

Minnesota State University Moorhead

ANTH 120: Introduction to Physical Anthropology

A. COURSE DESCRIPTION

Credits: 3

Lecture Hours/Week: 3

Lab Hours/Week: 0

OJT Hours/Week: *.*

Prerequisites: None

Corequisites: None

MnTC Goals: Goal 03 - Natural Science

A survey of the field of physical anthropology. The course will include a review of the fossil record, concentrating on theories about human evolution. Other topics include taphonomy, primate behavior and taxonomy, and the origins of contemporary human variation. MnTC Goal 3.

B. COURSE EFFECTIVE DATES: 04/11/2000 - Present

C. OUTLINE OF MAJOR CONTENT AREAS

1. Introduction to Physical Anthropology
2. Methods
3. Evolution
4. Primatology
5. Macroevolution
6. Paleoanthropology and Hominin Origins
7. Homo Erectus
8. Neandertals and Other Archaic Homo Sapiens
9. Modern Human Origins
10. Modern Human Variation

D. LEARNING OUTCOMES (General)

1. Explain how physical anthropology fits within the field of anthropology.
2. Understand the subareas of physical anthropology such as paleoanthropology, primatology, paleopathology, forensic anthropology, and studies of human variation, including their data and methods.
3. Demonstrate an understanding of Darwinian evolutionary theory, its history, and its application within physical anthropology.
4. Formulate and test hypotheses about primate and human evolution through laboratory exercises with fossil casts.
5. Distinguish major species and changes in the human fossil record.
6. Evaluate the appropriateness of the concept of race in the context of human evolutionary history and models for modern human origins.

E. Minnesota Transfer Curriculum Goal Area(s) and Competencies

Goal 03 - Natural Science

1. Demonstrate understanding of scientific theories.
2. Formulate and test hypotheses by performing laboratory, simulation, or field experiments in at least two of the natural science disciplines. One of these experimental components should develop, in greater depth, students' laboratory experience in the collection of data, its statistical and graphical analysis, and an appreciation of its sources of error and uncertainty.
3. Communicate their experimental findings, analyses, and interpretations both orally and in writing.
4. Evaluate societal issues from a natural science perspective, ask questions about the evidence presented, and make informed judgments about science-related topics and policies.

F. LEARNER OUTCOMES ASSESSMENT

As noted on course syllabus

G. SPECIAL INFORMATION

None noted