

ANTH 102

Introduction to Biological Anthropology

3 Credits

Community College of Baltimore County
Common Course Outline

Description

ANTH 102 – Introduction to Biological Anthropology: explores the origins and development of contemporary diversity in human populations through analysis of genetics, the fossil record, evolutionary theory, and archaeological evidence.

Co-requisites: ACLT 053 or (ESOL 052 and ESOL 100)

Overall Course Objectives

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. explain the relationship of biological anthropology to the other sub-fields of anthropology;
2. identify research areas in biological anthropology;
3. assess the history of evolutionary thought in biological anthropology;
4. explain the principles of biological heredity;
5. describe the ways anthropologists use nuclear DNA and mitochondrial DNA to reconstruct evolutionary relationships between populations;
6. explain natural selection and consequent changes in the genetic composition of populations;
7. use electronic visualization tools to analyze the evolution of skeletal and behavioral variation in primates;
8. analyze theories on the evolutionary significance of physical variations in hominin species;
9. assess the ways scientific understanding of evolution is affected by limitations in the fossil record;
10. describe the global dispersal of hominin species using evidence from the fossil record;
11. compare the main hypotheses of *Homo sapiens* origins;
12. interpret the relationship between human physical characteristics and cultural development;
13. formulate conclusions about human variation, including ideas about race, based on the scientific evidence;
14. employ appropriate technology in the design and delivery of a multimedia presentation;
15. find, evaluate, use, and cite discipline appropriate academic resources; and
16. identify the ethical obligations of biological anthropologists to human and primate research subjects.

The Common Course Outline (CCO) determines the essential nature of each course.

For more information, see your professor's syllabus.

Major Topics

- I. The relation of biological anthropology to other fields of anthropology and other sciences
- II. Biological evolutionary theory
- III. Biological heredity
- IV. Emergence and evolution of primates
- V. Physical and behavioral characteristics of primates
- VI. Similarities and differences in the Homininae subfamily
- VII. The hominin fossil record
- VIII. Research methods in biological anthropology
- IX. Relationship between biology and culture
- X. Theories on variation in contemporary human populations

Course Requirements

Grading will be determined by the individual faculty member, but shall include the following, at minimum:

- Two quizzes
- One exam with a writing component (short-answer or essay)
- One assignment (4-5 pages, in length, to include original research and analysis) worth a minimum of 10% of the total course grade will allow students to demonstrate General Education Program outcomes
- One assessment evaluating knowledge of biological anthropology field research methods
- One collaborative project (such as discussion board, group projects, or in-class exercises) with a writing component
- One multimedia presentation utilizing appropriate technology in design and delivery

Written assignments and research projects: Students are required to use appropriate academic resources in their research and cite sources according to the style selected by their professor.

Other Course Information

This course is an approved 3–credit General Education course in the Social and Behavioral Sciences.

One or more assignments will infuse CCBC General Education Program Outcomes and will account for a minimum of 10% of the total course grade. The assignment(s) will allow students to demonstrate General Education program outcomes.

Date Revised: 10/7/2025

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