

COMMON COURSE OUTLINE
ANTH 102
INTRODUCTION TO PHYSICAL ANTHROPOLOGY

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

ANTH 102 Introduction to Physical Anthropology

Explains the origins and development of humans including genetics, physical evolution and cultural development; examines fossil and archeological evidence with emphasis on anthropological methods and interpretation.

Prerequisite: (ENGL 052 or LVE 2), (RDNG 052 or LVR 2)

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

Upon completion of the course, the student will be able to:

- ⌚ Explain the relation of physical anthropology to the other fields of anthropology and to other sciences.
- ⌚ Explain the focus of each of the subfields of physical anthropology: paleoanthropology, primatology and human variation.
- ⌚ Present a brief history of the development of evolutionary thought.
- ⌚ Explain the major principles and mechanisms of biological evolution.
- ⌚ Describe the structure of the cell and the process of cell division in organisms.
- ⌚ Explain the basic principles of biological heredity.
- ⌚ Trace the evolution of primates and outline the taxonomic classification of primates.
- ⌚ Describe the distinctive physical and behavioral characteristics of primates.
- ⌚ Compare and contrast hominids with the other primates.
- ⌚ Trace the hominid fossil record from Australopithecines to Homo sapiens and discuss interpretations of it.
- ⌚ Discuss the relation between human physical characteristics and cultural development.
- ⌚ Explain and analyze theories on physical variations in human populations today.
- ⌚ Describe and critique research methods in physical anthropology.

⌚ Discuss theoretical issues in physical anthropology.

MAJOR TOPICS

The relation of physical anthropology to the other fields of anthropology and to other sciences

Biological evolutionary theory

Cell structure and function

Biological heredity (genetics)

Evolution of primates

Primate taxonomic classification

Physical and behavioral characteristics of primates

Similarities and differences between hominids and other primates

The hominid fossil record from Australopithecines to Homo sapiens

Research methods, including dating techniques

Theories on hominid physical and cultural evolution

Theories on physical variation in contemporary human populations