

**RARITAN VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE
ACADEMIC COURSE OUTLINE**

ANTH 102 Human Origins

I. Basic Course Information

A. Course Number and Title: ANTH-102 Human Origins

B. New or Modified Course: Modified

C. Date of Proposal: Semester: Spring Year: 2022

D. Effective Term: Fall 2023

E. Sponsoring Department: Humanities, Social Sciences, Social Work, & Education

F. Semester Credit Hours: 3 credits

G. Weekly Contact Hours: 3 Lecture: 3
 Laboratory: 0
 Out of class student work per week: 6

H. Prerequisites/Corequisites: Placement into ENGL 111 English Composition I with ENGL 070 English Composition I Workshop, or higher.

I. Laboratory Fees: None

J. Name and Telephone Number or E-Mail Address of Department Chair and Divisional Dean at time of approval:

Chair: Dr. Isabel T. Gutierrez-Bergman, Isabel.Gutierrez@raritanval.edu
Divisional Dean: Dr. Patrice Marks, Patrice.Marks@raritanval.edu

II. Catalog Description

Prerequisites: Placement into ENGL 111 English Composition I with ENGL 070 English Composition I Workshop, or higher.

This course explores fundamental concepts that define what it means to be biologically and behaviorally human. Drawing upon evolutionary theory, we will trace the emergence of anatomical and behavioral developments within the lineage of Homo sapiens. This course covers a broad range of topics spanning seven million years of history, starting with the first bipedal steps taken by our hominin ancestors and ending with the Neolithic Revolution.

III. Statement of Course Need

- A. The course is one of two general introductory courses in anthropology and serves as a prerequisite for further courses of study in physical anthropology and archeology.
- B. There is no lab component for this course.
- C. Please describe the transferability of this course.
 - 1. This course serves as a General Education course in Social Science and Global and Cultural Awareness
 - 2. This course generally transfers as an Anthropology program requirement.
 - 3. This course generally transfers as a Social Science and Liberal Arts program elective.

IV. Place of Course in College Curriculum

- A. Free Elective
- B. This course serves as a General Education course in the Social Sciences and a Global & Cultural Awareness requirement.
- C. This course meets a program requirement for:
 - 1. Social Sciences, AA in Liberal Arts
- D. To see course transferability: a) for New Jersey schools, go to the NJ Transfer website, www.njtransfer.org; b) for all other colleges and universities, go to the individual websites.

V. Outline of Course Content

- A. Anthropology as a discipline
 - 1. History of Discipline, Colonialism
 - a. History of Race (human/non-human) concept
 - 2. The four-field approach/American School
 - a. Cultural anthropology
 - b. Physical anthropology
 - c. Linguistics
 - d. Archaeology
- B. Scientific Epistemology
- C. Evolution
 - 1. History of the Evolutionary Thought
 - a. Emergence of Darwin
 - 2. The concept and processes of evolution
 - a. Natural selection
 - b. Mutation

- c. Gene flow
 - d. Genetic drift
- D. Methodology and Understanding the Fossil Record
 - 1. Dating
 - a. Geological and Archaeological Time
 - b. Relative vs Absolute Methods
 - 2. Fossilization
- E. Primates
 - 1. Living Primates
 - 2. Primate Evolution
- F. Early Hominins
 - 1. The Emergence of Australopithecus
- G. The Genus Homo
 - 1. Early Homos
 - 2. Archaic Homos
 - 3. Modern Homo Sapiens
- H. Physiological and Behavioral Adaptations
 - 1. Bipedalism
 - 2. Brain Development
 - 3. Tools/Artifacts
 - 4. Language
 - 5. Fire use
 - 6. Art/Symbolic Revolution
 - 7. Burial Practices
 - 8. Settlement Patterns
 - 9. Food Procurement Strategies
- I. Models of Mobility
 - 1. Out of Africa
 - 2. Multi-regional
 - 3. Assimilation Model
 - 4. Populating the Americas
 - a. Debates including Indigenous Anthropologists
- J. Neolithic Revolution
 - 1. Settlement Patterns
 - 2. Religion
 - 3. Agriculture
- K. Connecting this course to contemporary social issues
 - 1. Gender constructs
 - 2. Race constructs
 - 3. Eurocentrism
 - 4. Indigenous arguments and claims
 - 5. Climate Change, Environmentalism, Extinction
 - 6. Animal and Human Rights

VI. General Education and Course Learning Outcomes

A. General Education Learning Outcomes:

At the completion of the course, students will be able to:

1. Explain how social and physical developments influence human behavior. (GE-NJ 5)
2. Demonstrate how anthropologists and other scientists observe and analyze the fossil record to generate evidence-based conclusions regarding the course of human evolution. (GE-NJ 5)
3. Match cultural practices and perspectives with geographic and historical conditions from which they arose. (GE-NJ 8)

B. Course Learning Outcomes:

At the completion of the course, students will be able to:

1. Identify major cultural and physiological developments that define modern homo sapiens.
2. Discuss the problematic divide between humans and non-humans in relation to contemporary social issues.
3. Explain how forces of evolution shape biological variation within and between species and populations.
4. Connect the deep histories presented in this course with contemporary social issues involving race, gender, the environment/climate change, and/or Indigenous issues.

C. Assessment Instruments

1. Lecture/discussion
2. artwork
3. research papers
4. demonstrations
5. essays
6. film & media
7. individual or small-group exercises
8. computer programs
9. virtual museum and zoo visits

VII. Grade Determinants

- A. essays
- B. projects
- C. tests
- D. presentations
- E. research papers
- F. quizzes
- G. worksheets/assignments

- H. discussions
- I. class participation
- J. reflections

Given the goals and outcomes described above, LIST the primary formats, modes, and methods for teaching and learning that may be used in the course:

- A. lecture/discussion
- B. small-group work
- C. computer-assisted instruction
- D. guest speakers
- E. demonstrations
- F. student oral presentations
- G. student collaboration
- H. independent study
- I. film & media

VIII. Texts and Materials

- A. suggested textbook
 - Larsen, Clark Spencer. (2016) *Essentials of Physical Anthropology*, 3rd Edition. W. W. Norton & Company, Incorporated.
 - (2019) *Explorations: An Open Invitation to Biological Anthropology*, Eds. Beth Shook, Katie Nealson, and Kelsie Aguilera. American Anthropological Association, CA. (Online open source)
 - OER

Please Note: The course outline is intended only as a guide to course content and resources. Do not purchase textbooks based on this outline. The RVCC Bookstore is the sole resource for the most up-to-date information about textbooks.

IX. Resources

- A. Classroom
- B. Academic Support Center
- C. Testing Center
- D. Library
- E. Internet Access
- F. Study Collections

X. Honors Options

N/A

