

COURSE OUTLINE

SOCI-104

Introduction to Physical Anthropology and Archaeology

3 Semester Hours

HOWARD COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Description

The student will be able to describe the evolution of humankind from early hominids through present day Homo Sapiens. The student will be able to identify and assess the role of archaeology in discovering, preserving and analyzing fossils and artifacts. The student also will be able to identify the physical traits, behaviors and tool technology necessary for diverse populations to evolve into modern forms. Prerequisite: Eligible to enroll in ENGL-101 or ENGL-111. (3 hours weekly)

Overall Course Objectives

Upon completion of this course the student will be able to:

1. Differentiate between the physical and cultural perspective.
2. Describe and apply methods used by archaeologists to excavate and preserve our antiquities.
3. Trace the development of man's interest in mutability of species/evolution.
4. Explain the role of natural selection and mutation speciation.
5. Assess the importance of factors leading to the emergence of man in the New World.
6. Describe the process of stone tool making and experimental archaeology.
7. Explain the role of anthropometries and osteology in analyzing human traits/remains.
8. Trace the development of the hominid/hominoid lines.
9. Differentiate between various theories regarding hominid evolution.
10. Explain the use of absolute and relative dating methods in human evolution.

Major Topics

1. Nature and Scope of Physical Anthropology and Archaeology
 - A. Cultural versus Physical perspectives
 - B. Role of Archaeology
 1. North American pre-history
 2. Local pre-historic and historic archaeology
2. Genetics, Human Diversity
3. Anthropometries and Human Osteology
4. Primate Evolution
5. Early Hominids, Paleoanthropology

6. The Emergence of the Home Line
7. Recent Issues/Controversies

Course Requirements

Grading procedures will be determined by its individual faculty member but will include the following:

Grading

Final grades will be based on short answer quizzes, unit exams, at least 2 interpretive papers, artifact/fossil analyses and field or lab work.

Writing

Specific writing assignments will be determined by the individual faculty member but will require at least 1,000 words of formal writing. The papers will be based on articles read and or research conducted and meet the minimum standard of proficiency, at least 2 interpretative papers will be required. Periodically students will use writing in-class as a means to learn, to integrate information, to review what they have learned and to clarify their response to assigned works.

Other Course Information

This is a Social Science elective and an Arts and Sciences elective. Eight hours of field/lab work will replace 8 hours in the classroom.