ANTH 250-A01
BILOGICAL ANTHROPOLOGY

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Stephanie Calce

Course Description and Objectives

This course is an introduction to the subfields of biological anthropology, emphasizing the evolution of both human and nonhuman primates. Course topics include evolutionary theory, population genetics, primatology, human paleontology, and contemporary human diversity and adaptation. Lab exercises will cover human osteology, fossil identification, comparative primate skeletal anatomy, human genetic principles, and physiological differences in human populations. The major objective of this course is to introduce students to the range of theoretical and methodological techniques within biological anthropology.

Skills Development

Students will improve their critical thinking skills by applying their knowledge of evolutionary principles to examine questions of (1) human and primate development, and (2) how we are related to other biological organisms. Students will use a hands-on approach to problem solving to understand and explain human and primate biology, behaviour, and variation within our species. Research skills training will focus on reading published articles on topics related to the course content and appropriate paraphrasing through short assignments and on exams. Critical skills will also be developed via short class discussions on topics related to the course themes that have surfaced in the literature and the media recently. Lab sessions will develop essential skills in areas such as numeracy, the collection, analysis and presentation of quantitative morphological data, and computer skills (EXCEL).

NOTE: Mandatory lab sessions are part of this course and must be enrolled in separately.

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