

ANTH 4252: HUMAN BIOLOGY

Fall 2017

Instructor: Allison Wolfe

Email: allison.wolfe@utah.edu

Office hours: video chat and phone only, by appointment

What is human biology?

Human biology, as a scientific discipline, aims to understand the origin, extent, and patterning of human biological variability. It achieves this goal by elucidating explanatory mechanisms for this observed patterned variation, and by relating it to health, disease, aging, growth and development, demography, genetics, and social issues. As with biology in general, human biology is inherently evolutionary in its approach to explaining variability and diversity in time and space.

Course Description

This course emphasizes both evolutionary and biocultural approaches to studying humans, and the semester will include a survey of the pattern of human biological variation at both the individual and population levels. We will evaluate patterns of morphological, physiological, and genetic variation in world populations as adaptive responses to local ecological conditions, including disease and diet.

Learning Outcomes

Students will gain an understanding of what makes us human, concepts and processes of human biology, and the types and causes for biological variation within our species. By the end of the course, students should be able to describe variation among humans across space and through time, and should be familiar with topics such as human nutrition, life cycle, growth and development, demography, health and disease, fertility, and more.

Required Text

S. Stinson, B. Bogin, R. Huss—Ashmore and O'Rourke, eds. (2012) **Human Biology: An Evolutionary and Biocultural Perspective**. 2nd edition. New York: Wiley—Liss, Inc.
ISBN: 978-0-470-17964-2

You can buy the text online, or it is available for **FREE** as an E-book through the university library website. There will be a link to the textbook on the Canvas page, or you can search for it on your own on the library website by typing the title into the search bar.

Required supplemental readings (usually scientific journal articles) will be posted on Canvas weekly.

Course Requirements

There will be three EXAMS and one TERM PAPER on some aspect of human variation, adaptation, and/or human biological evolution. Note that there is no exam during finals week. Final grades will be posted after all of the term papers have been submitted and graded. The instructor reserves the right to decide whether or not to curve the final grades and how to implement such a curve.

Your grade will be based on:

First exam.....	25%
Second exam.....	25%
Third exam.....	25%
Term paper.....	25%

Course Format

Canvas:

- Because this is an online class, the setup is a bit different than what you might be used to. Everything will be operated out of the course Canvas site. Almost all of my communication with you will be through posted Announcements on Canvas. **Thus it is VERY important that you see all announcements in a timely fashion.** If you haven't already, please log onto Canvas and click on "Account" and then "Notifications." If the checkmark box next to "Announcements" is not already gray, click it so that you get all announcements emailed to you right away. You can also change notification settings on other Canvas functions if you'd like.
- All of the lecture videos (see below), readings, and other materials will be posted under the "Modules" tab. Each week will be a different module for organization and ease of access purposes.
- You will also be able to see your grade on Canvas, have discussions with other students in the course and with me (see above), and access the exams when they are posted.

Discussions:

- Participation in online discussions on the Canvas page is OPTIONAL but it is highly recommended to participate (I take things like participation in discussions and communication with me into consideration when deciding final grades). There will be a discussion thread each week in which you can ask questions, answer other students' questions, or review for exams. I will monitor the discussion and answer questions if needed, but I am hoping that these will facilitate discussion amongst you and your fellow students. There will also be an exam review discussion before each exam, and again I will weigh in if needed.

Lectures:

- There will usually be two lecture videos each week (see schedule below). These will be posted every Monday and/or Wednesday, usually by early morning. **It is your responsibility to watch the lectures (and I recommend taking notes!) in a timely fashion.** Do not procrastinate and fall behind schedule or you will be cramming before the exams!

- **I DO NOT PROVIDE LECTURE SLIDES.** I will be providing “worksheets” that go along with each lecture. These will contain questions about the main concepts that you should be able to answer after listening to the lecture, and key terms that you should be able to define. These are for your own benefit and you are not required to use them or turn them in. Some students might find them really useful, especially to use during exams.
- I would recommend still taking your own notes, and then using your notes to fill in the worksheets (as a review of sorts) after watching the lecture or at the end of the week.
- Remember that you can always pause the lecture video and skip around if needed.

Readings:

- Each week you will read a chapter or two from the textbook. See the course schedule.
- In addition to the textbook, there will be required supplemental readings posted to the Canvas page each week. These will usually be scientific journal articles related to the topics of the week, and will range between 0-3 articles per week.
- I do not expect you to memorize everything about each reading—just focus on the main concepts. I recommend annotating the readings and/or taking good notes on the main points of each reading as you go along. This will help you study before each exam. The worksheets for each Wednesday lecture will include questions for you to answer about the main topics of the readings.
- You can access an electronic copy of the textbook for FREE through the library website.

Exams:

- Three exams will be given during this course. Note that there is no “Final Exam” during finals week—the last exam is during the last week of class. Exams will consist of short answer and essay questions that can be submitted as a PDF or Word document on Canvas. More information regarding the exams will be announced as we get closer.
- The exams will be posted on Canvas on a Thursday, and will be due on a Saturday. This gives you **three full days** to work on the exam. You may use your notes or other resources from the course while you take the exam. Think of these as “take home” exams. **There is no time limit**, but you must submit your document before the due date!
- Grading rubrics will be posted after each exam for transparency. Rubrics cannot be posted in advance, as it is based on how the class performs.
- Answers that demonstrate critical thinking and analysis will be scored better than those that simply regurgitate course material and/or those that obviously just used Google.
- You are encouraged to contact me if you have any questions before the exams.
- Please check the course schedule for exam dates and let me know ASAP about any conflicts that would keep you from completing the exams or term paper by the due date (ex. University sports team, medical procedure, etc.). I may require proof before I change the due date for you.

Term Paper:

- You will be required to write a term paper on some aspect of human variation, adaptation, and/or human biological evolution.
- **Your paper topic must be approved by the instructor by the end of Week 4, and is due no later than December 15th.**

- If you do not get your term paper topic turned in and approved in time, points will be deducted from the score on your term paper.
- More information on the term paper will be given in the first weeks of the semester.

Office Hours

- I am currently not living in Salt Lake City, so office hours are done via video chat or phone only. Please contact me to make an appointment.
- I will let you all know when I will be in town (which should be a couple times this semester) so that you can meet with me in person if you want to.
- You can also always contact me via email for any questions, concerns, etc.

Extra Credit Policy

- **There is no extra credit in this course.** Please do not email me at the end of the semester asking for extra credit because you need to pass the class in order to graduate. I will not put extra effort into boosting your grade just because you didn't put effort in from the beginning. This is a college course, so expect to be treated like a college student. That being said, if you do the readings, turn in a well-written term paper, and do well on the exams, you will do just fine in this course.
- **If you find yourself struggling in the course, get in touch with me early on so that I can help!** I truly do want all of you to succeed, but I can't help you if you don't ask for help!

Other Stuff

- It is your responsibility to maintain your computer and related equipment in order to participate in the online portion of the course. Equipment failures will not be an acceptable excuse for late or missing coursework.
- You are responsible for making sure your exams and term paper, including attachments, are received before the deadline, using the required naming convention and correct file extension, and using the software type and version required.
- Discussion threads, emails, chat rooms, etc. are all considered to be equivalent to classrooms, and student behavior within those environments must conform to the Student Code. Specifically, there shall be no posting of photos or comments that are off-topic, crude or inappropriate, or hateful. Off-color or abusive content is never permitted. Any violation of these rules will be dealt with according to the Student Code.
- Your professor may elect to use a plagiarism detection service in this course, in which case you will be required to submit your papers to such a service as part of your assignment. Enrolling in this course serves as your agreement to the use of these services.

Accommodations

- If you require any sort of accommodations for the course, please contact the Center for Disability & Access (www.disability.utah.edu). They will give you further instructions. I cannot offer any accommodations unless you have gone through the Center, so please contact them ASAP.

Course Schedule

Week	Lecture Dates	Topics	Readings	Due Dates, etc.
1	Aug. 21 Aug. 23	Orientation/Introduction & Some theory...	Chapter 1	
2	Aug. 28 Aug. 30	History, Theory, and Heredity in Human Biology	Chapters 2&3	*Last day to add/drop classes is Sep. 1!
3	Sep. 4 Sep. 6	Basic Anthropological Genetics	Chapter 4	* No lecture for Labor Day on Sep. 4
4	Sep. 11 Sep. 13	Population Structure and Quantitative Variation	Chapter 5	Term paper topic DUE by Sep. 15th Exam 1 DUE 9/16
5	Sep. 18 Sep. 20	Human Adaptation and Climatic Diversity	Chapter 6	
6	Sep. 25 Sep. 27	Disease Epidemiology and Adaptation	Chapter 9	
7	Oct. 2 Oct. 4	Human Nutritional Evolution	Chapter 7	
8	~~~FALL BREAK~~~			
9	Oct. 16 Oct. 18	Human Energetics	Chapter 8	Exam 2 DUE 10/21
10	Oct. 23 Oct. 25	Evolution of the Human Life Cycle	Chapter 11	
11	Oct. 30 Nov. 1	Growth	Chapter 12	
12	Nov. 6 Nov. 8	Aging and Senescence	Chapter 13	
12	Nov. 13 Nov. 15	Demography	Chapter 14	
13	Nov. 20 Nov. 22	Population Growth and Fertility	Chapter 15	* No lecture 11/22 for those travelling for the holiday
14	Nov. 27 Nov. 29	Catching up & Review		Exam 3 DUE 12/2
15	Dec. 4 Dec. 6	Work on term paper		Term paper DUE 12/15

Department and University Policies

ADA Statement: The Americans with Disabilities Act. The University of Utah seeks to provide equal access to its programs, services, and activities for people with disabilities. If you will need accommodations in this class, reasonable prior notice needs to be given to the Center for Disability Services, 162 Olpin Union Building, (801) 581-5020. CDS will work with you and the instructor to make arrangements for accommodations. All written information in this course can be made available in an alternative format with prior notification to the Center for Disability Services.

Addressing Sexual Misconduct: Title IX makes it clear that violence and harassment based on sex and gender (which includes sexual orientation and gender identity/expression) is a Civil Rights offense subject to the same kinds of accountability and the same kinds of support applied to offenses against other protected categories such as race, national origin, color, religion, age, status as a person with a disability, veteran's status or genetic information. If you or someone you know has been harassed or assaulted, you are encouraged to report it to the Title IX Coordinator in the Office of Equal Opportunity and Affirmative Action, 135 Park Building, 801-581-8365, or the Office of the Dean of Students, 270 Union Building, 801-581-7066. For support and confidential consultation, contact the Center for Student Wellness, 426 SSB, 801-581-7776. To report to the police, contact the Department of Public Safety, 801-585-2677(COPS).

Wellness Statement: Personal concerns such as stress, anxiety, relationship difficulties, depression, cross-cultural differences, etc., can interfere with a student's ability to succeed and thrive at the University of Utah. For helpful resources contact the Center for Student Wellness (www.wellness.utah.edu; 801-581-7776).

Student Code: (Policy 6-400) All students are expected to maintain professional behavior in the classroom setting, according to the Student Code (regulations.utah.edu/academics/6-400.php). Students have specific rights in the classroom as detailed in S. II of the Code. The Code also specifies standards of behavior (S. III) and academic conduct (S. V). ``Students must adhere to generally accepted standards of academic honesty, including but not limited to refraining from cheating, plagiarizing, research misconduct, misrepresenting one's work, and/or inappropriately collaborating" (S. VB). According to Faculty Rules and Regulations, it is the faculty responsibility to enforce responsible classroom behaviors. Students have the right to appeal such action to the Student Behavior Committee.

Incomplete Policy: An "I" will only be given for work not completed because of circumstances beyond the student's control, providing the student is passing the course and needs to complete 20% or less of the work. Valid reasons for an "I" grade include: (a) An illness (documented by a medical statement) that precludes the ability of the student to perform; (b) an accident or situation that prevents the student from physically being present (documentation may be required); (c) Extreme emotional or other mental circumstances that are severe enough to interfere with a student's normal academic performance. If you do receive an "I", do not register for the course again. You must complete the required work in the time agreed by you and the instructor. If the work is not completed within one year, the grade will change to an "E". Faculty will not accept additional work to change the grade after that one-year period. If a student has a problem with the course, please deal with it immediately. It is the student's responsibility to contact instructors and submit necessary forms.

Note: The syllabus is not a binding legal contract. It may be modified by the instructor when the student is given reasonable notice of the modification.