Bioanthropology Methods Course Syllabus

Spring 2022

Instructor Information

Dr. Kirstin Sterner (she/her/hers pronouns)

I am a molecular anthropologist with a genomics lab on campus. If you need to reach me throughout the term you can always email me (ksterner@uoregon.edu) or drop by my office hours.

Office: Condon 352 and Virtual Office (https://uoregon.zoom.us/j/95342722910?pwd=S09IM3dwekJXd1VBaVgxdExWelpEdz09)

Office Hours: Mondays 12pm to 1:30pm, and by appointment

Course Format

This course will be **100% in-person** and does **not** have a remote option. Each week you will have a number of required readings and assignments that you need to complete before coming to class. Our class time will then be used for lecture, discussion and for project-based workshops. We meet **every** Wednesday from 6pm until 8:50pm. Class starts Week 1 on Wednesday, March 30th.

Prerequisites

ANTH 270 Introduction to Biological Anthropology or permission of the instructor is required to enroll in this course (undergraduates only). **While there is only one pre-requisite this course is intended for upper-level undergraduates with an interest in research and graduate students.** If you have concerns about your preparedness for this course and the requirements, please email me or speak with me during Week 1.

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

**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. Please note, while the reading load is lighter than other 400/500 level Anthropology courses, you will also be reading articles of your own choosing as you develop your research proposal throughout the term.

**Classroom Etiquette**

In order to foster an atmosphere of mutual respect and collaborative inquiry in this course we will use a Course Contract (https://canvas.uoregon.edu/courses/202380/pages/course-contract-for-bioanthropology-methods). You will have an opportunity to suggest additions/edits to this contract before agreeing to it during Week 1. In addition, never record (audio or video) any part of the lectures or discussions unless you have my expressed permission.

**Evaluation Criteria**

Your grade in the course will reflect participation in in-class discussions and workshops, completion of homework assignments, and completion and presentation of a research proposal. If you are having trouble, come speak with me. See Grading Statement (below) for an explanation of what each letter grade requires.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Attendance &amp; Participation</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discussion Questions (4 @ 4% each)</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Homework Assignments (4 @ 4% each)</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research Proposal Topic (Week 3)</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Building Your Proposal Assignment (Week 8)</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Presentation of Research Proposal (Week 10)</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research Proposal (Wednesday, June 8th by Noon)</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Please note, participation in class discussions is required and very important. 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 panels and workshops, class attendance is critical. 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
(https://canvas.uoregon.edu/courses/202380/pages/example-grants). Prior to handing in their proposal, students
will present their research to the class. See the Proposal Assignments and Guidelines
(https://canvas.uoregon.edu/courses/202380/pages/proposal-assignments-and-guidelines) for more information
about the research proposal term project.

Assignments must be turned in at the scheduled time. 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).

Course Policies

Course Communications (Canvas)

Our class will communicate through our Canvas site. The Canvas site is your main source for course information,
documents, readings, assignments, assessments and announcements. Make sure that you regularly check
your Canvas and your Canvas linked e-mail account. Announcements and emails are archived there and
automatically forwarded to your UO email, and can even reach you by text. Check and adjust your settings
under Account > Notifications.

Missed Class, Extension and Late Policy

I am committed to supporting students who need assistance. While providing accommodations for students who
are unable to complete their work on time due to short-term illness, emergencies and pandemic related issues is
important and something I are happy to do, it is important for you to know this can generate significant additional
work and can quickly get out of hand if requested indiscriminately. Please help me to keep this class running
smoothly by staying on top of your assignments when you are able so I can help those in need. Thank you for
understanding.

What should I do if I need to miss class?

We only meet 10 times this term so it is important that you plan around things like trips, work and other
previously scheduled events as best you can and attempt to attend all of our meetings. If you need to miss
class you must reach out to me via email before class starts.

Attending course is important but you should not attend class if you are sick. If you are concerned you might
have Covid, definitely have Covid or have been asked to quarantine, please email me before class
and stay home until you are cleared to return.

To accommodate students who are unable to attend class I will be providing PDFs of my slides. Please use
these to review the content you have missed and then follow-up with me or get notes from a peer in the class. In
addition, any announcements I make during class (e.g, reminders etc.) will also be on Canvas so that students
who are unable to attend can see them.

Please note, you are responsible for material you missed and will not receive your participation credit for
unexcused absences.
What should I do if I need an extension?

It is important that you plan around things like trips, work and other previously scheduled events as best you can and attempt to complete the work for this class when it is due so that you have a buffer against all those unexpected life things that can come up. That being said, I understand that sometimes things come up that are out of your control (e.g., illness/health issues; last minute change in work schedule; caregiving responsibilities etc.) and may impact your ability to submit your assignments on time. If you are experiencing something like this and would like to request an extension, you need to email me about this before the assignment/quiz is due. I will consider your request and get back to you as quickly as I can. The length of the extension will depend on the specific situation.

What if I just missed an assignment? Can I still turn it in late?

I strongly encourage you to submit your assignments on time since we will be discussing them in class. If you think you will need more time and have a reasonable request, you need to reach out for an extension before the assignment is due (see above). If you miss it and still want to turn it in late you can do so for half credit, but it needs to be turned in within a week of the original assignment and you may not receive feedback.

Please see the Proposal Assignment (https://canvas.uoregon.edu/courses/202380/assignments/1257771) for information about the Proposal Late Policy specifically.

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.

Academic Integrity

The University Student Conduct Code (https://policies.uoregon.edu/vol-3-administration-student-affairs/ch-1-conduct/student-conduct-code) defines academic misconduct. Students are prohibited from committing or attempting to commit any act that constitutes academic misconduct. By way of example, students should not give or receive (or attempt to give or receive) unauthorized help on assignments or examinations without express permission from the instructor. Please note, I will report misconduct to the Office of Student Conduct and Community Standards—consequences can include failure of this course.

Students should properly acknowledge and document all sources of information (e.g. quotations, paraphrases, ideas) and use only the sources and resources authorized by the instructor. If there is any question about whether an act constitutes academic misconduct, it is the students’ obligation to clarify the question with the instructor before committing or attempting to commit the act. Additional information about a common form of academic misconduct, plagiarism (https://researchguides.uoregon.edu/citing-plagiarism).

Academic Disruption

In the event of a campus emergency that disrupts academic activities, course requirements, deadlines, and grading percentages are subject to change. Information about changes in this course will be communicated as
soon as possible by email, and on Canvas. If we are not able to meet face-to-face, students should immediately log onto Canvas and read any announcements and/or access alternative assignments. Students are also expected to continue coursework as outlined in this syllabus or other instructions on Canvas.

In the event that the instructor of this course has to quarantine, this course may be taught online during that time.

**COVID Containment Plan**

As the University of Oregon continues in-person instruction, instructors and students play a key role in keeping our community healthy and safe.

**Prevention:** To prevent or reduce the spread of COVID-19 in classrooms and on campus, all students and employees must:

- Comply with [vaccination policy](https://coronavirus.uoregon.edu/vaccine)
- Wash hands [https://coronavirus.uoregon.edu/prevention#healthy-hand-washing](https://coronavirus.uoregon.edu/prevention#healthy-hand-washing) frequently
- Complete daily self-checks [https://coronavirus.uoregon.edu/prevention#health-checks](https://coronavirus.uoregon.edu/prevention#health-checks)
- Say home/do not come to campus if feeling [symptomatic](https://coronavirus.uoregon.edu/prevention#if-sick-stay-home)
- Individuals with no symptoms or mild symptoms can get tested at McArthur Court through UO's Monitoring and Assessment Program. Masks are required at COVID-19 testing sites including in line outside.
- Visit the [Exposure Scenario page](https://coronavirus.uoregon.edu/covid-exposure) page for information on reporting cases.

**Support:** The following resources are available to you as a student.

- [University Health Services](https://health.uoregon.edu/) or call (541) 346-2770
- [University Counseling Center](https://counseling.uoregon.edu/) or call (541) 346-3277 or (541) 346-3227 (after hrs.)
- [MAP Covid-19 Testing](https://coronavirus.uoregon.edu/testing#students)
- [Corona Corps](https://coronavirus.uoregon.edu/corona-corps) or call (541) 346-2292
- [Academic Advising](https://advising.uoregon.edu/) or call (541) 346-3211
- [Dean of Students](https://dos.uoregon.edu/) or call (541)-346-3216

**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.