Instructor: Mohammad al-Madani
Room: BE4105
Web: http://seattlecentral.edu/~mal-ma/

Course Description:
This course provides a broad introduction to the study of human biological evolution with emphasis on the interaction between biology and culture. Students will explore the development of evolutionary theory, basic genetic principles, heredity and evolution, evolutionary history, taxonomy, primatology, hominid evolution, forensic anthropology, and contemporary issues such as population dynamics and the relationship between dietary practices, culture, and disease patterns. Students will be introduced to the basic theories, methods and vocabulary employed in the field. Additionally, this course emphasizes a holistic perspective which integrates an understanding of cultural impacts upon human biology.

Course Objectives:
1. Introduce evolutionary, comparative, and interdisciplinary description and analysis of human biological and cultural evolution.
2. Introduce the scientific method, the wide range of scientific endeavors which pertain to the study of biological anthropology and contemporary debates within the scientific community relevant to the study of biological anthropology.
3. Develop skills of critical thinking, effective communication, research and collaboration.
4. Develop student research and writing skills which strengthen their ability to grasp the scientific aspects of biological anthropology.
5. Develop student ability to read, interpret and evaluate original sources in the scientific literature.
6. Develop student foundational understanding of scientific methodology and reasoning in a way which allows them to intelligently discuss and assess competing theories.
7. Provide knowledge of cultural factors which impact human biology and the natural world.

Student Outcomes
1. Demonstrate general knowledge of evolutionary theory, natural history, basic genetics, primatology, hominid evolution and cultural impacts on the biology of Homo Sapiens.
2. Demonstrate specific knowledge of basic primate and hominid anatomy and competences in identification of fossil hominids and hominid tool assemblies.
3. Demonstrate ability to research and write on a topic in the scientific literature pertaining to biological anthropology.
4. Demonstrate knowledge of scientific techniques used in the field of biological anthropology.
5. Demonstrate ability to read, interpret and evaluate original sources in the scientific literature.
6. Demonstrate ability to comprehend and assess competing theories in the scientific literature.
7. Demonstrate ability to integrate information from multiple venues such as readings, viewings, lectures, and guest speaker.

Grade Requirements:  
Weekly Quizzes (Six (6) assignment, Ten (10) points each) 60% On Thursdays
Weekly Seminars (Six (6) assignments, Five (5) points each) 30% On Thursdays
In-class Assignments (Six (6) assignments, 1.5 points each) 9% Throughout the quarter
Final Self-evaluation 1% Due on Tuesday //2011 in-class

Readings:
Park, Michael Alan
Medina, John: Brain Rules (web site) http://brainrules.net/the-rules
Course Schedule:

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<th>Week</th>
<th>Biological Anthropology</th>
<th>Brain Rules.</th>
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<td>1</td>
<td>Preface, To the Reader, Chapter 1: Biological Anthropology</td>
<td>Introduction &amp; Rule #12</td>
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<td>Chapter 2: The Evolution of Evolution</td>
<td><a href="http://brainrules.net/the-rules">http://brainrules.net/the-rules</a></td>
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<td>Chapter 3: Evolutionary Genetics Appendix I: Protein Synthesis</td>
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<td>Chapter 4: The Process of Evolution Appendix II: Genes in Populations</td>
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<td>Chapter 5: The Origin of Species Chapter 6: A Brief Evolutionary Timetable</td>
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<td>Chapter 7: The Primates Chapter 8: Primate Behavior</td>
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<td>Chapter 9: Studying the Human Past Chapter 10: Evolution of the Early Hominins</td>
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<td>Chapter 11: The Evolution of Genus Homo Chapter 12: The Debate Over Modern Human Origin</td>
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<td>Chapter 13: Evolution and Adaptation Chapter 14: Human Biological Diversity</td>
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<td>Chapters 15: Biological Anthropology and Today's World</td>
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Course Policies:

**Attendance/Participation:** Attendance by every student member is imperative. Likewise, participation is important. These are not only requirements but also responsibilities, for an absence or failure to complete an assignment may result in delaying everyone's progress. You are expected to read all the assigned material before class meetings, participate in class discussions, and express your opinion and understanding. Group discussions are an integral component of this course. Come to class with notes that reflect what it is in the reading that you agree and disagree with most strongly. Additionally, we will watch relevant films and listen to guest-speakers. You are encouraged to cooperate, rather than compete, with your classmates. *Your attendance is very important.*

**Plagiarism:** Plagiarism is the use of another person's ideas or words without properly crediting the source. This is unethical, academically dishonest, and illegal. In many colleges, plagiarism can result in the student being expelled. Suspected cases of plagiarism are sent to the Vice President for Student Development.

**Syllabus Changes:** Changes to the syllabus and schedule updates will be posted on the course website under the Updates section. We will also make an announcement at the beginning of class. However, it is your responsibility to check the course website for announcements of updates.

**If you need course adaptations or accommodation because of a disability, if you have emergency medical information to share with your instructor, or if you need special arrangements in case the building must be evacuated,** please make an appointment with your instructor as soon as possible.