

ANT 475/575
“Sex, Drugs, & Rock’n’Roll”:
Biology, Culture, & Evolution of Human Adaptability

Fall 2018 | 3 Credit Hours

Dr. Christopher Lynn

Email: cdlynn@ua.edu

Website: <http://cdlynn.people.ua.edu>

Office: 12 ten Hoor

Office phone: (205) 348-4162

Drop-in office hours: Mon/Wed 3-4PM (no appointment required)

Prerequisites

ANT 270

Course Description: This course provides a detailed introduction to the study of how humans adapt to their physical, biological, and social environment or the biocultural and evolutionary bases of human adaptability.

Writing proficiency within this discipline is required for a passing grade in this course. Writing assignments require carefully edited prose and will be graded for intellectual content, originality, comprehension of reading material, coherence, logic, organization, grammar, punctuation, spelling, and prose style. Writing proficiency is an absolute requirement for passing this course. Students with writing difficulties will be encouraged to take advantage of the services of the Writing Center. (While the “W” designation does not apply to the graduate level course, the same expectation for writing proficiency applies.)

Student Learning Outcomes: At the end of this course students should be able to:

1. Review, evaluate, and critique biocultural models of human health derived from human evolutionary biology, including those rooted in the study of ecology, demography, genetics/epigenetics, physiology, nutrition/energetics, and epidemiology.
2. Outline theoretical and methodological issues in the anthropological study of human adaptation through case studies in various populations.
3. Present and critique peer-reviewed primary source material related to human evolutionary biology in clear terminology for peers and an educated lay public.
4. Proficiently write a scientific research paper by searching for a topic, finding and critically reviewing source material, outlining the paper, and then writing and revising the manuscript.

COURSE MATERIALS

Required Text

Other Course Materials

Supplementary readings will be available through Blackboard.

Bring readings to class every week so you have them available for discussions.

ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING POLICY

You will be evaluated in this class on attendance and participation, short reports on each topic, your group presentation, and a final paper about your chosen topic. The breakdown of points/percentages for each of these is provided below along with brief descriptions. More detailed rubrics and expectations for each assignment will be provided closer to respective due dates.

Short Reports (10 points each) = 25%
Group Presentation/Discussion = 12.5%
Papers (100 points each) = 50%
Class Attendance/Participation = 12.5%

IMPORTANT NOTE: Because this is a writing course, to pass you **MUST** receive at least a passing grade the final writing assignment, which is the term paper revision. To receive a passing grade, you will need to show (at minimum) that you write with the skill normally required of an upper division student in Anthropology. *This is true regardless of how well you do in other aspects of the course!*

Short Reports: These are due each week by the start of class. Short reports need to provide (1) a summary of the chapters/articles you were assigned to read, (2) a synthesis of the information, and (3) at least 2 questions you had while reading the chapters/articles. Each report should be roughly 500-750 (do not go under 500 words!). You will turn these via Blackboard AND bring a printed copy to class.

Group Presentation/Discussion: You will choose a group to present on a topic. You and your group will be responsible for choosing a topic, choosing a representative film, choosing representative articles, and leading discussion on that topic. You will be provided a rubric for the presentation later in the semester. However, part of this will include peer evaluations from your group members...to hold you all accountable!

Some ideas to consider: war, stress, body building, obesity, addiction, pollution, body modification, migration, poverty, sexual violence, racism, aging, mental illness, sexual reassignment/trans*.

Papers: You will have to write two 5-7 page papers on topics concerning human adaptability. These do not have to be the same topic that is chosen for your group presentation. You will be asked to provide topics, outlines, and drafts of each by respective dates indicated in the Outline

of Topics table below. Drafts will be shared with classmates via TurnItIn. You will exchange papers and perform peer reviews. You will take their feedback and incorporate it in a draft for me to review. All assignments will be turned in via Blackboard. Papers should use the following formatting:

- include a title page and references cited
- should be 5-7 pages long (not including title page, references, or any tables or figures)
- use double-spacing
- use section headers
- use 12-point Times New Roman font
- use 1” margins
- do not include additional spacing before or after paragraphs or around section headers

The paper will be graded for intellectual content, originality, comprehension of reading material, coherence, logic, organization, grammar, punctuation, spelling, and prose style. You will receive an evaluation rubric in advance through Blackboard, and we will discuss writing in class.

Attendance/Participation: Attendance will be monitored. It is a small discussion-based course so no absences are allowed except by pre-arrangement or documented and valid excuse (e.g., if sick, must have note from doctor; hopefully, no one dies because that is just sad and awkward all around). Participation in discussions is accepted, and as long as everyone stays involved in the classes throughout the semester, I give full credit for in-class discussion. Everyone will also be expected to participate in online discussion through annotating readings via hypothes.is. Sign up as follows, and directions will be given in class: <https://hypothes.is/groups/7aNJobek/ant475-575-bioculevo-fa18>

Additional Expectations for Graduate Students

There are several additional expectations for students enrolled in this class as ANT 575:

1. Papers will be 8-12 pages, rather than 5-7 pages.
2. Graduate students will be asked to select, read, and summarize an additional article of their choice each week from current scientific literature, which is related to the topic of each day’s class session. Appropriate places to look for such material might be *American Journal of Physical Anthropology*, *American Journal of Human Biology*, and *Annals of Human Biology* (although there are other places to look as well). Articles selected for this assignment should be original research reports rather than review articles whenever possible, published within the last 5 years. Graduate students will post a summary of these articles each week in a Blackboard discussion thread that will be set up for the purpose and be prepared to discuss them in class if time allows.
3. All assignments will be evaluated according to a standard appropriate for graduate-level coursework.

OUTLINE OF TOPICS

Date	Topic	Reading	Video/ Movie	Assignment Due
------	-------	---------	-----------------	----------------

History and Foundations				
8/28	Introduction	Futuyma (HEB 1) Peterson (2017) Branch (2017) Chakrabarty (2017)	Chakraburty TED	
9/4	History of the discipline	Leonard (2018) Little (HEB 3) Meier & Raff (HEB 4) Cameron & Jones (HEB 6) Bribiescas & Muehlenbein (HEB 92)	Leonard Bindon lecture	History short report Paper 1 topic due
9/11	High altitude and acculturation	Brutsaert (HEB 11) Oths et al 2018 Schell (HEB 33) Brewis et al (in review) McDade & Nyberg (HEB 34)	<i>Into Thin Air</i> (1hr 30min)	High altitude & acculturation short report
“Sex”				
9/18	Reproduction	Gray (HEB 16) Schmitt (HEB 17) Wedekind & Evanno (HEB 18) Jasienska (HEB 19) Muehlenbein & Bribiescas (HEB 21)	<i>Mating Habits of the Earthbound Human</i>	Reproduction short report Paper 1 outline due
9/25	Growth & development	Bogin (HEB 22) Ulijaszek (HEB 23) Flinn (HEB 24) Campbell (HEB 25) Lancaster & Kaplan (HEB 26) Crews & Stewart (HEB 31)	<i>American History X</i>	G&D short report
10/2	Milk & lactase persistence	Pike & Mulligan (HEB 20) Wiley (2012) Allen-Blevins et al. (2015) Quinn (2016) Meehan et al. (2018) Tishkoff (2007)	TBD	Milk short report Group topics due
“Drugs”				
10/9	Evolved impulses	Ewald (HEB 29) Kuzawa (HEB 30) Wennegrat (HEB 32) Brewis et al (2018) Lynn (2014)	<i>Quest for Fire</i>	Evolutionary medicine short report
10/16	Infectious disease and resistance	Muehlenbein (HEB 27) Howells et al. (2018) Wallace et al. (2016) Zuckerman et al (2016)	<i>Outbreak</i>	Infectious disease short report Paper 1 due for

				peer review
10/23	Physical activity & extreme temperatures	Heat & football (2016) Pontzer et al (2012) Ocobock (2016) Steggmann (2007) Snodgrass & Leonard (2005) Snodgrass & Leonard (2009) Leonard et al (2005)	<i>Running on the Sun</i>	Activity/ temperature short report Peer reviews due
“Rock & Roll”				
10/30	Flow in music, sports, and gaming	Snodgrass et al (2018) Mendoza-Denton et al (2017) Csikszentmihalyi (2014) Kubey & Csikszentmihalyi (2014) Herbert ch 3 Herbert ch 5	<i>Ender’s Game</i> or <i>Ready Player One</i>	Music/sports/ gaming short report Group articles & film choice due
11/6	Genetics and pop culture	Jablonski (HEB 12) Fullwiley (2008) Kuzawa & Thayer (2011) Nelson & Robinson (2014) Sussman et al (2016)	TBD	Genetics/race short report Paper 2 topic due
11/13	Bands, posses, and teams	Wilson (2012) Lynn et al (2015) Oka et al (2017) Bauer et al (2016) Lynn & Medeiros (2017) Currie et al. (2016) Luhmann et al (2010)	<i>Once Were Warriors</i>	Bands/posses/ teams short report Paper 2 outline due
11/20	Group 1			Group topic 1 short report Paper 2 first draft due for peer review
11/27	Group 2			Group topic 2 short report Peer reviews due
12/4	Group 3			Group topic 3 short report Paper 2 final draft due

POLICY ON MISSED COURSEWORK

All short reports posted after the assigned date/time will still be accepted but will only be eligible for half credit.

Your topic, outline, term paper, peer review, and term paper revision must be submitted electronically, using the appropriate Blackboard dropbox, by 11:59 pm on the day they are due for full credit. Turning things in late via Blackboard undermines the mechanisms set up to facilitate peer review, so assignments related to the paper turned in late, except by prior arrangement and with a very good reason, will lose 10% credit off of the maximum of 100% for each day (or part of a day) they are late.

Many assignments being due at the same time is never a good reason, and extensions will not be authorized on that basis. If your topic or outline is late, the 10% reduction will come off your maximum grade for the paper.

ATTENDANCE POLICY

This is a discussion-oriented class and attendance is required. Attendance will be monitored; unexcused absences will lower your grade. Classroom participation is an important requirement of the course, and it will figure in the final grade.

NOTIFICATION OF CHANGES

The instructor will make every effort to follow the guidelines of this syllabus as listed; however, the instructor reserves the right to amend this document as the need arises. In such instances, the instructor will notify students in class and/or via email and will endeavor to provide reasonable time for students to adjust to any changes.

CLASSROOM DECORUM

In addition to the obvious be-nice-to-each-other policies of the University, I enforce a strict no electronics policy in my classes (except me, because I need a computer to access your short reports). That means no phones, no tablets, no laptops. You will have to print your articles and hand write your notes. We'll have a box or something by the door you can put your phone in, and you will have to turn off all notifications to your smartwatches. I will consider exceptions under special circumstances on a case by case basis.