

ANTHROP 2E03 INTRODUCTION TO BIOLOGICAL ANTHROPOLOGY Fall 2021

Course Contacts

Email: doylel6@mcmaster.ca

Office: Remote only for Fall 2021

Office Hours: Use Calendly to make an appointment with Dr Doyle:
<https://calendly.com/dr-doyle>

Lectures: Flipped. Lecture videos to be posted to MacVideo by 23:59h Eastern on the preceding Friday.

Instructor contact time: Class meetings on Zoom, MoTh 3:30PM - 4:20PM. Links to be provided on A2L

NO SYNCHRONOUS LABS: Labs will be introduced on Mondays and recapped on Thursdays.

Email Contact: Emails to the instructor must come from your McMaster email address and include ANTHROP 2E03 in the subject line.

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Course Description

This course reviews the fundamentals of human biology and population genetics, the origin and evolution of the human lineage, and the emergence of human biological and cultural traits in the fossil record.

Course Objectives

By the end of the course students should be able to:

- Articulate the principles and mechanisms of macro- and micro-evolution
- Demonstrate basic Mendelian and population genetics analyses
- Compare and contrast the basic traits of human biology and behaviour to our closest primate cousins
- Identify key archaeological and fossil characteristics
- Describe how the fossil record represents hominin evolution
- Describe the origins and patterns of contemporary human diversity
- Define the term “biopolitics of heredity” and give examples of how it is represented in contemporary discourses of human variation
- Summarize information and present it to peers
- Develop collaborative skills for group work
- Identify and use academic sources in scientific discourse.

Required Materials and Texts

Shook et al. (eds.) 2019. Explorations: An Open Invitation to Biological Anthropology. *American Anthropological Association*. Open text, available to read online or for download here: <https://explorations.americananthro.org/>

Class Format & Instructor Availability

Lectures

This is a flipped virtual course. Asynchronous participation is possible, but it is strongly recommended that you do your best to take advantage of opportunities to connect with your professor, TA, and classmates in real time.

Lectures will be recorded and posted to each weekly module on Avenue2Learn by 23:59h Eastern on the preceding Friday. They will be available for asynchronous access with an automatically generated transcript.

Instructor contact time will be held during scheduled class times, on Zoom. Links will be provided on A2L.

Accessibility

- Zoom provides live automatic captioning.
- MacVideo also provides an automatically generated transcript.
- Additional accommodations will be arranged as needed with SAS.
- You can also individually arrange live transcription of lab and lecture meetings by setting up a free account with Otter.ai

Instructor and TA Contact

Dr Doyle and your TAs are available through the following avenues:

- Via the course's MS Teams channel or direct chat. Tag us using @username for direct notification.
- Via email (please see rules for email contact, below - these will be adhered to strictly).
- Individual video conference: book office hour appointments using **Calendly** (<https://calendly.com/dr-doyle>)

Laboratories and Teaching Assistants

Although there are scheduled laboratory time slots, for this large class, labs will be mostly online and self-paced. Labs will be introduced on Mondays and recapped on Thursdays during class time.

Laboratory work may make use of the following free web-accessible platforms:

- Sketchfab: <https://sketchfab.com/> (for 3D models)
- Google Drive: Google Docs, Sheets, Slides, and Jamboard

Your laboratory group will be your learning community for ANTHROP 2E03

The tutorials are a space for you to develop your assignment ideas, review material, and think through new learnings with your peers. Attending tutorials is an important part of building your campus network, so be sure to turn up!

Who is my TA? TA names/office hours/contact information will be posted on Avenue. Please visit your TA with any questions about assignments/grading of assignments.

Course Evaluation – Overview

1. Laboratory Responses: 10 x 1%, submitted weekly
2. Midterm Exam: 25%, to be held asynchronously on October 21
3. Group Research Project: 20%
4. Final Exam: 35%, held during the registrar's exam period.

Please see "Late Submissions", below, for details on late penalties.

Course Evaluation – Details

Laboratory Responses: 10 x 1%, completed weekly

Each week will have a self-guided, non-graded virtual lab activity. Completion of each activity is worth 1% and may include a short quiz, an activity, or short written response to help cement what you have learned. To be submitted via A2L.

Midterm Exam: 25%, to be held asynchronously on October 21

The midterm exam will consist of multiple choice, short answer, and essay format questions covering all units preceding the midterm week. Questions will be drawn randomly from a quiz bank. The main focus is on comprehension of course terminology and concepts. It will be held asynchronously, meaning that it will be available for a set period of time, with the option to start it at any time. Once you start the test, you will have 60 minutes to complete it unless you have an SAS time accommodation.

Group Research Project: 20%, due to A2L by 23:59h Eastern on December 2.

You will self-assign to a group of up to 4 students. Each group will assign roles and, together, research and develop a Wiki-style paper on a particular evolutionary theme (e.g. Bipedalism; Control of Fire; Childbearing and Childcare; Evolution of Human Diet and Cooking; Evolution of Brain Size & Complexity; Symbolic Material Culture; Human Social Behaviour ; Primate Social Behaviour ; Early Primate Ancestors; Critique of Bigfoot Myth). Each group member will be responsible for researching and compiling an entry on at least one site related to their theme. Pictures, audio, and video are encouraged as part of the project. The group must co-write the introduction and conclusion to their paper. Citations and References are expected in Chicago author-date format.

Final Exam: 35%, held during the registrar's exam period.

The final exam will consist of multiple choice, short answer, and essay questions. It will be cumulative, but with greater focus on material covered after the midterm.

Email and Tech Support Contact

Dr Doyle's Email Commitment

I will do my best to provide a timely response to email communications. During the week, I will generally get back to you within 48h. Emails sent during weekends or after 5pm will generally not receive a response until at least the next business day.

Rules for Email Contact

Please help me provide timely responses to email communications by **reserving email for real emergencies**. Questions about course content, deadlines, assignments, and so on, should be addressed **in class**.

Email that does not follow these rules may not receive a timely response.

- Use your **McMaster email address** for all course-related communications. (This will avoid your message being caught in a spam filter.)
- ALWAYS put **ANTHROP 2E03 in the subject line.** (Seriously, this is critical.)
- **Reserve direct email for personal concerns ONLY** (that is: personal emergencies).
- **Show that you have tried to troubleshoot first!** Troubleshooting is an incredibly valuable professional skill - don't underestimate it! (See below under "Tech Support and Other Matters")
- **For all questions about course material /exams/etc, avenues of communication are:**
 - Come to class and talk with Dr Doyle!
 - Talk to your TA during their **office hours!**
 - Schedule an appointment with Dr Doyle using Calendly: <https://calendly.com/dr-doyle>

What To Do if You Encounter Technical Problems

Do not panic! Follow the below steps to troubleshoot:

1. **Take a screenshot!**
2. **Document the problem:** ESPECIALLY if you are attempting to submit an assignment on deadline. Describe it in detail and **take screenshots that include your desktop clock as a time-stamp.**
3. Check the **Avenue To Learn Support Wiki:**
<https://wiki.mcmaster.ca/avenue/>
4. Check the manufacturer's help documents!
<https://documentation.brightspace.com/EN/learners/learners.htm> A2L is McMaster's local version of Brightspace Desire2Learn (D2L), therefore many of its functions and quirks will be the same.
5. Contact the Avenue2Learn help desk directly (during business hours):
<https://avenue.mcmaster.ca/support.html>
6. If all else has failed ... proceed to contact your professor or TA!

After Troubleshooting: contact your TA or prof

If you decide to contact Dr Doyle or your TA directly for help with resolving a problem (e.g. clarification on a course component, or help with a tech problem you have encountered), **demonstrate that you have attempted to trouble-shoot first:**

- **Send a screenshot!**
- **Describe at least 3 things that you have already tried, and why they didn't work.** (E.g., you checked the syllabus for the answer; you read the assignment guide; you posted your question to the appropriate discussion board; you searched the University website for more information; you reviewed the A2L help pages and Googled the problem; you contacted the A2L help desk).
- **Describe the problem in precise terms.** Include screenshots to show your screen if it is a tech problem.
- If you cannot do either of the above, your TA and/or Dr Doyle will ask you to do so.

Weekly Course Schedule and Required Readings

Sessional Dates:

<https://academiccalendars.romcmaster.ca/content.php?catoid=44&navoid=9034>

WEEK: 1

DATES (Mon/Fri): 2021-09-07 to 2021-09

TOPIC: Meet and greet, orientations, and course expectations.

READINGS: None

NOTES /DEADLINES: NO LAB.

This week will be devoted to meeting your classmates and professor, and getting oriented to the subject material and expectations for the course. It is expected that you will participate if at all possible. **Note that you are expected to complete the syllabus quiz with a 100% in order to access course material after Week 1.**

WEEK: 2

DATES (Mon/Fri): 2021-09-13 to 17

TOPIC: Fundamentals of Evolution: Heredity

READINGS: Chapter 3 Molecular Biology and Genetics

NOTES /DEADLINES: **Add/Drop Deadline: 2021-09-15**

WEEK: 3

DATES (Mon/Fri): 2021-09-20 to 24

TOPIC: Microevolution and Macroevolution 1 - Mechanisms of Evolution

READINGS: Chapter 4: Forces of Evolution (up to "The Hardy-Weinberg Equilibrium")

NOTES /DEADLINES: Lab 2

WEEK: 4

DATES (Mon/Fri): 2021-09-27 to 2021-10-01

TOPIC: Microevolution and Macroevolution 2 - Population Genetics and Adaptive Variation

READINGS:

Chapter 4: Forces of Evolution (from "The Hardy-Weinberg Equilibrium" to end of chapter) ;

Chapter 14, Human Variation: An Adaptive Significance Approach

NOTES /DEADLINES: Lab 3

WEEK: 5

DATES (Mon/Fri): 2021-10-04 to 08

TOPIC: Human Variation, Race, and the Biopolitics of Heredity

READINGS: "READ: Chapter. 13 Race and Human Variation-

LISTEN: How Race Was Made (Scene On Radio Season 2, ""Seeing White""). Audio and transcript at:

<https://www.sceneonradio.org/episode-32-how-race-was-made-seeing-white-part-2/> . CW: References to racist violence

NOTES /DEADLINES: Lab 4

WEEK: 6

DATES (Mon/Fri): 2021-10-11 to 15

TOPIC: NO CLASS - READING WEEK

WEEK: 7

DATES (Mon/Fri): 2021-10-18 to 22

TOPIC: MIDTERM. Class time on Monday devoted to Q&A and review

READINGS: n/a

MIDTERM scheduled for Thursday, Oct 21

WEEK: 8

DATES (Mon/Fri): 2021-10-25 to 29

TOPIC: Living Primates 1: Primate Ecology and Behaviour

READINGS: Chapt. 6 Primate Ecology and Behaviour

NOTES /DEADLINES: Lab 5

WEEK: 9

DATES (Mon/Fri): 2021-11-01 to 05

TOPIC: Living Primates 2: Human Biology, Behaviour & Development

READINGS: Kramer 2005. Children's Help and the Pace of Reproduction:

Cooperative Breeding in Humans

NOTES /DEADLINES: Lab 6

WEEK: 10

DATES (Mon/Fri): 2021-11-08 to 12

TOPIC: Hominin Origins

READINGS: Chapter 9: Early Hominins

NOTES /DEADLINES: Lab 7

WEEK: 11

DATES (Mon/Fri): 2021-11-15 to 19

TOPIC: Early genus *Homo*

READINGS: Chapt. 10. Early genus *Homo*

NOTES /DEADLINES: **LAST DAY TO WITHDRAW WITHOUT PENALTY.** Lab 8.

WEEK: 12

DATES (Mon/Fri): 2021-11-22 to 26

TOPIC: Emergence of Early *Homo sapiens* and the Pleistocene Cousins

READINGS: Chapter 11, Archaic *Homo*
NOTES /DEADLINES: Lab 9

WEEK: 13

DATES (Mon/Fri): 2021-11-29 to 2021-12-02

TOPIC: Modern Humans: Adaptation and Dispersal

READINGS: Chapter 12: Modern *Homo sapiens*

NOTES /DEADLINES: **GROUP PROJECT DUE to A2L by 23:59h** on Thursday
the 2nd of December.

WEEK: 14

DATES (Mon/Fri): 2021-11-06 to 08

TOPIC: COURSE REVIEW

READINGS: n/a

NOTES /DEADLINES: Last class on Monday

EXAM PERIOD

2021-12-09 to 22 Final exam held during Registrar's exam period.

Course Policies

Assignment Submissions

It is expected that all assignments will be submitted as PDF files to that assignment's dropbox on Avenue to Learn (A2L) **Assignments submitted by e-mail will not be accepted.**

If you run into technical problems when submitting an assignment or exam, take a screenshot that shows your submission screen and desktop clock as a timestamp! Then visit the Avenue to Learn Support page for help.

Late Submissions

For winter 2021 there will be a 48h grace period before late penalties are applied for written assignments only (does not apply to tests or exams). This means that you can submit your assignment up to 48h after a deadline, without losing points.

A late penalty of 2 points (2% of the total course grade) will be deducted from an assignment's total per 24-hour period (or part thereof late) for assignments, up to 72 hours (including weekends). After 72 hours, a grade of 0 is allocated.

Absences, Missed Work, Illness

It is your responsibility to complete all work by the deadline at which it is to be handed in. Extensions will not be available without one of: a McMaster Student Absence Forms (MSAF) if applicable; OR written certification approved by your Faculty office. If you experience an interruption to your attendance that warrants relief, please try to alert Dr Doyle as soon as possible to arrange make-up work.

Please note that policies concerning the use of MSAFs (McMaster Student Absence Forms) have changed (see <https://www.mcmaster.ca/msaf/>).

Note that MSAF's cannot be used for:

- **Any coursework worth 25% or more.**
- Absences lasting longer than 3 days

If you require relief for an assessment worth 25%+ or for longer than 3 days, you must contact your faculty office, with documentation, if you wish to apply for a faculty-issued MSAF.

Please note – **all deferred and makeup exams will be in essay format.**

Assignment Reappraisal

Your assignments are marked by TAs using a grading rubric provided by the instructor, which is based on the criteria outlined in each assignment guide.

Grades are not awarded based on demonstrated effort, but on demonstrated achievement. It is normal for a student's average grade in university classes to be somewhat lower than their average grade in high school.

If you disagree with a grade that you have received, please follow the below steps:

1. **Wait 24h after viewing your mark.** Re-read your assignment with a cooler head and consider the rubric, your TA's feedback, and grading criteria outlined in the assignment guide.
2. **Seek more feedback:** If you require more information about your grade, contact the grading TA and ask for further feedback.
3. **Formally request a re-appraisal:** Write a 300-word (max) statement, explaining why you believe the grader's assessment was mistaken, and submit it to Dr Doyle along with the original assignment (with TA feedback). **Your statement must directly reference the rubric.** We assess your work based on its demonstrated quality, not based on effort expended. Thus, we need you to engage directly with the feedback you have been given in order to show that the original grading was incorrect.
4. Dr Doyle will re-assess your work using the same rubric as the TA grader.

Please note that requesting a re-appraisal does not guarantee that your mark will go up. Most re-appraisals do not produce a different mark than the original assessment, and some produce a lower mark.

If, after reappraisal by the instructor, you still disagree with an assessment, you may apply for a **re-read** via the McMaster Secretariat website:

<https://registrar.mcmaster.ca/re-read/>

Grades

Marking rubrics and final grades will be based on the McMaster University grading scale:

MARK	GRADE	Qualitative Scale (Unofficial)
90-100	A+	In general, quantitative & categorical grade ranges reflect the following qualitative scale:
85-90	A	
80-84	A-	80% to 100% (A- to A+): Exceptional performance: strong evidence of original thinking; good organization; capacity to analyze and synthesize; superior grasp of subject matter with sound critical evaluations; evidence of extensive knowledge base.
77-79	B+	
73-76	B	
70-72	B-	68% to 79% (B- to B+): Competent performance: evidence of grasp of subject matter; some evidence of critical capacity and analytic ability; reasonable understanding of relevant issues; evidence of familiarity with the literature.
67-69	C+	
63-66	C	50% to 67% (D to C+): Adequate performance: understanding of the subject matter; ability to develop solutions to simple problems in the material; acceptable but uninspired work, not seriously faulty but lacking style and vigour.
60-62	C-	
57-59	D+	
53-56	D	00% to 49% (F): Inadequate performance: little or no evidence of understanding of the subject matter; weakness in critical and analytic skills; limited or irrelevant use of the literature.
50-52	D-	
0-49	F	

Avenue to Learn & Lecture Recording

In this course we will be using Avenue to Learn. Some real-time lecture sessions may be recorded. Attendees will be warned prior to recording.

Students should be aware that, when they access the electronic components of this course, private information such as first and last names, user names for the McMaster e-mail accounts, and program affiliation may become apparent to all other students in the same course. The available information is dependent on the technology used. Continuation in this course will be deemed consent to this disclosure. If you have any questions or concerns about such disclosure please discuss this with the course instructor.

Turnitin.com

In this course we will be using a web-based service (Turnitin.com) to reveal plagiarism in written work. Students will be expected to submit their work electronically to Turnitin.com and in hard copy so that it can be checked for

academic dishonesty. Students who do not wish to submit their work to Turnitin.com must still submit a copy to the instructor. No penalty will be assigned to a student who does not submit work to Turnitin.com. All submitted work is subject to normal verification that standards of academic integrity have been upheld (e.g., on-line search, etc.). To see the Turnitin.com Policy, please visit: www.mcmaster.ca/academicintegrity.

University Policies

Academic Integrity Statement

You are expected to exhibit honesty and use ethical behavior in all aspects of the learning process. Academic credentials you earn are rooted in principles of honesty and academic integrity.

Academic dishonesty is to knowingly act or fail to act in a way that results or could result in unearned academic credit or advantage. This behavior can result in serious consequences, e.g. the grade of zero on an assignment, loss of credit with a notation on the transcript (notation reads: "Grade of F assigned for academic dishonesty"), and/or suspension or expulsion from the university.

It is your responsibility to understand what constitutes academic dishonesty. For information on the various types of academic dishonesty please refer to the Academic Integrity Policy, located at www.mcmaster.ca/academicintegrity.

The following illustrates only three forms of academic dishonesty:

1. Plagiarism, e.g. the submission of work that is not one's own or for which credit has been obtained.
2. Improper collaboration in group work.
3. Copying or using unauthorized aids in tests and examinations.

Academic Accommodation of Students with Disabilities

Students who require academic accommodation must contact Student Accessibility Services (SAS) to make arrangements with a Program Coordinator. Academic accommodations must be arranged for each term of study. Student Accessibility Services can be contacted by phone 905-525-9140 ext. 28652 or e-mail sas@mcmaster.ca. For further information, consult McMaster University's Policy for [Academic Accommodation of Students with Disabilities](#).

Religious, Indigenous and Spiritual Observances (RISO)

The University recognizes that, on occasion, the timing of a student's religious, Indigenous, or spiritual observances and that of their academic obligations may conflict. In such cases, the University will provide reasonable academic accommodation for students that is consistent with the Ontario Human Rights Code.

Please review the [RISO information for students in the Faculty of Social Sciences](#) about how to request accommodation.

Faculty of Social Sciences E-mail Communication Policy

Effective September 1, 2010, it is the policy of the Faculty of Social Sciences that all e-mail communication sent from students to instructors (including TAs), and from students to staff, must originate from the student's own McMaster University e-mail account. This policy protects confidentiality and confirms the identity of the student. It is the student's responsibility to ensure that communication is sent to the university from a McMaster account. If an instructor becomes aware that a communication has come from an alternate address, the instructor may not reply at his or her discretion.

Privacy Protection

In accordance with regulations set out by the Freedom of Information and Privacy Protection Act, the University will not allow return of graded materials by placing them in boxes in departmental offices or classrooms so that students may retrieve their papers themselves; tests and assignments must be returned directly to the student. Similarly, grades for assignments for courses may only be posted using the last 5 digits of the student number as the identifying data. The following possibilities exist for return of graded materials:

1. Direct return of materials to students in class;
2. Return of materials to students during office hours;
3. Students attach a stamped, self-addressed envelope with assignments for return by mail;
4. Submit/grade/return papers electronically.

Arrangements for the return of assignments from the options above will be finalized during the first class.

Online Elements

This course includes on-line elements (e.g. e-mail, Avenue to Learn (A2L), LearnLink, web pages, capa, Moodle, ThinkingCap, etc.). Students should be aware that, when they access the electronic components of a course using these elements, private information such as first and last names, user names for the McMaster e-mail accounts, and program affiliation may become apparent to all other students in the same course. The available information is dependent on the technology used. Continuation in a course that uses on-line elements will be deemed consent to this disclosure. If you have any questions or concerns about such disclosure please discuss this with the course instructor.

Online Proctoring

Some courses may use online proctoring software for tests and exams. This software may require students to turn on their video camera, present identification, monitor and record their computer activities, and/or lock/restrict their browser or other applications/software during tests or exams. This software may be required to be installed before the test/exam begins.

Copyright and Recording

Students are advised that lectures, demonstrations, performances, and any other course material provided by an instructor include copyright protected works. The Copyright Act and copyright law protect every original literary, dramatic, musical and artistic work, including lectures by University instructors

The recording of lectures, tutorials, or other methods of instruction may occur during a course. Recording may be done by either the instructor for the purpose of authorized distribution, or by a student for the purpose of personal study. Students should be aware that their voice and/or image may be recorded by others during the class. Please speak with the instructor if this is a concern for you.

Course Modification

The instructor and university **reserve the right to modify elements of the course during the term**. The university may change the dates and deadlines for any or all courses in extreme circumstances. If either type of modification becomes necessary, reasonable notice and communication with the students will be given with explanation and the opportunity to comment on changes. It is the responsibility of the student to

check their McMaster email and course websites weekly during the term and to note any changes.

Conduct Expectations

As a McMaster student, you have the right to experience, and the responsibility to demonstrate, respectful and dignified interactions within all of our living, learning and working communities. These expectations are described in the [Code of Student Rights & Responsibilities](#) (the "Code"). All students share the responsibility of maintaining a positive environment for the academic and personal growth of all McMaster community members, **whether in person or online.**

It is essential that students be mindful of their interactions online, as the Code remains in effect in virtual learning environments. The Code applies to any interactions that adversely affect, disrupt, or interfere with reasonable participation in University activities. Student disruptions or behaviours that interfere with university functions on online platforms (e.g. use of Avenue 2 Learn, WebEx or Zoom for delivery), will be taken very seriously and will be investigated. Outcomes may include restriction or removal of the involved students' access to these platforms.

Extreme Circumstances

The University reserves the right to change the dates and deadlines for any or all courses in extreme circumstances (e.g., severe weather, labour disruptions, etc.). Changes will be communicated through regular McMaster communication channels, such as McMaster Daily News, A2L and/or McMaster email.

