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ANTY 211.50: Anthropological Genetics

Randall R. Skelton

University of Montana - Missoula, randall.skelton@umontana.edu

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ANTY 211

Anthropological Genetics

COURSE CONTENT

This course is an introduction to the use of genetics, especially DNA, in Anthropology. Topics covered include DNA and its properties, the mechanisms and outcomes of biological evolution, genetic diseases, the emergence of modern humans and their subsequent migrations, the use of DNA in Forensic Science, and the genetics of behavioral traits such as intelligence and sexual orientation.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

Students who successfully complete this course will ...

- Learn the terminology and concepts of how genetic information is stored, inherited, passed from generation to generation, translated into proteins or other products, and how some of these products work in the body.
- Learn the terminology and concepts of population genetics and the mechanisms of evolution.
- Understand the genetic foundations and nature of human diversity and be able to critique the concept of "race".
- Understand the evolution of humans as they exist today and how modern humans came to inhabit the various regions of the world.
- Understand the basics of genetic disease.
- Be able to apply an understanding of genetics, inheritance, and evolution to themselves, their family, and larger social issues.

ADMINISTRIVIA

Moodle Access:

This class is offered online through the University of Montana's Moodle System <<http://umonline.umt.edu/>>. Your instructor is only responsible for the content of this course and is not responsible for the administration of Moodle and your access to it.

Textbooks:

- **HEG** = Jobling Mark A et al. 2013. Human Evolutionary Genetics. 2nd Edition. New York: Garland Science. ISBN 978-0-8153-4148-2. Available from the Bookstore and all the usual alternative places (e.g. amazon.com).
- **GHB** = Nuffield Council on Bioethics, 2002. Genetics and Human Behavior: The Ethical Context. London: Nuffield Council on Bioethics. ISBN 190438403X. Available for download on Moodle.

- **GHR** = U.S. Dept. of Health & Human Services, 2012. Genetics Home Reference. Available for download on Moodle.
- **TNG** = U.S. Dept. of Health & Human Services, 2010. The New Genetics. NIH Publication No.10 662. Available for download on Moodle.

Grading

Grades will be based on 3 exams (75% of your grade) and 12 assignments (25% of your grade).

Miscellaneous

- Students with disabilities will be accommodated upon recommendation by Disability Student Services (DSS). The Anthropology Department does not have facilities for special testing accommodations, so these will have to be provided by DSS.
- This class and the students enrolled in it are subject to the Student Conduct Code, <http://life.umt.edu/vpsa/student_conduct.php>.

Schedule

The course schedule, including lectures, readings, assignments, and exams is shown on a week by week basis on Moodle.