

SPC
PHYSICAL ANTHROPOLOGY (ANTH2401)
COMMON COURSE SYLLABUS

ASSOC PROF NANCY SMITH
SPRING 2026
ANTH2401_.151_.451

SPC COVID MANDATED POLICY:

There is an IN-CLASSROOM COVID policy that must be adhered to. This does not impact online classes and you should be able to continue your work as usual. The only exception will be hospitalization and you will need to contact me and the SPC Health Services, DeEtte Edens, BSN, RN at (806) 716-2376 or dedens@southplainscollege.edu.

Department: Behavioral Sciences

Discipline: Anthropology

Course Number: ANTH2401

Course Name: PHYSICAL ANTHROPOLOGY

Credit: 3 Lecture, 1 Lab
This course satisfies as a CORE course for "Science"

Prerequisites: None

Campuses: Internet

Textbook: N/A – *online readings provided via OER .pdf*

Course Description: This is the study of human origins and bio-cultural adaptations. Topics may include primatology, genetics, human variation, forensics, health, and ethics in the discipline.

Course Purpose: By the end of the course, you will have an understanding of the evolutionary process, the place of humans in the natural world, why humans are considered a primate, how humans evolved both physically and culturally, and why humans vary biologically in the patterns that we see.

Course Requirements: To maximize the potential to complete this course, a student should attend all class sessions, complete all homework assignments, and complete all examinations. There is also a lab component to this class that requires additional time dedication. Internet courses require the work to be completed in specific time periods. The specific course requirements are listed on the individual instructor's course information sheet.

Student Learning Outcomes:

Upon successful completion of this course, students will have knowledge in:

1. Describe key concepts and theories of physical anthropology.
2. Explain the principles and processes of human evolution.
3. Describe how the scientific method is used in physical anthropology.
4. Apply the scientific method to empirical data and evaluate hypotheses.
5. Evaluate contrasting scientific viewpoints regarding the process of evolution.
6. Explain the basic terms and processes of Mendelian genetics.

7. Describe the structure of DNA and the process of mutation.
8. Identify and define the forces of evolution.
9. Describe at least one human biological variation that represents an adaptation to environmental factors.
10. Distinguish between the major categories of the living primates.
11. Describe variation in primate social behaviors and the reasons for that variation.
12. Identify major trends in early primate evolution.
13. Compare and contrast various Australopithecine and early Homo fossils and sites.
14. Describe the skeletal characteristics and culture of Homo erectus. 1
15. Compare early Homo sapiens, skeletally and culturally, to both Homo erectus and later Homo sapiens.
16. Evaluate different theories, based on both skeletal and genetic evidence, regarding the origins of anatomically modern humans.

Core Objectives Addressed: [techniques vary by instructor]

- Communication Skills – to include effective written, oral, and visual communication
- Critical Thinking Skills – to include creative thinking, innovation, inquiry and analysis, evaluation and synthesis of information
- Empirical and Quantitative Skills - to include the manipulation and analysis of numerical data or observable facts resulting in informed conclusions
- Teamwork – to include the ability to consider different points of view and to work effectively with others to support a shared purpose or goal

Texas Coordinating Board Approval Number (CIP): 45.0202.51 25

Standard Written English REQUIREMENT:

All written assignments should be presented using the conventions of Standard Written English. South Plains College requires all students to become proficient in "academic English," a form of English that is typically used in academic, professional, and business contexts. While slang, regional idioms, and informal kinds of self-expression are appropriate in some contexts, they are out of place in academic writing. Writing instructors and professors in courses across the campus **expect all students to demonstrate proficiency in using the conventions of academic English in their written work, whether it is in-class exams or take-home essays.** Each instructor may also add additional requirements regarding written assignments that are contained in your syllabus.

Attendance Policy: Students are expected to attend all classes in order to be successful in a course. The student may be administratively withdrawn from the course when absences become excessive as defined in the course syllabus.

When an unavoidable reason for class absence arises, such as illness, an official trip authorized by the college or an official activity, the instructor may permit the student to make up work missed. It is the student's responsibility to complete work missed within a reasonable period of time as determined by the instructor. Students are officially enrolled in all courses for which they pay tuition and fees at the time of registration. Should a student, for any reason, delay in reporting to a class after official enrollment, absences will be attributed to the student from the first class meeting.

Students who enroll in a course but have "Never Attended" by the official census date, as reported by the faculty member, will be administratively dropped by the Office of Admissions and Records. **For an online-class, "never attended" before the census date equates to never logging into blackboard and/or not submitting any work during that time.** A student who does not meet the attendance requirements of a class as stated in the course syllabus and does not officially withdraw from that course by the official census date of the semester, may be administratively withdrawn from that course and receive a grade of "X" or "F" as determined by the instructor. Instructors are responsible for clearly stating their administrative drop policy in the course syllabus, and it is the student's responsibility to be aware of that policy.

It is the student's responsibility to verify administrative drops for excessive absences through MySPC using his or her student online account. If it is determined that a student is awarded financial aid for a class or classes in which the student never attended or participated, the financial aid award will be adjusted in accordance with the classes in which the student did attend/participate and the student will owe any balance resulting from the adjustment.

Academic Appeals Procedure

INFORMAL APPEAL

1. The student should schedule an appointment with the instructor of the course to discuss the final grade or discipline action.
2. If the student is still not satisfied, he/she should schedule an appointment with the appropriate department chairperson to discuss the situation. (The chairperson may request that the instructor also be present.)
3. If the student is still not satisfied, he/she should schedule an appointment with the Divisional Dean to discuss the situation. (The dean may request that the chairperson also be present.)
4. If the student is still not satisfied, he/she should be advised of the formal appeal process.

FORMAL APPEAL

1. If the student is not satisfied with the results of the Informal Appeal, he/she should provide the following information, in writing, to the Vice President for Academic Affairs:

a. A request for a formal appeals hearing. b. A brief statement of what is being appealed. c. The basis for the appeal. d. Pertinent facts relating to the appeal.

NOTE: The agenda of the appeals hearing will include only those factors documented in the student's appeal request letter.

2. The Vice President for Academic Affairs of South Plains College, will determine the date, time and place of the hearing, and notify the student accordingly.

THE HEARING

1. Composition of the appeals committee:

a. Vice President for Academic Affairs will preside over the hearing. b. Faculty member of the student's choice. c. Faculty member and student of the Vice President for Academic Affairs. d. President of the Student Body/Student Advisory Council. e. Vice President of Student Affairs.

2. Other persons who should be available at the hearing:

a. The student who requested the hearing. b. The faculty member involved. c. Anyone the student or faculty member wishes to be present to substantiate the case. d. Chairperson and Divisional Dean.

3. Hearing Procedure: The Committee will hear the student's appeal during which the parties to the controversy, and such representatives as desired, will present all facts relating to the case. Consequently, the committee will recommend appropriate action by majority vote.

4. The termination of the hearing finalizes the academic appeal procedure.

APPEAL RESTRICTIONS

1. Only final grades or dismissal resulting from academic discipline will be considered. 2. The instructor's teaching ability or expertise will not be considered during the hearing. 3. No grade or disciplinary action can be formally appealed after a period of six (6) months from the date that the student is informed.

For information regarding official South Plains College statements about intellectual exchange, disabilities, non-discrimination, Title V Pregnancy Accommodations, CARE Team, and Campus Concealed Carry, please visit <https://www.southplainscollege.edu/syllabusstatements/>

INSTRUCTOR-SPECIFIC COURSE INFORMATION SHEET

ASSOC PROF NANCY SMITH
SPRING 2026
ANTH2401_.151_.451 - INET

Instructor: Nancy Smith,
Associate Professor of Anthropology

Office: Levelland TA231

Phone: 806.716.4031

Email: nsmith@southplainscollege.edu

Student Drop-in Hours / Office Hours

Monday – 9:00-10:55AM, 12:30-2PM

Tuesday – 9:00-9:15AM

Wednesday – 9:00-10:55AM, 12:30-2PM

Thursday - 9:00-9:15AM

Friday – 9:00-10:30AM

*Drop-in Hours are subject to change – please
Confirm before coming *

Please reach out to me if these times don't work

Required Text: *The textbook readings are required and will be provided to you through OER .pdfs*

THE RULES:

****Be sure to check the online catalog and STUDENT HANDBOOK for SPC rules and expectations regarding Academic Integrity. There are very specific warnings – including ChatGPT **** I suggest you read this.

Academic Integrity: Cheating of any type is a serious matter and will **NOT** be tolerated. This includes cheating in **any form** on tests, quizzes, homeworks, and/or assignments (such as copying someone's exam or assignments), and plagiarism. This also includes using any AI source and presenting it as your own work.

Artificial Intelligence (AI) Resource Policy:

There are now websites that will generate semi-unique material that somewhat resembles original material. Since technology is available to create this content, technology is also available to detect this content. Make no mistake, this is plagiarism. If you submit work obtained by using AI or is suspected of utilizing AI, it will be considered plagiarism and receive a grade of zero for the work. This course policy will be provided as feedback for the detected/assumed coursework, letting you know that AI is suspected, or plagiarism has occurred. It is your responsibility to follow up with me within 7 days (one week) of the posted grade if work has been incorrectly flagged for AI use. You can discuss the coursework in question with me by appointment in order to earn credit. In these cases, you will need to verbally provide mastery of concepts related to the work in question. Any further attempts at using artificial intelligence as one's own work will continue to earn zeroes and the following may happen for this or any Academic Dishonesty:

According to the South Plains College website,

<http://www.southplainscollege.edu/library/smartstarts/mod6/04-plagiarism.html>, “plagiarism is presenting the words or ideas of someone else as your own without proper acknowledgment of the source. It is okay to use the ideas of other people, but you do need to correctly credit them. When you quote people – or even when you summarize or paraphrase information found in books, articles, or Web pages – you must acknowledge the original author.”

(If you do not know/understand what constitutes plagiarism, or if you need further clarification ask me or look it up .. **ignorance will not be an excuse.**) Do not even THINK ABOUT cheating in any way.

However, if you do and if you are caught the **following WILL happen ...**

1. You will receive a ZERO on the assignment and we will have a discussion
2. You will be ineligible to receive any extra credit points
3. You may be dropped ONE letter grade at the end of the semester
4. IF you are caught a second time, you be dropped from the class with an F
5. You will be reported to the Dean of Students

THIS HOLDS TRUE FOR ANY ASSIGNMENT – EVEN AN EXTRA CREDIT ASSIGNMENT. Penalization because of plagiarism/cheating is the consequence of YOUR choices and YOUR actions. It is not something I am doing to YOU – it is what YOU are doing to YOU.

This is serious. I am serious. DO NOT DO IT !! Take the low grade for not-knowing/doing the material, rather than the above repercussions for cheating.

Student Behavior: This is college, and I view you as an **adult. Please act like one.** Be courteous, be respectful, think before you speak. Do not disrupt class. If you are disruptive with your online responses or comments, you may **be dropped from the class.**

Attendance: Here's how it works in this class:

"Participation" in this online class is mandatory – you must be active. There are numerous assignments which should force you to log-on continuously. I understand that each of you has your own schedule and will be logging-on at different times. That's fine. All that is expected of you is that you **GET THE WORK DONE !!**

I do not accept late work. (one exception – see the Discussion Grading Rubric)

Each assignment and discussion has a dictated due DATE and TIME. It is your responsibility to get the work done and submitted to me by the designated time/date. Therefore, since this is a virtual classroom, attendance will be taken according to completion/submission of Discussions, Quizzes, Assignments, Labs, and projects.

If you are unable to log-on or complete your work for any reason, **YOU MUST CONTACT ME ASAP** as well as **CONTACT SPC BLACKBOARD HELP**

Excuses such as "The network was down," or "I could not figure out how to send the assignment through the assignments function" are not acceptable. In short, plan ahead and **do not wait until the last minute to submit your assignments.** It is always okay to turn in assignments early although discussion board postings should be done with the calendar schedule.

I do use the Retention Emails to notify you of missed-assignment-counts and to allow you to receive intervention from a Counselor

Administrative Drop Policy:

- 1) Anyone who has not turned in any work before the Roster Certification date will be dropped for "never attending"
- 2) Anyone who has more than one count of disruptiveness will be subject to an Administrative Drop. Anyone who has two instances of plagiarism will be subject to an Administrative Drop.
- 3) It will be the responsibility of the student to withdraw themselves from the class for any reason they feel they will be unsuccessful in the course.

Courtesy and Respect: I am your instructor, and though I may joke around with you please don't lose sight of the fact that I am still your instructor. So please do not address me with "hey," "yo," etc. Emails must also abide by Standard Written English. Standard Written English, courtesy and respect is expected in all manners of correspondence, and I will do the same. THANKS !!

THE GRADES:

1. Tests: You will be instructed to take an exam/quiz for some units. These tests are timed and will shut down if you exceed the allotted time. You are granted one attempt for exams. Please do the readings and be prepared.

- There are **NO make-up exams** except for **EXTREME** circumstances which must be discussed with me **within ONE DAY** of your missed test .
- You will not be able to access the tests if you are late

- If you happen to miss a test .. do not fret. A missed test does not equate to Failing the class. It could, if your grades for everything else are poor .. but if you are a good student and do well on everything else, a missed test **should not** lead to a failing grade.
- The test questions will be randomly selected and will consist of Multiple Choice and True-False.

2. ASSIGNMENTS & Projects: I do not accept late assignments unless your issue has been discussed with me. Things are due when they are due. Anything not turned in when collected is considered LATE and will not be accepted.

I suggest that the lengthy assignments/projects be typed in Word first and then copy/pasted to the **SUBMISSIONS BOX** of the assignment on Blackboard. The reason for this is that if you are idle in Blackboard for a certain length of time, it will boot you out; which means that your incomplete work will be lost. That will be very frustrating. So, if you know that you will be working on an assignment or project for a good amount of time, do it in Microsoft Word first.

Please follow these instructions: Number your answers in correlation to the numbered questions. Standard written English is EXPECTED on all written assignments. NO TEXT ABBREVIATIONS or LINGO. If Standard written English is not illustrated, points WILL BE DEDUCTED

DO NOT SEND ME ANY "attachments" unless specifically instructed to do so.

When turning in "assignments," please number your answers in accordance with the numbered questions being presented. Do not turn your answers in to me out of order and/or all in paragraph form. It is too difficult to try to guess which answer goes with which question. If this is done, it is likely I will mark it all wrong as I cannot guess.

Anything not turned in according to instructions will not be accepted and a zero will be applied

3. DISCUSSIONS: Some Units have Discussions that require your posts and comments. You must read the instructions carefully for each one. Pay attention to the due dates/times! No late work will be accepted. ** See the Discussion Grading RUBRIC for one exception to this **

Discussions are used in online courses for you to prove that you "get it;" that you understand the material, that you are reading the material, and that you are proficient enough in it to expand upon it in discussions. This is how face-to-face class interaction is substituted. It is very valuable and REQUIRED for this course.

Please review the guidelines I have posted on proper "netiquette." Just because we don't see your face and/or hear your voice does not give you a free pass to be rude, crude, or hurtful. The computer is not a veil.

Please refer to the grading rubric I have posted. I will be using it to grade your postings, and there are certain criteria you must fulfill.

**** REGARDLESS OF WHAT THE ASSIGNMENT IS... YOU ARE EXPECTED TO WRITE IN FORMAL and ACADEMIC GRAMMAR. I WILL NOT ACCEPT ANY TEXT MESSAGING ABBREVIATIONS !! THIS IS A CLASS..NOT A PHONE.... ****

Also, for Discussions... I expect you to USE and include terms and definitions from the unit within the context of your answer. You will lose points if I do not see terms and definitions !

** Most discussions are "closed" where you need to post your answer first, before you can see any of your classmate responses. I understand that students can manipulate this. I also understand that students can make mistakes when posting. But you need to understand that I need to grade YOUR work and comprehension of the material, not something you copied from a classmate. So, upon your 3rd "manipulation" of this set-up, **you will receive a zero** on the discussion for this and every manipulation moving forward . **

Final note about Discussions: IMPORTANT: Blackboard can only generate one due date/time per assignment. Therefore, the date BLACKBOARD alerts you about is the date/time when the Discussion closes. However, you have two separate due dates and should go by the manual, .jpeg calendar I provided. You will have a posting to do BEFORE that Bb generated due date/time. BE CAREFUL and be aware!

4.LABS: This course satisfies the Lab-Science CORE – hence you will have labs to do. This is also a 4-credit course. Together this means that you will need to spend extra time in a 4-credit Lab Science class. In the classroom, you would have a longer block of time – same holds true for an online class. It is suggested that you work the Labs at the same time you are doing the coursework – try to work on both simultaneously. It is also suggested that you do not use a phone for your internet and Blackboard course IF POSSIBLE. 3-D inspection of skulls, measuring bones, etc is easier done on a full screen versus a phone screen. If your only device is a phone, then please try to rent a laptop or have one at the ready to use. SPC has computer labs to use for free. Other outlets are other colleges and public libraries. Just please be prepared. Not having a computer is not an excuse for not getting your work done in an online course.

GRADE:

Your grade for this course will be a reflection of YOUR scores on the above-mentioned topics. You will receive the grade YOU EARNED. Your grade is compiled in the following way:

Exams = averaged and constitutes 20% of your grade
Discussions = averaged and constitutes 15% of your grade
Assignments = averaged and constitutes 20% of your grade
Lab work = averaged and constitutes 45% of your grade

Letter Grades for overall Final Average in the class:

A = 90-100+

B = 80-89

C = 70-79

D = 60-69

F = 59 and Below (F is the only “failing” grade)

** Different from high school, you cannot retake nor correct assignments. You get the grade earned as is. You can fail the class **

****DO NOT Look at the tally of “points” provided by Blackboard to determine your grade. Your grade will be calculated through a percentage-base, not point-base and your running grade will be updated approx. every 2-3 weeks****

THE GOOD NEWS:

#1 - I am a strong supporter of **EXTRA CREDIT!** I believe that if you want to expand your learning *outside* of the classroom then that should be rewarded. Extra credit can come in the form of attending public presentations, exhibits, events, watching videos, TV shows, as well as reading articles/books. As long as it pertains to the class, you can probably use it for extra credit.

I will announce eligible events and articles as they come up, BUT you are not solely limited to these. **You are encouraged to do extra credits on items of your own idea or use the suggestions above.**

If you choose to do Extra Credits, there is a format of what you need to turn in. The four-paragraph requirement is as follows:

1. A bulked paragraph review of the event in your own words. (**DO NOT PLAGIARIZE**) - what was “it” about. Prove that you did the extra credit, so be sure this paragraph is substantial. For example, if you watched a movie, what was it about (beginning/middle/end); if you went to an event, what was it about. If you interviewed someone, give me the background of the person.
2. How it relates to class. – what terms/concepts from class did you see illustrated in your extra credit? Give me the terms/concepts and give me their correlating examples from the extra credit

- item. You must have at least 2 and be sure to support the terms with their examples. If the extra credit item already uses class terms, you cannot use them.
3. What else did you learn?
 4. Your personal reflections – what did you think about “it?” Did you like it? Not like it? Agree/disagree? Etc

** Whatever you do the extra credit on, you must also provide your source. For example – if you did an article, give me the URL of the article. If you watched a TV show, give me the episode number. If you watched a movie, where did you see it? Etc. URLs and Sources are imperative. If you went to a presentation, send me a picture of the program, etc.

All extra credit assignments must be turned-in through email or the course MESSAGES - typed, double spaced, normal 10/12 font, 1” margins, and with all four criteria met. Standard Written English must be displayed. If completed correctly, extra credits can earn you **2 points each** to be added to your final, overall grade. If something is missing or incorrect, your grade will be less than 2 points. However, if you turn extra credits in before the deadline, you will have a chance to edit/correct it for the full 2 points. A maximum of **8 points of extra credit** will be allotted to be added to your final grade. This is a CHOICE you have .. extra credits are not required.

Find something that you like, that relates to class, for your extra credits!

*** THE LAST DAY TO TURN IN EXTRA CREDITS IS BY 11:59PM on Saturday, April 25 – via email nsmith@southplainscollege.edu -or- the Internal email/message on our blackboard page.** If you turn them in early I can grade and turn back to you for any editing as long as it is a few days before the deadline.

HINT: ** Regularly check the "ANNOUNCEMENTS" tab for an ongoing list of articles that will work **

#2 – Occasionally you will see some *internal* extra credits – extra credits found within the units. These are separate than any outside extra credits you do. These are usually worth 2 pts each and will be added to your final, overall grade in addition to any outside extra credits you complete

NOTE:

If EVER you should have any questions, concerns, etc – come and see me or contact me. That is what I am here for .. that is what my office hours are for. I cannot help you if you don't come and talk to me.

COMPUTER INFORMATION:

Blackboard Learn Ultra is the computer software used to deliver this course. It is essential that you have reliable access to the Internet and a computer (versus a phone). It is not necessary to purchase or own your own computer but you should have a backup plan in place should you encounter computer problems. There are open computer labs available to all enrolled SPC students on all campuses. It is also the student's responsibility to have the required computer skills to complete this course. More information on online courses is available at www.southplainscollege.edu/online.

IF YOU SHOULD EVER ENCOUNTER TECHNICAL DIFFICULTIES WITH THE SYSTEM, YOUR FIRST PHONE CALL SHOULD GO TO 806-716-2962 or email blackboard@southplainscollege.edu . OTHER TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE CAN BE FOUND AT BLACKBOARD.COM, AND THE SPC WEBPAGE (THEY HAVE TUTORIALS). You should then email to tell me that someone from SPC Blackboard assistance is helping you, but do not call me for Technical/Computer related questions. I am not the expert on that. I can help you on ASSIGNMENT and ANTHROPOLOGY questions ... not the "system" questions.

Most Web educational experience will require the use of several additional browser plug-ins. The following list is a list of software that you will probably need to download for this class. It is very highly recommended that you have an anti-virus program on your computer. You may also need **Adobe Acrobat** for several readings and a

multimedia player such as **Windows Media Player, VLC , or QUICKTIME. ** Students seem to have problems watching videos on an Apple/Mac device. ** [VLC might be the best to download]**

MINIMUM Software requirements:

Microsoft Word, WordPerfect, or another word processing program capable of saving files in RTF (Rich Text Format).

Web Browser – Firefox or Google Chrome is recommended - If you plan on using a browser supplied by your Internet service provider (for example, AOL or WebTV) make sure it is the most recent version. We cannot guarantee that all course features will function in all non-Internet Explorer browsers.

Your course may require special (free) plug-ins to access Streaming Media, PDF files, or other web components.

Antivirus software

Other Software you will need:

- RealNetworks RealOne Player
- Adobe Acrobat Reader
- Apple Quicktime Media Player
- Windows Media Player or VLC Media Player

More computer requirements:

Since this course are entirely online, participants are expected to have at least an elementary knowledge of their microcomputer operating system and basic knowledge of software and tools such as a word processor, e-mail, an Internet browser, and search engines.

If you are using a **CHROMEBOOK** and are having difficulty, please try either of these two options:

- Go to <https://view2.southplainscollege.edu/> and use the HTML(web) version within the browser.
- Otherwise, most chromebooks have the option to install the VMware Horizon View Client App. They will enter view2.southplainscollege.edu as the server.

SEMESTER SCHEDULE

Each Unit has open/close dates. Every item therein has its own due date and time. Please be very careful to observe when items are due. Be sure to read all instructions very carefully. Please look at the monthly calendars I have posted in the class – on them you can see when every Assignment/Discussion/Test/Lab is due as well as when each Unit opens and closes.

Each Unit has different amounts of work. Hence to give you adequate time for completion, there is not a standard pattern nor day that would work for ALL Units. Please check your calendar DAILY. ** I have posted EACH MONTH's CALENDAR in the START HERE PAGE – please look at them and print them out. **

FINAL NOTES:

Please allow up to 7 days for a grade to appear. I do check my emails regularly, however I like to grade on the weekends.

If you are trying to figure out your averages as we go along, please refer to my grading information here in the syllabus. I do not use "POINTS" and you should not refer to the "total points" column in Blackboard. Instead you must calculate your PERCENTAGES.

Again, if you should have any questions on the content or instructions.. please notify me.

If you should have TECHNICAL issues/problems/questions .. please notify SPC Blackboard assistance at **806-716-2962** or email blackboard@southplainscollege.edu .