

**\*SAMPLE\***

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ANT-102H: HONORS PHYSICAL ANTHROPOLOGY  
Spring Semester 2012, Berkshire Community College  
Section 01: Tues/Thurs 9:25 am – 10:40 am, Melville 116

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TEXT: *Biological Anthropology*, Sixth Edition, Michael Alan Park, McGraw-Hill

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

From the catalog: “An introduction to human evolutionary studies and the biological history of the human species. Includes surveys of the human fossil record, great ape studies, prehistoric archaeology, and modern human biodiversity. Additional topics touched upon include forensic anthropology, human genetics, dating methods, and human skeletal anatomy.”

**COURSE OBJECTIVES:**

Anthropology is, simply, the study of humanity in all of its aspects. There are four main subfields in anthropology: sociocultural, archaeology, physical, and linguistics. These subfields overlap in scope and rely upon each other in order to be fully realized. Sociocultural anthropology focuses on the study of modern humanity through the concept of “culture”. Linguistics encompasses the study of the nature, development, interaction, and use of human language. Archaeology is the study of the human cultural past (mainly the last 10,000 years) through the examination of material remains and artifacts. Physical anthropology concerns humanity’s evolution, anatomy, physical variation, biology, and relation to the primate world. The purpose of this course is to introduce students to the broad field of physical anthropology, primarily through an examination of human evolutionary studies (paleoanthropology), great ape studies (comparative primatology), bioarchaeology, and modern human biodiversity.

**TEACHING PROCEDURE:**

The instructor will provide lectures based around, and expanding upon, the current textbook readings. The instructor will present additional information in lecture that will not be found in the textbook. Periodically, the instructor will provide key terms that students should know from both textbook readings and lecture. Students should utilize the textbook website to explore additional helpful material. The instructor will intermittently show films related to the current topics of the course that will be utilized for class discussion. Finally and importantly, student questions are welcomed and encouraged at any time.

## TEACHING/LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

- Practicing how to think critically
- Utilizing discussion to elucidate ideas
- Grasping the art of relevant notetaking
- Recognizing historical, cultural, and personal perspectives in texts and films
- Analyzing the prehistorical contexts that have situated humanity in its current biological and cultural circumstances
- Understanding humanity's place in the natural world and the forces which have determined that place

## ASSIGNMENTS/GRADING:

Students are expected to complete the required readings (textbook and handout) for each class session. There will be three exams (including the final). The exams will consist of 40-50 multiple-choice questions, plus an *optional* extra-credit section. Questions will be drawn from readings, lecture, and films. In the extra-credit section, students will choose one of four topics and write a short paragraph demonstrating their thoughts on, or understanding of, the topic; credit will range from four to seven points, depending on the quality of the response. The final will not be comprehensive – it will only cover the last third of the course. If a student misses an exam, his/her grade on that exam will drop 5 points for each day that it is not completed. There will also be two research papers. The first paper will be an ecological profile of one primate species. The second paper will examine a relevant topic concerning human evolution of the student's choosing, with the instructor's permission. Students should utilize the BCC library and the internet, particularly the library database access to academic journals and periodicals, to find primary and secondary sources of reference for their papers. The final course grade will be determined as follows:

Exam One	20%	Paper One	20%
Exam Two	20%	Paper Two	20%
Exam Three (Final)	20%	Participation Bonus	+5%

## ATTENDANCE:

It is imperative that students not miss more than two unexcused class meetings. It is official BCC policy that a student may be dropped from this course for exceeding that limit, at the instructor's discretion. If you are unable to attend class, you **MUST** notify me **BEFORE** the class meets. If special circumstances occur and you must miss an abnormal number of classes or an exam, you **MUST** notify me in advance so that we can discuss appropriate handling of the situation. Students are still responsible for all material, homework, and discussion presented in class if they are absent. Copies of all films will be on reserve at the college library. Get to know your fellow classmates so that if you miss class, you can borrow their notes.

## EMBEDDED CORE COMPETENCIES:

Scientific Reasoning

Human Understanding and Interaction

Week One:	TTH	Chapter 1 & Chapter 2	Jan 24 & 26
Week Two:	TU	Chapter 3 (partial) & Chapter 4	Jan 31
	TH	Chapter 5 & Chapter 6	Feb 2
Week Three:	TU	No Assignment	Feb 7
	TH	Chapter 7	Feb 9
Week Four:	TU	Take-Home Practice Test	Feb 14
	TH	Chapter 8	Feb 16
Week Five:	TTH	No Assignments	Feb 21 & 23
Week Six:	TU	Chapter 9 – pp. 179-186	Feb 28
	TH	Professional Day – NO CLASS	Mar 1
Week Seven:	TU	<b>First Paper Due</b>	Mar 6
	TH	Chapter 9 – pp. 187-205	Mar 8
Week Eight:	SPRING BREAK	Chapter 10 – pp. 207-219	Mar 13 & 15
Week Nine:	TU	<b>EXAM ONE</b>	Mar 20
	TH	Chapter 10 – pp. 219-237	Mar 22
Week Ten:	TU	Chapter 10 – pp. 237-245	Mar 27
	TH	Chapter 11 – pp. 247-254	Mar 29
Week Eleven:	TU	Chapter 11 – pp. 254-266	Apr 3
	TH	Chapter 11 – pp. 266-272	Apr 5
Week Twelve:	TTH	No Assignments	Apr 10 & 12
Week Thirteen:	TU	<b>EXAM TWO</b>	Apr 17
	TH	Chapter 11 – pp. 272-290	Apr 19
Week Fourteen:	TU	Advising Day – NO CLASS	Apr 24
	TH	Chapter 11 – pp. 290-303	Apr 26
Week Fifteen:	TU	Chapter 12	May 1
	TH	Chapter 13 – pp. 331-343	May 3
Week Sixteen:	TU	<b>Second Paper Due</b> & Chapter 14	May 8
	TH	Chapter 15 (maybe)	May 10
Week Seventeen:	TU or TH	<b>EXAM THREE</b> (Final)	To Be Announced

