

# *Human Biology and Life History*

## *Anthropology 3540*

(University of Missouri – Columbia, Fall 2006)

### **Course Description:**

You will be introduced to some of the major topics of human biology and life history, with special focus on the growth and development the individual from infancy to adult. You will learn general anatomy and physiology of the major anatomical systems, basic biological principles of human development, the human pattern of growth, and how the patterns of growth and development are affected by the individual's genetic makeup and environmental situations. Finally, you will learn some of the cultural, genetic, and environmental explanations for population variation in growth. The format of the course is a combination of lectures, class discussion of assigned readings, and practical exercises.

### **Facilitator:**

Dr. Daniel Wescott

Office: 213C Swallow Hall

Email: [WescottD@missouri.edu](mailto:WescottD@missouri.edu)

Office Hours: 11:00-12:00 MW or by appointment

Office Phone: 882-8748

Website: <http://www.missouri.edu/~wescott/>

**Meeting Time / Place:** TR 11:00 a.m. -12:15 p.m. / 321 Mumford Hall

### **Required Learning Materials:**

**Text:** *Patterns of Human Growth*, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition by Barry Bogin

**Articles:** There are additional readings (see "Article Reading List") that can be found on electronic reserve or in the Anthropology Library (108 Swallow Hall). You can access additional articles electronically by going to the "Electronic Reserves at University of Missouri-Columbia" webpage (<http://eres.missouri.edu/>). At the webpage, click on "Electronic Reserves and Course Materials," and then go to the course page. This can be done by selecting the course name or instructor name. Once you locate the course page, you will need to enter the page password, which is "**Bogin**." Copies of the articles in the anthropology library can be read in the library or checked out for 1 hour to make photocopies.

### **On-line Information:**

Course information (e.g., syllabus, contact information, announcements, grades, and other material) is available on *WebCT* (<https://courses.missouri.edu>). At the "Online Courses at Mizzou" webpage, click on "*WebCT*" and login using your Pawprint username and password. If you need help with *WebCT*, contact the IAT services help desk ([helpdesk@missouri.edu](mailto:helpdesk@missouri.edu) or 882-5000) or me.

You should access *WebCT* **before each class** to look for updates and announcements. This is essentially a "paper free" class, with the exception of this syllabus and the exams. You are responsible for printing out handouts and other material and bringing them to class. I will try to announce when I need you to bring a handout to class, but ultimately, it is your responsibility to check the website.

**Assessment:**

You will be assessed based on your performance on two examinations (a midterm and final) (50%), four projects (25%), five article reviews (25%), and class participation. Plus-minus grading on a straight scale (i.e., 98-100% = A+, 93-97% = A, 90-92% = A-, etc) will be used.

**Exams:** There will be a midterm (approximately October 12<sup>th</sup>) and a final (December 12<sup>th</sup> from 8:00 – 10:00 a.m.) consisting of short answer and essay questions.

**Projects:** There will be several group and individual projects. Your grade will be based on four. The projects will be explained in detail as we come to them. You will be penalized 10% of the total grade per day for late projects, with penalties beginning the class period the assignment is due.

**Article Reviews:** You will write a review for five of the articles assigned for class discussion. The review should be approximately one page in length (double spaced and 12 point font) and highlight the primary hypotheses or questions, the methods used, the results, and the interpretation of the results. The article reviews are due on the date they are assigned for class. You will be penalized 10% of the total grade per day for late article reviews, with penalties beginning the class period the assignment is due.

**Class Participation:** You are expected to attend class, read assigned material before class, actively participate in discussions and occasionally summarize readings. Excessive absences or refusal to participate may lead to a grade reduction or an academic withdraw from the course.

**Tips for Success:**

Your goals, as a student, are to gain new knowledge and understanding of the subject material as well as an ability to apply information. I have found that keeping an open mind, attending class regularly, being adequately prepared, asking questions, managing your time, and actively participating are essential for meeting these goals.

You should also take advantage of my office hours. Office hours are the time that I am available for you to walk in and ask me any questions about the course that will help your comprehension of the subject matter. Therefore, I strongly encourage you to come to my office if you are having trouble understanding a concept or have general questions about anthropology. You will probably find that coming to me during my office hours when you need help will improve your understanding and, probably, your grade. If you have a conflict with my office hours, contact me after class or by email to schedule an alternative time to meet.

I also believe that learning should be a community endeavor in which we learn from one another. Each of you has experiences and knowledge that may be valuable to the learning process of other students. Therefore, I hope you contribute to your own learning and the learning of others by participating in class discussions. I also hope that you extend this resource by studying together, asking each other questions, and discussing the information we cover outside the classroom. There is a discussion board available on *WebCT* for you to post questions and discuss class material with other students.

### **Expectations:**

**I expect you to attend all class sections for the entire period.** If you must be absent, it is your responsibility to obtain information you may have missed from another student. Furthermore, manage your time so that you do not have to come in to class late or leave early. You miss out on a lot of information and it disrupts the other students. Excessive absences may lead to a grade reduction or an academic withdraw from the class.

**I expect you to be prepared for each class** by completing assigned readings or other assigned work prior to class. It is important for you to keep up with your readings. In some cases the textbook will include more detail than will be presented in class, but you should use the textbook to fill gaps in your understanding of the lecture material.

**I expect you to show respect for your fellow students!** Turn off all cell phones and pagers, keep irrelevant talking to a minimum, and do not start putting your books and notes away until the lecture is finished. If you must come to class late or leave early, please enter or exit the room quietly. I reserve the right to demand that you leave the classroom if you are disturbing other students.

### **Academic Honesty:**

As a student of the University of Missouri, you have committed to academic honesty. In doing so, you have promised that you will not provide or receive any improper aid in your academic work. All work submitted to me for assessment must be your own work, except in cases where I specifically tell you that the work can be a group effort. If I suspect any form of academic dishonesty, I will report it to the Office of the Provost for investigation. Pending the outcome of their investigation, you will receive an incomplete for the assignment or examination. If the review committee finds evidence of academic dishonesty, you will receive a failing grade for the course. Frequently students are unaware of what constitutes academic dishonesty. Some examples that one might confront in this course are any form of cheating on examinations and plagiarism from your fellow students, textbook, websites or other resources on an assignment. Allowing a fellow student to copy your work also constitutes academic dishonesty. In general, any effort to gain an advantage not given to all students is dishonest. If you have any doubt about plagiarism, collaboration, or what constitutes cheating, please consult me. You may also find information in the *Collected Rules and Regulations*, Section 200.010, Standard of Conduct and Section 200.020, Rules of Procedures in Student Conduct Matters. Information on how to access these sections is available on *WebCT*.

### **Disabilities:**

The University of Missouri seeks to provide educational opportunities to all students. If you need specific accommodations (e.g., examinations or course material in an alternative form or special arrangements in case the building must be evacuated) please notify me privately after class or in my office. Reasonable efforts will be made to accommodate any such needs.

To request specific academic accommodations, you will need to contact Disability Services in A038 Brady Commons (882-4696).

### **Verbal Communication:**

If you have a concern regarding the instructor's or teaching assistant's verbal communication proficiency, please contact the Undergraduate Studies Director of the Anthropology Department (107 Swallow Hall).

**Tentative Course Outline:**

<b>Topic</b>	<b>Date<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>Reading<sup>2</sup></b>
Course Logistics and Getting to Know Each Other	8/22	Syllabus
Basic Anatomy and Physiology	8/24-8/29	
Life Stages and Normal Growth and Development	8/31-9/14	B1 & B2
Measuring and Assessing Growth and Development	9/19-9/26	A1
Comparative Growth and Development of Mammals	9/28-10/3	A2, B3
Evolution of the Human Life Cycle	10/5-10/10	A3, A4, B4
<i>Midterm Exam</i>	10/12	
The Genetics of Human Growth	10/17-10/24	A5, B7
Plasticity: Environmental Influences on Growth	10/26-11/7	A6-A9, B6
Plasticity and Adaptation at the Population Level	11/9-12/16	A10, B5
Thanksgiving Break	11/21-11/23	
Health and Demography	11/28-12/7	
<i>Final Exam</i> <sup>3</sup>	12/12	(8:00 – 10:00 a.m.)

<sup>1</sup>I will follow this schedule as close as possible but it is not definite. Changes will be announced in class or on WebCT

<sup>2</sup> A# = article available on Eres; B# = chapter in Pattern of Human Growth by Bogin; Handouts available on WebCT

<sup>3</sup>Held in 321 Mumford Hall from 8:00 – 10:00 a.m.