

Common Course Outline
ANTH 102
Introduction to Physical Anthropology
3 Credits

Community College of Baltimore County

Description

ANTH 102 - 3 credits – 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. Course offered fall, spring, and may be offered during additional sessions.

3 credits

Prerequisites: ACLT 052 or ACLT 053

Overall Course Objectives

Upon completion of this course students will be able to:

1. explain the relationship of physical anthropology to the other fields of anthropology;
2. identify different research areas in biological anthropology;
3. appraise the history of evolutionary thought and its relationship to physical anthropology;
4. diagram the structure of the cell and the process of cell division;
5. explain the principles of biological heredity;
6. describe RNA and the four types of DNA and their anthropological uses;
7. explain natural selection and how it can be used to explain the frequency of traits and disorders in human populations;
8. analyze theories on physical variations in human populations;
9. discuss the evolution of primates and their skeletal and behavioral variations;
10. assess the limitations of the fossil record and how those limitations affect our understanding of evolution;
11. evaluate members of the hominin tribe and trace their migration using evidence from the fossil record;
12. compare the main hypotheses of modern human origins;
13. interpret the relationship between physical characteristics and cultural development from early tool use to agriculture;
14. formulate conclusions about the human variation and race based on the scientific evidence;
15. find, evaluate, use and cite academic resources in the discipline of anthropology, and
16. identify the ethical obligations of physical anthropologists to human and primate research subjects.

Major Topics

- I. The relation of physical anthropology to the other fields of anthropology and to other sciences
- II. Biological evolutionary theory
- III. Cell structure and function
- IV. Biological heredity
- V. Emergence and evolution of primates
- VI. Physical and behavioral characteristics of primates
- VII. Similarities and differences in the Hominae subfamily
- VIII. The hominin fossil record
- IX. Research methods in physical anthropology, including dating and fossil analysis
- X. Relationship between biology and culture
- XI. Theories on variation in contemporary human populations

Course Requirements

Specific assignments and procedures for evaluating student performance in this course will be described in the individual class syllabus, but will include the following:

- At least one exam with a writing component (short-answer or essay).
- Writing: Multiple assignments will infuse CCBC's General Education Program and Diversity objectives; at least one assignment (10 pages, in length, to include original research and analysis) worth a minimum of 10% of the total course grade will allow students to demonstrate at least 5 of the 7 General Education Program outcomes.
- At least one assignment utilizing internet information sources.
- At least one collaborative work (such as discussions, group projects or in-class exercises).

Students must utilize appropriate academic resources.

Other Course Requirements

This course is an approved General Education course in the Social and Behavioral Sciences category.

Revised 2/13/17