Anth 4133/6133: Maternal and Child Health

Spring 2019

3 credits

Meets Tuesdays & Thursdays 2:00–3:20 PM in AEB 340

Instructor:  Renee Pennington
Office:  Gardner Commons, Room 4625
Office Hours:  after class and by appointment
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Web:  Canvas portal

Course Description  This class is a course in human evolution. We try to figure out how nature designed humans to reproduce and care for children by looking at our biology. If you strip away culture, what does the biology predict? If you tinker with the design, what are the consequences?

The course includes an overview of infant and early child mortality rates and its causes. In particular we consider the influences of infectious disease, technology and human variation on health.

An emphasis of the course is hypothesis testing based on scientific methods. How do you know what you know? There are always (at least) two explanations for anything, and students may be surprised to find that some generally accepted beliefs are not evidence-based.

Prerequisites  There are no prerequisite courses. Enrollment in Anth 6133 requires graduate standing.

Graduate standing.

Course Objectives  At the end of the course students will be able to a) apply anthropological research methods to answer a question or solve a problem; b) evaluate and synthesize scientific hypotheses about human variation using empirical data; and c) explain aspects of human variation using evolutionary theory.

In particular, students will be able to

• identify the basic pattern of human reproduction and its natural variation in diverse human groups;
• use an understanding of human variation and the human past as a tool for investigating questions about fertility and morbidity;
• use evidence-based research and hypothesis testing to assess the reliability of information;
• interpret graphical representations of data.

Teaching and learning methods  Class is structured around lectures and discussion of course topics. Students should bring questions about course content, including readings, to class for discussion.

Grading

Anth 4133 students  Grades will be based on three midterm exams, a research project, and one homework assignment. Each exam is worth 210 points (each is 21.0 percent of course grade). The research project is worth 330 points (33 percent of course grade). The homework consists of completing a tentative reference list and topic description (40 pts/4 percent of course grade) in conjunction with the class library day.

Assume the following percentages for grades: >93 A, 90-93 A-, 87-89 B+, 83-86 B, 80-82 B-, 77-79 C+, 73-76 C, 70-72 C-, 67-69 D+, 63-66 D, 60-62 D-, and <60 Fail. I may add a curve at the end of the semester.

Each midterm will cover material from each third of the course. For the research paper you will complete an online plagiarism tutorial, write and electronically submit a 10 to 15 page (double-spaced) research report on a topic of related to course content, and provide a written response to the originality report you receive from Turnitin.com about your paper. The papers should be written in an academic style and include formal references to research. Please refer to the research paper handout for the specific requirements about this assignment.

1There are about 300 words on a double-spaced page, so most of you will need write between 3000 to 4500 words of prose to produce a good paper. There are no strict length requirements, this is just a guideline.
I will also award 10 extra credit points to the first student to discover a substantive error in my lecture notes, homework assignments or the research project assignments.

**Anth 6133 students**  Requirements for Anth 6133 students are the same as for Anth 4133 students except that Anth 6133 students are expected to prepare a more elaborate paper than undergraduate students. This project is normally a component of the student’s thesis and, if appropriate, presented to the class. I will grade Anth 6133 students exams on a separate scale from Anth 4133 students.

**Dates for Spring 2019 Term**

- Library Research Day—TBA, hoping for Thursday, January 24, pending confirmation from scheduling.
- References list assignment due one week after the Library Research Day (tentatively Jan. 31, 2019).
- First Midterm (in class)—Tuesday, February 12, 2019.
- Second Midterm (in class)—Tuesday, March 26, 2019.
- Last day to submit Reference List for any credit—Thursday, April 11, 2019.
- Third Midterm (in class)—Tuesday, April 23, 2019.
- Research project due—Tuesday, April 30, 2019.

**Late work**  You are required to take the exams as scheduled unless you make alternative arrangements with me ahead of time. Contact me no later than the class following the missed exam to reschedule a make-up. Students who miss the exam without a documented and compelling excuse will be penalized 20 percentage points on the exam. Writing assignments submitted after the due date will lose 20 percentage points on that assignment. You are responsible for making sure I receive a printed copy of writing assignments, if required, and that you have successfully uploaded it to Turnitin.com by the due date. Thursday, April 11, 2019, is the last day to submit the reference list assignment for any credit. To receive credit for the plagiarism tutorial assignment, you must complete it before submitting your research paper.

**Plagiarism software**  You will submit your papers electronically to Turnitin.com, which will analyze your work for text matches to published sources to help prevent plagiarism. Plagiarism is improper use of someone else’s ideas or words, such as using a phrase or passage from a book as if you wrote it. We will use Turnitin.com as a learning tool. Students who submit their reports to Turnitin.com ahead of the deadline will have an opportunity to correct any problems it identifies before I grade them.

**Makeup work**  Students may propose projects (or ask me for suggestions) to earn from 10 to 50 extra points (1/3 letter grade maximum increase). I must approve your project.

In the past students have read popular science books about evolution or wrote a short research report about something relevant to the course.

The make-up work will help students who missed a few points on an exam or land in between grades at the end of the semester. Most students can improve their grades more by using the time to study for the exams or work on their papers.

**Readings**


2. Various journal articles and book chapters (details TBA).
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.