Bioanthropology Methods (ANTH 487/587)  
Winter 2020

Class Time & Location: Tuesdays 6-8:50pm in 204 Condon Hall

Instructor: Dr. Kirstin N. Sterner  
E-mail: ksterner@uoregon.edu  
Office: 352 Condon Hall  
Office Hours: Tuesdays 2pm to 4pm, and by appointment

Prerequisites
ANTH 270 Introduction to Biological Anthropology or permission of the instructor is required to enroll in this course (undergraduates only). This course is intended for upper-level undergraduates and graduate students.

Course Description
This course provides an overview of research methods used in biological anthropology. In this course students will learn the fundamentals of designing and conducting biological anthropology research and learn how to write a competitive research proposal.

Learning Objectives
By the end of this course students will be able to:
1. outline and explain the steps of the scientific method
2. describe methods commonly used in biological anthropology research
3. develop a research project by applying the scientific method to a specific research question
4. use newly acquired grant writing skills to write an NSF-style research proposal

Course Content
The course will introduce students to the process of research design, data analysis, and interpretation. Individual class meetings will involve discussion of various methods for assessing human/primate evolution and adaptation and when possible, hands-on application of laboratory techniques.

Course Format
Informal lectures followed by directed discussion and/or hands-on laboratory exercises.

Required Readings
All readings will be available online (Canvas). Please see Pages for weekly reading assignments. Readings should be completed before arriving to class on the day they are listed.

Classroom Etiquette
Help make this an intellectually safe and friendly environment by respecting others in the class. Along these lines, please:
• arrive for class on time and read all articles before the start of each class.
• do not interrupt someone speaking in class.
• silence or turn off your cell phone during class.
• never text, instant message or surf the web during class. In addition to being disrespectful and distracting to others, it will cost you your participation credit for the day.
• never record (audio or video) any part of the lectures or discussions unless you have my permission.

Evaluation Criteria
Your grade in the course will reflect class attendance, participation in discussions, participation in in-class activities, completion of 5 homework assignments, and completion and presentation of a research proposal. Participation in class discussion is required and very important for your grade in this course. If you are having trouble, come to my office hours or talk to me after class. See Grading Statement (below) for an explanation of what each letter grade requires.

Class Attendance & Participation 15%
Homework Assignments (3 @ 5% each) 15%
Research Proposal Topic (Week 4) 5%
Building Your Proposal Assignment (Week 7) 15%
Proposal Check-In (Week 8) 5%
Presentation of Research Proposal (Week 10) 10%
Research Proposal (March 18th by Noon) 35%

Students are expected to fully participate in class discussions and exercises and to have read the required readings by class time. Due to the inclusion of in-class activities, class attendance is critical. Therefore, make-ups will only be available under extraordinary circumstances. If you have an excused absence you should notify me before class.

The class will culminate in the production of a NSF-style proposal for an original research project using methods learned in this course. Undergraduates will be required to submit a 5 page (SINGLE-spaced) proposal, while graduate students will write a longer (10 page, SINGLE-spaced) research proposal that includes additional sections (e.g., budget and CV). All students will propose a topic, provide sufficient background to show the topic to be important and interesting, propose methods for collecting and analyzing data, and discuss the significance of the project. Examples of NSF grant proposals are available on Canvas. Prior to handing in their proposal, students will present their research to the class. Proposal Guidelines will be made available during Week 2.

Assignments must be turned in at the scheduled time - under no circumstances will assignment extensions be given without a documented excuse. If you will not be able to turn in an assignment at the designated time, you must notify me in advance (preferably by e-mail).
**Accommodations**
The University of Oregon is working to create inclusive learning environments. Please notify me if there are aspects of the instruction or design of this course that result in disability-related barriers to your participation. You are also encouraged to contact the Accessible Education Center (AEC) in 360 Oregon Hall at 541-346-1155 or uoaec@uoregon.edu. Appropriate accommodations will be provided for students working with AEC. Please make arrangements to meet with me to discuss these accommodations at the beginning of the term.

**Grading Statement for Undergraduates**
Grades will be assigned as follows: A = 90-100%, B = 80-89%, C = 70-79%, D = 60-69%, F < 60% (with minus and plus grades assigned at appropriate cutoffs).

**A+** Quality of student’s performance significantly exceeds that of an A. Very few, if any, students receive this grade in a given course.

**A** Outstanding performance relative to that required to meet course requirements; demonstrates both mastery of course content & coursework quality at the highest level.

**B** Performance that is significantly above that required to meet course requirements; demonstrates both mastery of course content & coursework quality at a high level.

**C** Performance that meets the course requirements in every respect; demonstrates adequate understanding of course content and coursework quality.

**D** Performance that is at the minimal level necessary to pass the course but does not fully meet the course requirements; demonstrates marginal understanding of course content and coursework quality.

**F** Performance in the course, for whatever reason, is unacceptable and does not meet the course requirements; demonstrates inadequate understanding of the course content and coursework quality.
### Course Schedule and Assignments

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Jan 7</td>
<td>Course Introduction; Research in Bio Anthropology; Research Design</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Jan 14</td>
<td>Anthropological Questions; Ethical Issues; Proposal Writing</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>Jan 21</td>
<td>Geometric Morphometrics <em>(Dr. Steve Frost)</em></td>
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<td><strong>Homework Assignment 1 (Inspiration) Due</strong></td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>Jan 28</td>
<td>Genetics of Wild Primates <em>(Dr. Nelson Ting)</em></td>
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<td><strong>Research Proposal Topic Due</strong></td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>Feb 4</td>
<td>Human Biology &amp; Biomarkers <em>(Dr. Josh Snodgrass and Dr. Zachary DuBois)</em></td>
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<td><strong>Homework Assignment 2 (Broader Impacts) Due</strong></td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>Feb 11</td>
<td>Ethnographic Methods <em>(Dr. Larry Sugiyama)</em></td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>Feb 18</td>
<td>Field Primatology <em>(Dr. Larry Ulibarri)</em></td>
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<td><strong>Schedule a Check-In Meeting for Week 8</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Building Your Proposal Assignment Due</strong></td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>Feb 25</td>
<td>Stabile Isotope Ecology <em>(Dr. Scott Blumenthal)</em></td>
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<td>Writing and Presenting Research</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>Mar 3</td>
<td>Bioanthropology Data Analysis <em>(Dr. Frances White)</em></td>
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<td><strong>Homework Assignment 3 (Data Analysis) Due MONDAY the 2nd by Noon</strong></td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>Mar 10</td>
<td>Student Presentations</td>
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<td>Mar 18</td>
<td><strong>Research Proposal Due by Noon</strong></td>
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**NOTE:** All homework assignments should be submitted on Canvas BEFORE class starts on the day they are listed, unless otherwise noted.

This syllabus is tentative and may change during the term. It is your responsibility to come to class and check Canvas for updates and readings. Any changes to readings or assignments will be given in advance.