

COURSE SYLLABUS
ANTHROPOLOGY 302: FOUNDATIONS OF HUMAN VARIATION

Semester: Spring 2021

Section: 1 (asynchronous)

Instructor: Mark C. Griffin

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Office Hours: via Zoom W and F 10-12 ([Make an Appointment](#))

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course examines the nature and extent of heritable differences among human populations in an evolutionary perspective. The role of genetics and environment in the formation of these differences is considered, as well as the biological concept of race.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADES:

Each week there will be four to six 30-40 minute lectures you will need to work through. After each lecture, you will complete a 2-3 question quiz. Cumulatively there will be at least 130 of these questions over the course of the semester. The questions will draw from the material in the lecture block and the correlated material from the textbook. In order to encourage you to stay on pace with the material, there will be 2-3 blocks of lecture material that must be completed in the first half of the week (Mon-Wed) and another 2-3 blocks that must be completed during the second half of the week (Thur-Sat). I strongly encourage you to follow the recommendations regarding pacing yourself through the material found in the class preparation sections on iLearn.

In addition to the weekly quiz questions, there are five exams for this course. The format for the exams is multiple choice. Each exam will consist of 30 questions (cumulatively 150 points for the semester). During the first two weeks of class there is an additional quiz (Course Preparation Quiz) that must be completed. Your grade for the course is based on your average for all of the course assignments (number of questions you get correct from the exams and daily quizzes divided by the 300 possible points for the semester). Your final grade for the course is assigned on a "ten point" grade scale:

90-100% = "A" 80-89% = "B" 70-79% = "C" 60-69% = "D" <60% = "F"

There is no "curve" applied to the grades in this course (i.e., if you have a 78 average, you will receive a "C" for the course; if you have a 65 average, you will receive a "D" for the course; etc.). No incompletes will be given for this course. All scores for this course are posted on iLearn within 24 hours of the quiz or exam. You should review your scores on a regular basis in order to monitor your progress in the course.

REASONS YOU CAN BE DROPPED FROM THE COURSE:

Students who do not take or do not pass the Course Preparation Quiz will be dropped from the course.

Students who miss one or more quizzes during the first three weeks of class will be dropped from the course.

Students who fail to complete all of the quizzes and all of the exams for the semester will receive a "WU" for the course. For purposes of grade point average and progress point computation, this grade is equivalent to an F.

TEXTBOOK:

Molnar, Stephen. 2006. *Human Variation: Races, types, and Ethnic Groups, Sixth Edition*. New Jersey: Pearson Prentice Hall.

*You are responsible for all information presented in lectures, assigned readings, and any other media (i.e., films, video tapes, slides, etc.). The assigned readings are meant to compliment the material presented in lectures, **not** substitute for it. You must be equally conversant with material from lecture and material from the text. **Passing grades on the exams and quizzes require that you successfully integrate the information from class and from the readings.***

SCHEDULE:

TOPIC	READING
Human Variation and Race	Molnar Chp. 1 Wood 2010 (on iLearn)
Genetics, Variation, and Evolution	Molnar Chp. 2 Weiss and Buchanan 2010 (on iLearn)
Traits of Simple Inheritance	Molnar Chp. 3
Human Variation and Polygenic Inheritance	Molnar Chp 8 Molnar Chp 5
Traits of Complex Inheritance	Molnar Chp. 6

*The format of the exams and in-class questions is multiple choice. This does not mean that you will be able to effectively study by simply reading over the notes before an exam. In order to do well on the exams you will have to be **conversant** with the material. In other words, even though you will be answering multiple choice questions you should be familiar enough with the material that you could write an essay on the major topics.*

All exams will open at 9am on scheduled Mondays and close at midnight on Tuesdays.

EXAM SCHEDULE:

Exam 1	Opens Feb 15, 9am; Closes Feb 16, 11:59pm
Exam 2	Opens Mar 8, 9am; Closes Mar 9, 11:59pm
Exam 3	Opens Apr 5, 9am; Closes Apr 6, 11:59pm
Exam 4	Opens Apr 26, 9am; Closes Apr 27, 11:59pm
Exam 5	Opens May 19, 9am; Closes May 21, 11:59pm

Student Learning Outcomes

By the end of the course students will be able to:

- discuss the history of the race concept in biological anthropology and relate these concepts to the cultural context of the time period
- explain the biological mechanisms of DNA coding, protein expression, and inheritance
- apply the concepts of heritability, genetic and environmental interactions, developmental plasticity, and epigenetics to critically analyze research studies of human biological variation
- evaluate evolutionary hypotheses of human adaptations and the distribution of phenotypic traits, relating them to mechanisms of evolutionary change: genetic drift, gene flow, mutation, and natural selection
- discuss examples of the interacting effects of culture, environment, and selection on the frequency of alleles in populations

Disability Statement Policy

Students with disabilities who need reasonable accommodations are encouraged to contact the instructor. The Disability Programs and Resource Center (DPRC) is available to facilitate the reasonable accommodations process. The DPRC is located in the Student Service Building and can be reached by telephone (voice/TTY 415-338-2472), video phone/415-335-7210) or by email (dprc@sfsu.edu).

University Withdrawal Policy

The Withdrawal deadline occurs two weeks after the semester starts. After this deadline, students must petition for a Withdrawal, or receive a non-passing grade for a class if they do not complete the requirements of the course. Withdrawals are permitted only for serious and/ or compelling reasons. In the last three weeks of the semester, students must be able to document the reason for their withdrawal.

SF State fosters a campus free of sexual violence including sexual harassment, domestic violence, dating violence, stalking, and/or any form of sex or gender discrimination. If you disclose a personal experience as an SF State student, the course instructor is required to notify the University Title IX Coordinator. To disclose any such violence confidentially, contact: The SAFE Place - (415) 338-2208; http://www.sfsu.edu/~safe_plc/ Counseling and Psychological Services Center - (415) 338-2208; <http://psyservs.sfsu.edu/> For more information on your rights and available resources: <http://titleix.sfsu.edu>