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M: Course Objectives/Learning Outcomes

At the conclusion of the course the student will be able to:

1. Discuss scope and goals of physical anthropology, and its place within and contributions to the broader discipline of anthropology.
2. Discuss the major subfields of physical anthropology and the research techniques employed by each.
3. Outline the major theories of biological evolution, from Darwin and Mendel to the modern synthesis.
4. Identify major skeletal elements of the human body.
5. Discuss the importance of studies of our closest relatives, the non-human primates, to the understanding of human biology and evolution.
6. Discuss the hominid fossil record: how it is formed, major discoveries and interpretations, and the limitations inherent in the data.
7. Assess the major techniques of dating fossil discoveries and their limitations.
8. Discuss modern human physical diversity and theories on the adaptive value of such inherited traits.

N: Course Content

1. Introduction:
The Discipline of Anthropology and its Subdivisions
The Scope, Goals, and Techniques of Physical Anthropology
2. Background to Modern Evolutionary Theory:
Early Concepts of Human Antiquity
Darwin and His Contemporaries
Mendel and the Beginnings of Modern Genetics
3. The Genetic Basis of Human Evolution
4. Human Osteology
5. Primatology:
Modern Studies of Non-human Primates and Implications for Human Evolution
6. Geological Time and the Fossil Primates
7. Early Fossil Hominids of the Plio-Pleistocene
8. Homo Erectus
9. Homo Sapiens - Neanderthal and Modern
10. Contemporary Human Physical Adaptability and Variation

Course and Subject Number
