ECOLOGY OF HUMAN VARIATION
Anthropology 350

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Class Hours: MWF 2:30-3:50 AW 205
Office Hours: MW 12:30-14:00
Additional times by appt.

Required Text and on Reserve:

Recommended and on Reserve:
✓ Additional Suggested Readings: Listed in class schedule and available online from library.

Course Description and Objectives:
“What’s past is prologue” (William Shakespeare). Using a biocultural approach to the study of human adaptation and variation, this course will blend the knowledge of the biological basis for human development, variation, and population genetics with historical epidemiological trends in order to explore the current environmental pressures and cultural practices now affecting human populations. We will emphasize the ongoing process of biocultural adaptation as a part of human evolution, with an eye to the future. Emphasizing the human immune system and its relationship with pathogens, we will explore how culturally driven choices and behaviors affect the ongoing evolution of both.

Assignments, Evaluation, and Grades:
✓ Two exams @ 25 points each  40 points
✓ Partner Presentation 30 points
✓ Article Selection 5 points
✓ Interview question 10 points
✓ Final Exam 30 points
✓ Attendance/participation 10 points
TOTAL 125 points

* All assignments penalized 10% per day when late.

Final Grading Scale:
93%-100% = A  78%-79% = C+  60%-62% = D-
90%-92% = A-  73%-77% = C  <60% = F
88%-89% = B+  70%-72% = C-
83%-87% = B  68%-69% = D+
80%-82% = B-  63%-67% = D

Assignment Descriptions:
Exams: Multiple choice and short answer:
Final exam: Will cover only toxins and student research reports
Pair Presentation:
20 - Minute Power Point Presentation:
Identify one factor which affects human variation
Select an article covering your subject
Power point:
Identifies and defines the factor and its affects on variation,
how humans have dealt with the issue; your recommendations
Interviewers: Read the selected article for presentation, prepares and asks one
question of the presenters for discussion and give a copy of you
question to instructor (Two interviewers per presentation)
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week/Dates/Alerts</th>
<th>Topics</th>
<th>Readings</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Week 1</strong>&lt;br&gt;Sept 22-Sept24</td>
<td>Introduction to Class&lt;br&gt;Epidemiological Trends</td>
<td>McMichael (2004)&lt;br&gt;Molnar &amp; Molnar Chap 1,2,4</td>
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<td><strong>Week 2</strong>&lt;br&gt;Sept 27-Oct 1&lt;br&gt;*Pick your partner for report</td>
<td>Biological basis of variation&lt;br&gt;Forces of Evolution and Sources of Variation</td>
<td>Stearns &amp; Koella Chap 2 &amp; 3&lt;br&gt;Jurmain et al. Chap 3 &amp; 4</td>
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<td><strong>Week 3</strong>&lt;br&gt;Oct 4-Oct 8&lt;br&gt;*Report topic due</td>
<td>Developmental Plasticity&lt;br&gt;Epigenetics</td>
<td>Stearns &amp; Koella, Chap 9 , 19&lt;br&gt;Zeisel (2009)</td>
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<td><strong>EXAM – Monday 10/11</strong></td>
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<td>Molnar, Chap 6&lt;br&gt;Stearns &amp; Koella, Chap 20&lt;br&gt;Stearns &amp; Koella, Chap 8</td>
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<td><strong>Week 4</strong>&lt;br&gt;Oct 11- Oct 15</td>
<td>Nutrition&lt;br&gt;Immune System</td>
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<td><strong>Report Article Selection due</strong>&lt;br&gt;<strong>Week 5</strong>&lt;br&gt;Oct 18- Oct 22</td>
<td>Pesty Opposition&lt;br&gt;The Past</td>
<td>Snowden (2008)&lt;br&gt;Stearns &amp; Koella Chap 12,13, 14</td>
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<td><strong>Outline of presentation due</strong>&lt;br&gt;<strong>Week 7</strong>&lt;br&gt;Nov 1- Nov 5&lt;br&gt;*Veteran’s Day Thurs</td>
<td>Maladaptive Choices</td>
<td>Desowitz</td>
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<td><strong>Week 9</strong>&lt;br&gt;Nov 15 – Nov 19</td>
<td>Student Research Reports</td>
<td>Selected readings from student reports</td>
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<td><strong>Week 10</strong>&lt;br&gt;Nov 22 – Nov 26&lt;br&gt;*Thanksgiving 24-26 W-F</td>
<td>Student Research Reports</td>
<td>Selected readings from student reports</td>
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<td><strong>Week 11</strong>&lt;br&gt;Nov 29 – Dec 3</td>
<td>Student Research Reports&lt;br&gt;Wrap up</td>
<td>Selected readings from student reports</td>
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<td><strong>FINAL EXAM WED Dec 8</strong></td>
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**Additional Suggested Reading:**


