

Department of Anthropology
ANTHRO 2226A: Biological Anthropology
BRIEF COURSE OUTLINE
FALL 2026

Date: June 16th, 2026

Instructor and Course Information:

Instructor: Alec McLellan

Method of delivery: In Person

Credit value: 0.5

Antirequisites: None

Prerequisites: There are not any designated prerequisite courses to Anthro 2226A/A. However, students who have taken Anthro 1022A/B or 1026F/G should find they have a solid conceptual basis for the work in this course.

Course Description:

Biological anthropology is a subfield of the broader discipline of anthropology that studies the evolutionary history and biological diversity of humans and non-human primates. As biological anthropology is a subfield investigating human biology and evolutionary history, this course primarily draws on the synthetic theory of evolution and biocultural anthropological theory as a framework in conjunction with the contributions of primatology, paleoanthropology, and human biology to better understand ourselves.

This course is made up of four parts:

- What is “biological anthropology”? The philosophy of science, the history of evolutionary thought, genetics, and human heredity.
- What makes a primate? Primate evolution, behaviour, and biology.
- Why do anthropologists study bones? What makes a human human? What is “human nature”? The study of human evolution.
- When we study humans, we study people: human variation and biocultural considerations

A full course schedule including a week-by-week breakdown of topics and assigned readings will be posted on the Brightspace course site at the beginning of the term.

Course Materials:

Required textbook: [Explorations: An Open Invitation to Biological Anthropology](#)

This book is a free Open-Source online text. All other readings, videos, and podcasts will be available without cost through the course site on Brightspace.

Evaluation:

Grades will be based on the following:

- 4 Lab Assignments (exercises using materials provided)
- Mid-term Exam (multiple-choice questions and true-and-false questions)
- 1 activity (assignment designed to help you think about the material in a new way)
- Final Exam (multiple-choice questions, true-and-false questions, and a short essay; will take place during the December exam period)

4 Lab Assignments (4 x 7.5%)	30%
Creative Activity	15%
Mid-term Exam	25%
Final Exam	30%
Total	100%