

SYLLABUS
University of Central Florida
Summer 2009 A001

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Ant2511: Human Species
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Office Hours:

Summer A: W&R 9:15-9:45AM and T&W 12:00-1:00PM (or by appointment)

Ant2511:The Human Species (Course Description)

Human biological variation in an evolutionary perspective (3 credit hours)

Goals

Goals include the development of critical thinking skills by evaluating the methods of natural science and scientific limitations as applied to the study of human biological evolution and related cultural manifestations.

Required Text

The Custom Edition of "Essentials of Physical Anthropology" by Jurmain et al., 7th ed. Wadsworth, Cengage Learning (fewer chapters than regular book)

Or substitute the complete book if a used copy is found at a competitive price.

Course Requirements

Students are required to take four exams
(this includes a non-comprehensive "final" on last day of class)

Expectations

To successfully complete the course, students are expected to :

- 1) read the text from which all test questions are drawn
- 2) attend class regularly (although roll is not taken)
- 3) consult the course Webcourses@UCF site often to:
 - a) determine what the lectures will cover. Often a list of key words and other information will prove useful to bring to class.
 - b) determine what chapters the exams will cover and any change in test dates
 - c) receive notice if your particular class is cancelled for a day by the instructor
- 4) consult "myUCF" Grades for test scores and report any problems immediately
- 5) take the GEP Pretest and Post-test

- 6) Complete four exams (the fourth exam is the "final")
- 7) Check the syllabus before e-mailing the instructor with routine questions already covered herein (especially the Test Results part below)

Textbook Usage

Ultimately the textbook will be the source of test questions. The instructor will attempt to discuss in class any of the items that are likely to appear on exams. In addition, videos will be shown that reinforce key concepts and important details

Videos

Videos will be shown often. This includes a series designed by the publisher to follow the textbook chapter by chapter. Subtitles (or closed captions) can be enabled. Students who miss the videos can compensate by intensively studying the textbook. This class may not be the best choice for students who greatly prefer written information over videos.

Webcourses@UCF

Go to "myUCF" and select "Online Course Tools" tab at top of page
Use of the "Personalize Content" tab at top of page if this course doesn't show.
The Webcourses@UCF site should be checked often for information relating to your class

The "Announcements" and "Calendar" links under COURSE TOOLS should prove useful.

Assessment (Grading)*

The results of four tests are equally weighted and averaged to determine the final grade.

Letter Grades

A = 100-90, B = 89-80, C = 79-65, D = 64-55, F = 55 and below

Curving Grades and Plus and Minus grade policy

The instructor has the option of "curving" the term grades to the advantage of the students.

This instructor's option is sometimes influenced by class participation as a whole, especially relating to how many students take the GEP tests with improving scores and attendance

The "curving" of the term grades includes possibly adding a "plus" or "minus" to raise borderline final grades. (For example, an average which normally would be considered a D per the standard bracket above might be raised to a C-). In other words a "minus" is not harmful.

The "modified variable floating curve" approach takes into account clusters of averages and reasonable percentages. It is not applied evenly to all brackets.

Exams

Fifty questions for each exam

All exams are multiple-choice with many true and false questions

Almost all are very short one-line questions

Many consist of selecting the best matching term

This class may not be the best choice for students who greatly depend on essay questions to adequately express their knowledge.

Test Answer Forms

The answer form (supplied by students) is a customized half-sheet raspberry colored "Test Scoring Test Form" with the UCF logo. This form (often called a "scantron") is used for all test including the GEP pre- and post-test

It is very important to enter your correct PID.

Write your PID and bubble-in the numbers

The scanner is very sensitive to incomplete erasures.

It is permissible to write on the test but test booklet must be returned with answer form.

Removing a test will be treated as first degree cheating.

Other Testing Protocol

Cheating will have harsh consequences up to the limits allowed by the University. (see UCF "Golden Rule")

Since the instructor already has pictures of students enrolled in each class, only a few participants might be asked to show their photo IDs on test day. Taking a test in the wrong section without permission is considered as first degree cheating.

Late arrivals could be denied a test once any other students have finished.

The use of any electronic device is prohibited during the test.

No earphones. Cell phones off. No text messaging.

Also, hoods down, caps backwards, and no sun glasses (unless medically necessary)

Notes must be secured completely out- of- sight, totally enclosed or left at a designated area. Uncovered notes cannot be stored under your seat. Envelopes are available to secure your notes during a test. Students who have unsecured notes (visible to the instructor) on the floor near their seats will be not be allowed to finish a test even if not actually looking at the notes. It will be considered as cheating if a student is found to have notes on their person or desk.

Although the small desk can be awkward, students cannot use a notebook or folder for a writing pad if it includes any class notes.

Students will be asked to scatter to leave empty seats between them when enough people have finished and left. The last five students may be requested to relocate toward the front of the room to complete the test

Test Results

Students can access their test grades for each exam online through the “myUCF Grades” at <https://my.ucf.edu>.

It is the student’s responsibility to check “myUCF Grades” for test scores and to address any concerns in a timely manner. A student should explain a missing test score to the instructor immediately.

No Score (“-1”)

A missing answer form is shown as “-1” by test scoring services. This may indicate that the test was not taken, a makeup test has not been graded, the PID was incorrect, or the form was damaged and must be hand graded.

If you have a score of only one or two points, it usually means that a curve was added to everyone’s score including your “-1”. For example three points added to “-1” will show as a “2”.

50 Points

Exam scores are out of 50 points for a total of 200 possible. If points are added to a test as a “curve” or correction, the row or column heading automatically has points added. This cannot be edited because it is part of a “calculated” column with links that cannot be broken.

All test will have 50 points although sometimes the row heading will occasionally show more points such as “51” or “52” when points are added.

For example a score of “48/52” is actually calculated as “48/50” in the instructor’s spreadsheet grade-book which is a higher percentage score.

Makeup Exams

Makeup exams are given in special cases such as for students representing the University (athletes and others) or for documented illnesses and emergencies. If there is a problem, contact the instructor as soon as possible for immediate resolution if circumstances permit.

Quizzes: GEP Assessment

The GEP test is an evaluation tool that has been implemented by the University to test if students are learning the General Education objectives set forth for this course. The quizzes will be given in class at the beginning and at the end of the course.

The score (amount correct) does not directly affect a student's term average.

Extra Credit

Students will receive one extra credit point added to their term average upon taking the post-test given at the next to last class (or other date announced in advance).

Any other extra credit options, if given, will be onerous, burdensome, and extremely time consuming and have a very limited benefit.

Student Disabilities Services

Arrangements can be made with the above office for assistance such as testing and note taking. See instructor or SDS office for information.

SCHEDULE

Posted separately on "Webcourses" as a continuation of this syllabus.
Test dates are shown by clicking on the "Calendar" link under COURSE TOOLS (left side of homepage). Click on the item contained in the day box to see details.

*This syllabus may contain some minor corrections immediately following the first class if students point-out the need for more details. The overall intent and main requirements will remain the same.

*Updated Information

Add here after first class