PARKLAND COLLEGE

Course Information Form (CIF)

Course Code: ANT 105 (IAI S1 902)

Course Title: Introduction to Physical Anthropology

Department: Arts, Media, and Social Sciences
PCS Code: 1.1 - Baccalaureate/Transfer
CIP Code: 45.0201
Repeatability: 0

Effective Date: Summer 2026

Credit Hours

Catalog Notation: 3-0-3
Credit Hour Distribution:

Lecture: 3	Lab: 0	Clinical: 0	**Total: 3**

General Course Information

Catalog Description

Introduction to the principles and course of human evolution from the perspective of biological and social sciences.

General Course Objectives

- Introduce the principles and process of human evolution, including the definitions of macroevolution, microevolution and genetic variation.
- Review molecular and Mendelian genetics in order to discuss natural selection.
- Describe morphological characterization and the diversity of social organization in different primate species and compare them to similar biological and cultural characteristics in humans.
- Consider the human species in taxonomic and evolutionary perspectives through the fossil record and archaeological evidence.

Minimum Placement Levels

English	Reading	Math
Placement out of ENG 098	None	None

Prerequisites

None

Methods of Evaluation

Evaluation methods will include unit tests, short essays and reports, and lab and other applied activities.

Instructional Materials and Additional Supplies

Explorations: An Open Invitation to Biological Anthropology, second edition. Beth Shook, Katie Neslon, Kelsie Aguilera and Laura Braff. This is a free online textbook published by the American Anthropological Association; students who need or wish for a hard copy can purchase one on Amazon for a minimal fee. 978-1-931303-82-8

Course Content

General Learning Outcomes (GLOs)

- Critical Thinking and Information Literacy: Students will demonstrate the ability to evaluate perspectives, evidence, and implications, and to locate, assess, and use information effectively.
- Global Awareness and Cultural Reasoning: Students will demonstrate their understanding of global issues, gender and sexual orientation, and multicultural perspectives.

Course Segments and Student Learning Outcomes

Course Segment	Learning Outcomes	Lecture Hours	Lab Hours	Clinical Hours
Biological Anthropology and Evolution	1. Describe biological anthropology. 2. Discuss key characteristics and subfields of anthropology. 3. Define evolutionary science and describe history of evolutionary theory. 4. Distinguish between science and pseudoscience.	3	0	0
Human Genetics	1. Review the molecular and Mendelian genetics necessary for an understanding of the evolutionary process. 2. Define basic Mendelian genetics, emphasizing the basic principles of inheritance. 3. Outline the basic principles of natural selection.	3	0	0
Evolutionary Forces	1. Define microevolution. 2. Describe examples of microevolution in operation historically and in the present.	3	0	0
Evolution and Classification of Species	1. Define macroevolution. 2. Describe the various modes of speciation. 3. Discuss popular misconceptions related to macroevolution. 4. Specify how species are classified in a biological taxonomy.	3	0	0
Evolution and Diversity	1. Describe the defining characteristics of the Primate order. 2. Define the methods and theories underlying the study of primates, including behavioral ecology and reproductive strategies. 3. Discuss some of the variation among primates, including prosimians, anthropoids, and monkeys. 4. Detail the defining characteristics of the Great Apes.	5	0	0
Ethnoprimatology and Primate Conservation	1. Discuss ethnoprimatology and its application to current global primate conservation efforts.	1	0	0
Paleoanthropology and Primate Origins	1. Identify the various methods of paleoanthropological research. 2. Describe relevant dating methods. 3. Describe in brief the history of life on Earth, particularly major trends in vertebrate evolution. 4. Describe the major trends in fossil primate evolution. 5. Detail the major events in Miocene ape evolution.	3	0	0

Course Segment	Learning Outcomes	Lecture Hours	Lab Hours	Clinical Hours
Early Hominins	1. Identify some of the major hominins, the primitive and robust forms of australopithecines, and the possible ancestors of the Homo genus. 2. Describe the most important anatomical differences and similarities among the australopithecines. 3. Define the various theories for bipedalism.	8	0	0
Origin and Evolution of the Genus Homo	1. State the fossil and archaeological evidence for the initial appearance of the genus Homo, the evolution of the Middle Pleistocene hominins, and the Neandertals. 2. Describe the major trends in cultural evolution for these hominins including recent discoveries in the field.	9	0	0
Origin of Modern Humans and the First Migrations	1. Describe the fossil and archaeological evidence for anatomically modern Homo sapiens, including spatial and temporal distribution and cultural capabilities. 2. Differentiate between the models for modern human migration out of Africa.	4	0	0
Study of Human Variation and Adaptation	1. Describe the methods of studying human variation and adaptation in contemporary populations. 2. Define race as a social construction. 3. Define how anthropologists study human variation in ways that are not racist and reflect the operation of biological processes.	3	0	0

Total Contact Hours

Lecture Hours	Lab Hours	Clinical Hours
45	0	0