

# ANTH 394

## Evolution and Human Diversity

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*INSTRUCTOR:* Kaela Parker

### **COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES**

Many cultures around the world have distinguished between 'us' and 'them' or 'other'. The ways of separating these two spheres may incorporate ideas associated with perceived cultural or physical differences. Ultimately, the concept of human diversity has had enormous repercussions from the level of individual identity through to the far extremes of racial segregation and genocide throughout human history. However, can this diversity be categorized? How can it be discussed and understood and what is its basis? This course will engage in a critical examination of the concepts surrounding human diversity. It will then proceed with a consideration of the biological and genetic basis for human variation. Through this, types of diversity and their biological basis will be explored. Interacting roles of heredity, culture and environmental diversity will be presented, and the modern implications of race concepts, of human diversity and health will be discussed. Finally, the changing nature of human diversity will be explored.

### **SKILLS DEVELOPMENT**

- Understanding human diversity and the complexities surrounding our understanding
- Discussing the fundamental concepts surrounding genetics and evolution
- Honing critical thinking
- Writing, discussing, and leading a group talk