Welcome to Anthropology 101: Human Biological Evolution! The following information is to get you started and help you decide whether this is the class for you. If you have more questions, please email me (Rebecca Frank – frankre@lavr.edu) before the semester begins.

**About the content of this class**

This course is an anthropological look at human biology, behavior, and evolution. In order to understand modern human anatomy and behavior, you need to have an understanding of how humans evolved. We will discuss how evolution via natural selection works, including the basics of human genetics. We will also learn about the human skeleton so that we can compare our bodies to other species of primates. The next step is to consider how evolution works in monkeys, apes, and humans. Through comparative studies of natural history, anatomy, and behavior, we can gain many useful clues about human evolution. Third, we need to look specifically at the history of the human lineage, examining the fossil record to determine where our ancestors came from and what they were like. Finally, we will explore what implications evolutionary theory has for understanding modern human behavior, variation, and psychology.
About the structure of this class

• This class is entirely online. There are no required on-campus meetings.

• The Etudes website for this class will open on Saturday before the semester begins.
  
  o Website login and information on how to login
  
  o A tutorial on how to use Etudes

• You will need to login into the class several times a week. Weekly lessons and assignments will open and close on specific dates. Use the Course Map tool in Etudes to keep on track with the schedule. There are four exams.

• You need to have (and read) the assigned textbook – Physical Anthropology, 10th edition, Stein and Rowe (ISBN 978-0073405315). This book is available new or used at the LAVC bookstore, as well as online in both paper and electronic formats. It is also available to rent. Bookstore prices are similar to Amazon, minus the shipping hassle!

• Because this is an online class, there will be a lot of reading and writing. You will be reading modules and websites, watching videos, and completing written discussions and assignments. You will write a 5 to 7 page final essay.

• An online class is not easier nor does it take any less time than the in-person version. You will need to devote many hours a week to this class and be self-motivated and self-disciplined to succeed. To see if an online class is really for you, take this quiz.

• To improve your study skills (e.g., time management, note taking, test taking), check out the College of the Canyons Virtual Learning Lab and the Dartmouth Academic Skills Center.
**How to succeed in this class**

- Make sure you have easy and reliable Internet access. Have a back-up plan just in case! Technical difficulties will not be an acceptable excuse for late or missed work. Plan ahead!
- Make sure that your computer system is adequate and that you have all the needed software.
- Use the latest version of Firefox or Chrome every time you log on to Etudes.
- Have a working email address that you check regularly. Make sure it is the address linked to your Etudes account and your LAVC records.
- **Log on during the first two days of classes and complete the first assignments, including posting your introduction in the discussion forum. If you don’t do these first assignments, I will think you are not in the class and will drop you as a “no-show”**.
- Log on several times a week for the rest of the semester.
- Do the reading, complete the assignments and exams, and participate in the discussions.
- Ask questions. Ask questions. Ask questions. Any time you have one!
- Have fun, be curious, and enjoy learning something new!

**How to contact me**

I look forward to meeting you in the discussion forum online during the first week of classes. If you need to contact me before then, my email address is frankre@lavc.edu. Once class has begun, you will be able to contact me using Private Messages in Etudes. If you are on campus, please stop by – my office is AHS 308.

I’ll see you online!

-- Prof. Frank