

**Introduction to Physical Anthropology/Archaeology
ANTH 1301 (CRN 17986)
Syllabus – Fall 2024**

Delivery Method: In-person

Meeting Day and Time: Tuesdays & Thursdays, 3:00 pm – 4:20 pm

Location: Education Building, room 301

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor: Dr. Kyle Wiley (he/him)

Email: kwiley@utep.edu

Office Location: Old Main, room 316 (enter through room 311 – grad computer lab)

Office Hours:

- Face-to-Face: 4:30 pm – 6:00 pm
- Virtual: I am also available on Zoom by appointment – or office hours can be hybrid or online if there is a strong preference

TEACHING ASSISTANT INFORMATION

TA: Pranta Sikder

Email: psikder@miners.utep.edu

Office Location: Old Main, room 213

Office Hours: TBD

COURSE DESCRIPTION

From the UTEP General Catalog: “Introduction to the evolution of the human adaptive system with particular attention to the somatic and technological components. The biological development of humans, from 3.5 million-year-old Lucy to modern Homo sapiens, is discussed and correlated with developments in stone and bronze tools, dwelling types, social groupings, political organizations, etc. It emphasizes the genetic unity of humankind in ways that critically inform discussions of race.” This course is 3 credits.


Two instructor notes on course content:





1) This course will feature lectures and discussions on potentially sensitive content including topics related to evolution, race, and gender. I expect you to engage with the course content regardless of your personal beliefs on these topics. You should feel free to speak openly and critically about any of the issues we cover in class. However, recognize that your personal opinion is not the same thing as an evidence-based interpretation. This class will also include respectful discussion with me and with your peers. Debate is encouraged – indeed, at the heart of much of what we will discuss – but personal attacks will not be tolerated.

2) This course will feature images and depictions of human and primate remains and fossils. In-class activities will feature casts of human and primate skeletal elements.

COURSE OBJECTIVES AND UNIVERSITY LEARNING OUTCOMES

By the end of the course, students will be able to:

Student Learning Objective	Outcome
Be able to evaluate the ethics of research being done on humans and our ancestors	 Social Responsibility

Gain perspective on the diversity of the human experience and its vast time depth	 Global Awareness
Critically evaluate concepts related to race, ethnicity, gender, and sex	 Critical Thinking Skills
Become familiar with peer-reviewed journal articles and critically evaluate their content	 Critical Thinking Skills
Find effective means of communicating with fellow students about controversial topics or topics for which we have very little data through class discussion	 Communication Skills

COURSE COMMUNICATION: How we will stay in contact with each other

Here are the ways we can keep the communication channels open:

- Office Hours: I will have office hours for your questions and comments about the course. My office hours are in-person, however, you can request a virtual meeting and I will send you a Zoom link. Please see the days and times at the top of this syllabus.
- Email: UTEP e-mail is the best way to contact me. I will make every attempt to respond to your e-mail within 48 hours of receipt- however, I do not check emails over the weekend. When emailing me:
 - Be sure to email from your UTEP student e-mail account (assume E-mail messages are permanent and public).
 - Include the course number in the subject line.
 - In the body of your e-mail, clearly state your question.
 - At the end of your e-mail, be sure a closing with your first and last name
- Announcements: Check the Blackboard announcements frequently for any updates, deadlines, or other important messages.

REQUIRED MATERIALS

Course Textbooks

For each lecture, textbook readings are assigned. These readings provide a foundation for the information I present in class. The readings will come from two free open-access textbooks:

1. Wolcott Paskey, Amanda and Beasley Cisneros, AnnMarie. 2020. *Digging into Archaeology: A Brief OER Introduction to Archaeology with Activities*. Academic Senate for California Community College Open Educational Resources Initiative.

- Provided as a PDF on Blackboard
- Called “*Digging*” on the course schedule, below

2. Shook, Beth, Braff, Lara, Nelson, Katie, and Aguilera, Kelsie. 2023. *Explorations: An Open Invitation to Biological Anthropology*. 2nd edition. American Anthropological Association.

- Free ebook or chapter pdfs are available here:
<https://explorations.americananthro.org/index.php/pdf-chapters/>
- Called “*Explorations*” on the course schedule, below

ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING

The breakdown of your final grade distribution is as follows:

100%-90% = A 89%-80% = B 79%-70% = C 69%-60% = D 59% and Below = F

The following table is a breakdown of how your final grade is calculated, including how each type of assessment is weighted:

ASSESSMENT	WEIGHT	DUE DATE
In-class Lab Activities (3 Labs at 6% each)	18%	Varies
Problem Sets (6 psets at 2% each)	12%	Varies – Sunday 11:59pm of week assigned
Exam 1	20%	October 1
Exam 2	20%	November 7
Exam 3	20%	Finals Week
Participation	10%	-

Lab Activities: Three lab assignments will be completed in class. These will largely be graded on effort (80%) with a minor component for completing the questions correctly.

Problem Sets: Problem Sets to be administered throughout the semester (due Sunday by 11:59 pm). I will release problem sets by Sunday morning and they will be due by midnight on the following Sunday. These are short assignments designed to facilitate your engagement with the course, to serve as a knowledge assessment, and to provide example questions that will give you a sense of the types of questions that I will use on exams. I will announce upcoming psets in class and via email and Blackboard announcements.

Exams: There will be three exams over the term (two during normal class time and one during finals week). They will be a mixture of multiple choice, key terms, fill-in-the-blank, true/false, and short essay questions. Exams will not be cumulative in terms of topics, but they will rely on an understanding of evolutionary theory and other foundational concepts built over the course.

You will complete exams in two stages. In the first stage, you will take the exams individually as one might normally complete an exam. I will collect the exams after the completion of stage one. In the second stage, you will get into groups of four and retake the exam together. Each group will receive one copy of the exam and is expected to reach a consensus for each answer.

2-stage Exam Grading: The individual component of the exam will be worth 70% of your final exam grade and the group re-take will be worth 30%. They are not weighted equally to encourage you to study while also taking the pressure off if you miss a question here or there. If you score better on the individual component of the exam, I will use only the individual grade for your final score. You will only repeat multiple choice, fill-in-the-blank, true-false or similar question types in this stage of the exam.

Rationale for 2-stage exams: There is a growing body of research that suggests that 2-stage exams improve retention of course material and facilitate critical thinking skills when discussing your motivation for picking each answer as a group. I will upload some materials on this topic to Blackboard for anyone who is interested in learning more about this research.

Study guides: I will not provide a formal study guide. I will start each course with learning objectives that will highlight the goals for each lecture. These objectives should serve as an indication of what each exam will focus on.

Attendance: See the attendance and participation section below.

A note on extra credit:

I do not normally offer any extra credit assignments. IF I decide to offer extra credit assignments, the extra credit points will be applied to your final grade. There may be extra credit questions on exams that will apply to your final exam grade (stage 1 exam only).

No student can receive over 100% on an assignment, exam, or paper; if a student receives more than full credit on any of these their grade on that assignment will be recorded as 100%.

ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION

Our class meetings and lab activities are in person.

While attendance is generally not mandatory, participation in the course is determined by participation in the course's learning activities, including in-class activities. Your participation in the course is important not only for your learning and success but also to create a community of learners. **There are 3 lab activity days on which attendance is required which are noted in the class schedule.**

Participation is determined by the completion of the following activities:

- Reading/Viewing all course materials to ensure understanding of assignment requirements
- Participating in engaging discussions with your peers (in class or on the Blackboard discussion forum)
- Participating in in-class clicker questions that I will periodically release during lectures
- Other activities and assignments (including labs and problem sets) as indicated in the syllabus

Because these activities are designed to contribute to your learning each week, they cannot be made up after their due date has passed.

DEADLINES, LATE WORK, AND ABSENCE POLICY

Assignments

- Problem set assignments will be due on Sundays by midnight (11:59 PM) via Blackboard. No late work will be accepted if the reason is not considered excusable.

Lab Activities:

- Lab activities are designed to be completed within the class period and you will be required to hand them in at the end of class.

Late work policy: I will accept late work in the case of unforeseen circumstances, such as an emergency. Please email me as soon as you can safely do so to determine what accommodations we can make.

MAKE-UP WORK

Make-up work will be given *only* in the case of a *documented* emergency. Note that make-up work may be in a different format than the original work, may require more intensive preparation, and may be graded with penalty points. If you miss an assignment and the reason is not considered excusable, you will receive a zero. It is therefore important to reach out to me—in advance if at all possible—and explain with proper documentation why you missed a given course requirement. Once a deadline has been established for make-up work, no further extensions or exceptions will be granted.

If you have a documented excuse for missing an exam: you will be expected to take the exam within 24-48 hours of the original exam date, ideally as early as safely and reasonably possible. If you do not retake the exam before the 2nd stage group exam, you will not be able to complete this stage, and your individual exam score will be your final score.

If you miss an in-class lab activity with a documented excuse: you can complete the questions by looking up 3D scans of the fossils online. I will provide you several websites that will be useful for finding the scans but you will be expected to find the specific fossils on your own.

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

Some course content is delivered via the Internet through the Blackboard learning management system. Ensure your UTEP e-mail account is working and that you have access to the Web and a stable web browser. Google Chrome and Mozilla Firefox are the best browsers for Blackboard; other browsers may cause complications. When having technical difficulties, update your browser, clear your cache, or try switching to another browser.

You will need to have access to a computer/laptop. You will need to download or update the following software: Microsoft Office, Adobe Acrobat Reader, Windows Media Player, QuickTime, and Java. Check that your computer hardware and software are up-to-date and able to access all parts of the course.

If you do not have word-processing software, you can download Word and other Microsoft Office programs (including Excel, PowerPoint, Outlook and more) for free via UTEP's Microsoft Office Portal. Click the following link for more information about [Microsoft Office 365](#) and follow the instructions.

IMPORTANT: If you encounter technical difficulties beyond your scope of troubleshooting, please contact the UTEP [Help Desk](#) as they are trained specifically in assisting with technological needs of students. Please do not contact me for this type of assistance. The Help Desk is much better equipped than I am to assist you!

ILLNESS PRECAUTIONS

Please stay home if you have symptoms of a communicable illness. If you are feeling unwell, please let me know as soon as possible, so that we can work on appropriate accommodations.

EXCUSED ABSENCES AND/OR COURSE DROP POLICY

I will not drop you from the course. I will reach out to students who are in danger of not adequately fulfilling course requirements to pass the class at several points before the drop date. If you feel that you are unable to complete the course successfully, please let me know and then contact the [Registrar's Office](#) to initiate the drop process. If you do not, you are at risk of receiving an "F" for the course. If you wish to discuss your standing in the course please reach out to me to set up a one-on-one meeting.

ALTERNATIVE MEANS OF SUBMITTING WORK IN CASE OF TECHNICAL ISSUES

I strongly suggest that you submit your work with plenty of time to spare in the event that you have a technical issue with the course website, network, and/or your computer. I also suggest you save all your work (answers to discussion points, quizzes, exams, and essays) in a separate Word document as a backup. This way, you will have evidence that you completed the work and will not lose credit. If you are experiencing difficulties submitting your work through Blackboard, please contact the UTEP Help Desk. You can email me your backup document as a last resort.

INCOMPLETE GRADE POLICY

Incomplete grades may be requested only in exceptional circumstances after you have completed at least half of the course requirements. Talk to me immediately if you believe an incomplete is warranted. If granted, we will establish a contract of work to be completed with deadlines.

ACCOMMODATIONS POLICY

The University is committed to providing reasonable accommodations to students with documented disabilities. Students who become pregnant may also request reasonable accommodations, in accordance with state and federal laws and regulations and University policy. Accommodations that constitute undue hardship are not reasonable. To make a request, please register with the UTEP Center for Accommodations and Support Services (CASS). Contact CASS at 915-747-5148, email them at cass@utep.edu, or apply for accommodations online via the CASS portal.

SCHOLASTIC INTEGRITY

Academic dishonesty is prohibited and is considered a violation of the UTEP Handbook of Operating Procedures. It includes, but is not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, and collusion. Cheating may involve copying from or providing information to another student, possessing unauthorized materials during a test, or falsifying research data on laboratory reports. Plagiarism occurs when someone intentionally or knowingly represents the words or ideas of another as ones' own. Collusion involves collaborating with another person to commit any academically dishonest act. Any act of academic

dishonesty attempted by a UTEP student is unacceptable and will not be tolerated. All suspected violations of academic integrity at The University of Texas at El Paso must be reported to the [Office of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution \(OSCCR\)](#) for possible disciplinary action. To learn more, please visit [HOOP: Student Conduct and Discipline](#).

GUIDANCE ON ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

AI prohibited

Use of AI technologies or automated tools, particularly generative AI such as [ChatGPT](#) or [DALL-E](#), is **not allowed** for assignments in this class. Each student is expected to use critical and creative thinking skills to complete tasks and not rely on computer-generated ideas. Any direct use of AI-generated materials submitted as your own work will be treated as plagiarism and reported to the Office of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution (OSCCR).

PLAGIARISM DETECTING SOFTWARE

Some of your coursework and assessments may be submitted to SafeAssign, a plagiarism-detecting software. SafeAssign is used to review assignment submissions for originality and will help you learn how to properly attribute sources rather than paraphrase.

***COURSE SCHEDULE**

Week	Date	Lecture Topic	Reading
1	27-Aug	Course Intro & Introduction to Anthropology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explorations Ch.1 • Digging Ch.1
	29-Aug	Ethics in Anthropology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explorations Ch.15 – Ethics and Human Rights Section • Digging Ch. 16 • AAA/AABA/SAA Ethics Statement (Pick 1) • Atalay, Shannon, & Swogger 2017
2	3-Sep	Archaeological Fieldwork and Artifacts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Digging Ch.7-9 • Field School Diaries
	5-Sep	Osteology and Bioarchaeology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explorations - quickly skim Appendix A • Digging Ch. 12
3	10-Sep	Forensic Anthropology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explorations Ch. 15
	12-Sep	Paleontological Fieldwork, Fossils, Dating, and Ancient DNA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explorations Ch. 7 & Appendix D • Marciniak and Perry 2017
4	17-Sep	Evolution by Natural Selection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explorations Ch. 1

	19-Sep	Introductory Genetics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explorations Ch. 3
5	24-Sep	Evolution: The Modern Synthesis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explorations Ch. 4
	26-Sep	Taxonomy and Diversity of Living Primates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explorations Ch. 5 • Primate Video
6	1-Oct	Exam 1	
	3-Oct	Exam 1 - Group Retake	
7	8-Oct	Early Hominins - Australopithecines	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explorations Ch. 9
	10-Oct	Australopithecines Lab	
8	15-Oct	Early Homo	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explorations Ch. 10
	17-Oct	Neanderthals and Denisovans	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explorations Ch. 11
9	22-Oct	Evolution of Modern Humans	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explorations Ch. 12
	24-Oct	Evolution of Bipedalism Lab	
10	29-Oct	Prehistory and Migration of Modern Humans	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explorations Ch. 12 • Digging Ch. 11 & 14
	31-Oct	The Neolithic Revolution	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explorations Ch. 12. Starting at page 29 Langdon Case Study 23
11	5-Nov	Election Day - No Class	
	7-Nov	Hominin Traits Lab	
12	12-Nov	Exam 2	
	14-Nov	Exam 2- Group Retake	
13	19-Nov	Modern Human Genetic/Genomic Variation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explorations Ch. 14
	21-Nov	Race, Ethnicity, and Variation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explorations Ch. 13 • Gravlee 2009 • Bangstad and Fuentes 2023
14	26-Nov	Sex & Gender	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fuentes 2022 • Perspectives Ch. 10

	28-Nov	Thanksgiving - No Class	
15	3-Dec	Human Biology and Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explorations Ch. 16 • Fuentes 2023
	4-Dec	Careers in Anthropology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AAA Careers in Anthropology YouTube Video • AAA Careers in Anthropology Website

*This is a tentative schedule. I reserve the right to make changes to the lecture/reading schedule. Any changes will be announced in class and via email/Blackboard announcement.

COURSE RESOURCES: Where you can go for assistance

UTEP provides a variety of student services and support. Please refer to the QR code below for a listing of campus resources or visit https://www.utep.edu/advising/student_resources/student-success-resource-hub.html.



Anthropology Resources:

- Sociology and Anthropology Department website: <https://www.utep.edu/liberalarts/sociology-and-anthropology/>
- Advising information: <https://www.utep.edu/liberalarts/sociology-and-anthropology/about/advising.html>
- UTEP has an Anthropology club! Contact Dr. Wiley for more information.
- For information about careers in Archaeology and Physical Anthropology, reach out to Dr. Wiley.

Technology Resources:

- [Help Desk](#): Students experiencing technological challenges (email, Blackboard, software, etc.) can submit a ticket to the UTEP Helpdesk for assistance.
 - Contact the Helpdesk via phone, email, chat, website, or in person if on campus

Academic Resources:

- [UTEP Library](#): Access a wide range of resources including online, full-text access to thousands of journals and eBooks plus reference service and librarian assistance for enrolled students.

- [University Writing Center \(UWC\)](#): Submit papers here for assistance with writing style and formatting, ask a tutor for help, and explore other writing resources.
- [Math Tutoring Center \(MaRCS\)](#): Ask a tutor for help and explore other available math resources.
- [History Tutoring Center \(HTC\)](#): Receive assistance with writing history papers, get help from a tutor and explore other history resources.
- [RefWorks](#): A free bibliographic citation tool. Check out the RefWorks tutorial, Fact Sheet, and Quick-Start Guide.
- [The Miner Learning Center](#): Join peer-led study sessions in person or online to review content and discover study strategies in core curriculum courses.
- [UTEP Edge](#): UTEP's cross-campus framework for student success and empowerment – develops students' assets through high-impact experiences made possible by the expertise and dedication of faculty, staff, alumni, and community partners.

Individual Resources:

- [Student Success Help Desk \(SSHD\)](#): Students experiencing challenges or obstacles to academic success including registration, financial, food, housing, and transposition resources may submit a ticket to request assistance to studentsuccess@utep.edu
- [Military Student Success Center](#): Assists personnel in any branch of service to reach their educational goals.
- [Center for Accommodations and Support Services](#): Assists students with ADA-related accommodations for coursework, housing, and internships.
- [Counseling and Psychological Services](#): Provides a variety of counseling services including individual, couples, and group sessions as well as career and disability assessments.
- [UTEP Food Pantry](#): Non-perishable food items are available to students who are currently enrolled in classes. Bring a Miner Gold Card to Memorial Gym, Room 105, Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.