blackboard Privacy Statement](#) to review how your data is being used and stored.

COURSE COMMITMENTS:

Instructor: As an online faculty member, I am committed to providing a quality learning experience through thoughtful planning, implementation, and assessment of course activities. I am also committed to being readily available to students throughout the class by returning emails, Monday-Friday, within 24 to 48 hours and to returning graded course work within 2 days. Furthermore, I am committed to selecting appropriate course materials and making them available in an organized and timely manner in our virtual classroom. DO NOT USE COURSE MESSAGING INSIDE OF BLACKBOARD TO CONTACT ME. Send an email to my SIUE address.

If you have a name and/or set of pronouns that differ from those that appear in your official SIUE records, please let me know!

Students: By registering for this online course, you commit yourself to self-motivated study, participation in online course activities, and the submission of all assignments and activities on time. Furthermore, you commit to accessing the course website and checking your SIUE email **AT LEAST ONCE A DAY**. You also commit to devoting at least as much time to this online course as to a comparable traditional class on campus. In other words, since this is a 3-credit hour course offered during a 3-week session, you commit to spending a minimum of **45 hours per week** on this class.

MODULE TOPIC LECTURES: Each topic may consist of a number of narrated PowerPoint sessions for students to view at the beginning of the time allotted for that topic. Although these are asynchronous activities, the content within them will be the core material in the course. Depending on your learning style, note taking and/or watching the presentations multiple times may be appropriate. Additional links may include: videos, Podcasts and news articles.

READINGS: All required readings for this course will be available electronically (links/pdf files). You will find them posted within the BlackBoard course for the class grouped according to the 4 segments of the course. You are responsible for all reading assignments. You should be warned that reading assignments will cover material not presented in PowerPoint lectures. Questions from readings will be on the quizzes.

VIDEOS: There will be several videos you will need to view throughout the course. Links to these will be posted in BlackBoard. You are expected to take notes during the videos. You will see this material on the quizzes.

QUIZZES: There will be **11** required quizzes, each **due at 11:59pm** (see table, last page; note color coding). The purpose is to help you concentrate on the material presented in this class. Articles and videos posted on BlackBoard will provide your quiz material. Quizzes will be multiple-choice questions. They will be available on BlackBoard, at the top of the current Module folder. Each will be timed, and you will only have one attempt. Do to the organization of the class segments, some quizzes will be 6 questions, worth 6 points, taken in 8 minutes while others will be 9 questions, worth 9 points, taken in 11 minutes, for a total of **90 class points**. There will be NO opportunity for a make-up. I will post an extra quiz toward the end of the course, giving you a '1 quiz slush factor.' Think of it as a built-in make-up. Sooooo, for example if you forget to take one you get a pass; if you have a tech issue while taking a quiz you get a pass; if you bomb a few you have a way to save the day; AND if you score perfectly on all of them, giving you 96 out of 90 points, you get 6 points extra credit. Quiz material will NOT be seen again on any exam. TAKE YOUR QUIZZES AT A REAL, ACTUAL COMPUTER WITH A HARD-WIRED/STABLE INTERNET CONNECTION –NOT YOUR PHONE, NOT YOUR TABLET!

EXAMS: There will be **FOUR** scheduled exams. All will be **due at 11:59pm** (see table, last page; note color coding). You will have one attempt, and they are timed (35 minutes). There is NO cumulative final. Material will come from our topic lectures. Format will be 27 or 28 multiple choice and/or matching questions. There will be NO opportunity for a make-up. Exams are worth **a total of 110 points**. If you experience ANY technical difficulty with these contact ITS

immediately by phone (618.650.5500) to see if they can assist, DO NOT wait for me to get back to you via email. JUST LIKE WITH QUIZZES, TAKE YOUR EXAMS AT A REAL, ACTUAL COMPUTER WITH A HARD-WIRED/STABLE INTERNET CONNECTION –NOT YOUR PHONE, NOT YOUR TABLET!

Make-up exams will be given only under real and extenuating circumstances. **You MUST contact me within 24 hours of the scheduled exam. A documented excuse is required in addition to approval by the instructor. Do not assume you can just take a make-up.** All effort must be made on your part to contact me as soon as the situation develops, and you are responsible for scheduling the make-up. **No cheating will be tolerated.**

SERVICES FOR STUDENTS NEEDING ACCOMMODATIONS: Students needing accommodations because of medical diagnosis or major life impairment will need to register with **Accessible Campus Community & Equitable Student Support (ACCESS)** and complete an intake process before accommodations will be given. Students who believe they have a diagnosis but do not have documentation should contact ACCESS for assistance and/or appropriate referral. The ACCESS office is located in the Student Success Center, Room 1203. You can also reach the office by e-mail at myaccess@siue.edu or by calling 618.650.3726. For more information on policies, procedures, or necessary forms, please visit the ACCESS website at www.siue.edu/access.

If you feel you need additional help in the event of an emergency situation, please notify your instructor to be shown the evacuation route and discuss specific needs for assistance.

CHEATING AND PLAGIARISM: Plagiarism and cheating will not be tolerated and may lead to failure on an assignment, in the class, or dismissal from the University, per the SIUE academic dishonesty policy. Such behavior in this course will result in a failing grade in the course and a report to the Provost. Cheating includes, but is not limited to, students working together in any capacity unless specifically stated as acceptable by the teacher. This includes uploading/downloading material to/from the internet or otherwise sharing your work, the work of others, *and/or the work of faculty*, such as exams, quizzes, assignments, worksheets, etc. Unless expressly allowed by the instructor, the use of artificial intelligence (AI) tools and applications (including ChatGPT, DALL-E, and others) to produce content for course assignments and assessments is a violation of SIUE's academic policy and is prohibited.

Plagiarism includes either presenting someone else's words without quotation marks (even if you cite the source) or presenting someone else's ideas without citing that source. If you plagiarize, your instructor cannot evaluate your understanding of the topic. When paraphrasing from another source, at the very least the student should change the wording, sentence syntax, and order of ideas presented in the paper. Ideally, the student will integrate ideas from multiple sources while providing critical commentary on the topic in a way that clearly identifies whether words and ideas are those of the student or are from another source.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY: Students are reminded that the expectations and academic standards outlined in the Student Academic Code (3C2) apply to all courses, field experiences and educational experiences at the University, regardless of modality or location. Students are responsible for complying with University policies about academic honesty as stated in the University's Student Academic Conduct Code.

RECORDINGS OF CLASS CONTENT: Faculty recordings of lectures and/or other course materials are meant to facilitate student learning and to help facilitate a student catching up who has missed class due to illness or quarantine. As such, students are reminded that the recording, as well as replicating or sharing of any course content and/or course materials without the express permission of the instructor of record, is not permitted, and may be considered a violation of the University's Student Conduct Code (3C1), linked here: <https://www.siue.edu/policies/3c1.shtml>

NETIQUETTE: In any social interaction, certain rules of etiquette are expected and contribute to more enjoyable and productive communication. The following tips for interacting online in e-mail and/or Discussion Board messages are adapted from guidelines originally compiled by Chuq Von Rospach and Gene Spafford.

- ❖ Remember that the person receiving your message is someone like you, someone who deserves and appreciates courtesy and respect.
- ❖ Be brief; succinct, thoughtful messages have the greatest impact.
- ❖ Your messages reflect on YOU; take time to make sure that you are proud of their form and content.
- ❖ Use descriptive subject headings in e-mail messages.
- ❖ Think about your audience and the relevance of your messages.
- ❖ Be careful with humor and sarcasm; without the voice inflections and body language of face-to-face communication, Internet messages can be easily misinterpreted.
- ❖ When making follow-up comments, summarize the parts of the message to which you are responding.

DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION: SIUE is committed to respecting everyone's dignity at all times. In order to learn, exchange ideas, and support one another, our virtual and physical classrooms must be places where students and teachers feel safe and supported. Systems of oppression permeate our institutions and our classrooms. All students and faculty have the responsibility to co-create a classroom that affirms inclusion, equity, and social justice, where racism, sexism, classism, ableism, heterosexism, xenophobia, and other social pathologies are not tolerated. Violations of this policy will be enforced in line with the SIUE Student Conduct Code.

The Inclusive Excellence, Education, and Development Hub is an excellent resource for students for support and community. Any person who believes they have experienced or witnessed discrimination or harassment can contact Lindy Wagner, Assistant Vice Chancellor for Inclusive Excellence, Education and Development at (618) 650-3179 or linwagn@siue.edu.

Link to [Online form for reporting bias incidents](#).

SEXUAL HARRASMENT: Since learning is best achieved in an environment of mutual respect and trust, the college has adopted a clear and firm policy prohibiting sexual harassment. Even though this is an online class, sexual harassment can, nonetheless, occur. Such conduct will not be tolerated in this class, and victims are encouraged to report any unwelcome sexual advances to appropriate school authorities (<http://www.siue.edu/policies/2c5.shtml> for more information).

COUGAR CARE: Dealing with the fast-paced life of a college student can be challenging, and I always support a student's decisions to prioritize mental health. Students have access to counseling services on campus (Student Success Center, 0222). Make an appointment by visiting cougarcare.siue.edu or by calling [618-650-2842](tel:618-650-2842).

STUDENT SUCCESS COACHES: Student success coaches work across campus to serve the SIUE student population with the tools and resources to adjust to and meet the demands of the college experience. Success coaches provide direct services such as time management support and referrals to campus resources. If you find yourself in need of academic or personal support, or in a situation that is preventing you from being successful in the classroom, please utilize Starfish to connect with a coach as soon as possible. The sooner you engage, the sooner you can access the information or tools you need that may help you get back on track.

SUBJECT TO CHANGE NOTICE: All material, assignments, and deadlines are subject to change with prior notice. It is your responsibility to stay in touch with your instructor, review the course site regularly, or communicate with other students, to adjust as needed if assignments or due dates change.

FYI – If you do not take the syllabus quiz and Quiz 1, you will be dropped from the course.

QUIZZES AND EXAMS WILL BE DUE 11:59pm; Quizzes (8 or 11min) and exams (35min)

COURSE SCHEDULE AND ASSIGNMENTS

Dates	Topics	Quiz	Quizzes–All Materials found on BlackBoard (yellow highlighted are videos)
15-18 Dec	Syllabus & Intro to Anthropology	#1 & Syllabus 15 Dec	<i>Profile of an Anthropologist; How Climate Shaped Humanity</i>
	Language	#2 16 Dec	<i>Could Neanderthals Speak?; The Writing on the Cave Wall; With & Without Words (56min)</i>
	Human Genetics	#3 17 Dec	<i>Resistance Movement; Curse and Blessing of the Ghetto; The Perfect Plague</i>
Exam 1 – Thurs, 18 Dec			
19-24 Dec	Human Variation (“race”) & Adaptation & Primatology	#4 19 Dec	<i>Mixed Blood; Bushmeat; What Are Friends For?</i>
	Primatology	#5 & Chimps 22 Dec	<i>Titus: The Gorilla King (50min); Savanna Chimpanzees, Hunt with Tools; Mothers and Others</i>
	Archaeological Record	#6 23 Dec	<i>In Search of Fort St. Joseph (30min); Lost Cities of the Amazon</i>
Exam 2 – Wed, 24 Dec			
25-30 Dec	Human Origins	#7 25 Dec	<i>Climate Effects on Human Evolution; First of Our Kind</i>
	Transitional Biped, <i>Homo erectus</i> , Archaic <i>Homo sapiens</i> , & Upper Paleo	#8 26 Dec	<i>Becoming Human: Birth of Humanity (52min); Twilight of the Neandertals; New Women of the Ice Age</i>
	Upper Paleo & Migrations	#9 29 Dec	<i>The Evolution of Grandparents; A Cave Beneath the Sea (26min); Who Were the First Americans?</i>
Exam 3 – Tues, 30 Dec			
31 Dec-3 Jan	Domestication & Settlement; Cities & States	#10 31 Dec	<i>Superdirt Made Lost Amazon Cities Possible?; How the First Farmers Changed History; Dynasties of Power: China (51min)</i>
	Cities & States; And Now What??	#11 1 Jan	<i>Lofty Ambitions of the Inca; Why Did Mayan Civilization Collapse?; Population of Seven Billion</i>
<i>Before the Flood Quiz & Slush Quiz – 2 Jan</i>			
Exam 4 – Sat, 3 Jan			
Extra credit includes the following quizzes- Syllabus, Chimps, <i>Before the Flood</i> , & Slush			

GRADING:

Quizzes (11) 90 points

Exams (4) 110 points

TOTAL 200 points

GRADE SCALE:

A = 90-100% (180 - 200 points)

B = 80-89% (160 - 179 points)

C = 70-79% (140 - 159 points)

D = 60-69% (120 – 139 points)

F = 59-↓% (0 - 119 points)