

**Motion to Approve ANSC-101 for Core Curriculum Credit**  
(Curriculum Committee)

*Be it Resolved:* That the Faculty Senate approves the proposal to include ANSC 101, Human Origins and Biocultural Evolution, as an offering in the University B, Social and Behavioral Sciences portion of General Education.

*Office of the University Registrar*  
Radford University  
Phone: 540.831.5271 Fax: 540.831.6642

**Radford University**  
P.O. Box 6904, Radford, VA 24142  
Division of Student Affairs

## Cover Sheet for Proposal to the Undergraduate Curriculum and Catalog Review Committee

Note: For new courses, use the New Course Proposal Form

Proposal Number (Assigned by the Registrar):

Date: August 27, 2009

Department: Anthropological Sciences Program, School of Environmental and Physical Science

Contact Person: Dr. Cassady Yoder

Course or Program ID: Human Origins and Biocultural Evolution (ANSC 101)

Proposal Category (check all that apply):

Course Prerequisite Change

Course Title Change (23 characters):

Course Deletion

Course Number Change

Program Revision (Attach Revision of Existing Program Form)

New Program (Major, minor, and certificate)

Course Credit Hour Change

New Course (attach New Course Proposal Form)

Course Syllabi Change

Change to Catalog Description

Minor Change to Course

Proposal Description with Rationale (State current status, proposed change, and why the change is desired. Attach additional sheets if necessary. If the proposal in any way alters the requirements for the program, complete the Revision of Existing Program section of this form):

Approved proposals traditionally go into effect the next academic year. However, if seeking an alternative effective date, please indicate the requested date in the space provided below, along with reason:

Effective Date: Upon approval by the committee

Reason for requesting an alternative effective date (please type or write in your reason for the change here):

This class is a prerequisite for all the ANSC classes and we would like to begin enrolling students in upper divisions ANSC classes as soon as we can.

Include a copy of the old and new syllabi to this proposal for comparison.

For Program Revisions, attach the Revision of Existing Program Form and include both the current and proposed program.

For New Course Proposals, attach the New Course Proposal and Assessment of Library Resources Forms with appropriate signatures.

**Special Note:** Changes to course syllabi must be submitted to the Registrar's Office on either a 3 1/4 floppy disk or ZIP disk after final approval by the Vice President for Academic Affairs.

Signature	Title	Date
	Department Curriculum Committee Chair	
	Department Chair	
	College Curriculum Committee Chair	
	College Dean	
If this proposal in any way affects a professional education program, it must be submitted to and approved by the Professional Education Committee and the Faculty Senate:		
	Professional Education Committee Chair	
	General Education Curriculum Advisory Committee Chair	
	Faculty Senate President	
	UG Curriculum & Catalog Review Committee	
	VP for Academic Affairs	

Revised 08/17/05

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## **New Course Proposal**

Proposal # \_\_\_\_\_  
(to be assigned by the Registrar)

New course proposals at the undergraduate level must be approved by the Department and College Curriculum Committee before being presented to the Undergraduate Curriculum and Catalog Review Committee. Proposals for new courses intended for inclusion in the General Education Program must also be approved by the General Education Curriculum Advisory Committee before being presented to the Undergraduate Curriculum and Catalog Review Committee. Courses recommended by the Undergraduate Curriculum and Catalog Review Committee to the Vice President for Academic Affairs must be approved before they can be scheduled.

Graduate level courses (all 500 and those 400-level courses that may be taken for graduate credit) must be approved by the Department before being submitted to the Graduate Curriculum and Catalog Review Committee. The committee must recommend the course to the Vice President for Academic Affairs for approval before it can be scheduled.

ALL NEW COURSE PROPOSALS MUST BE SUBMITTED IN THE FOLLOWING FORM:

### **1. Catalog Entry**

Date:

Department Prefix: **ANSC**

Course Number: **101**

Course Title: **Human Origins and Biocultural Evolution**

Suggested Course Title for SIS program (28 character limit): **Human Biocultural Evolution**

Prerequisites: **NONE**

Credit Hours: **3 hrs**

Brief Description:

This course serves as the introduction to the Anthropological Sciences and thus to the biocultural origin and evolution of the human species and human societies worldwide. It includes a survey of human and nonhuman primate evolution and prehistory (including the methods and theories used by anthropologists to illuminate these subjects) and the emergence of fully modern humans in terms of their behavior and culture. The more recent evolution of societies as diverse as small-scale hunter-gatherers to more complex civilizations is also considered in the context of the biocultural factors that have shaped their development. Finally, students will be introduced to the range of modern applications in anthropological sciences, ranging from cultural resource management to

forensic investigation. -

## 2. Detailed Description of Course

**a. This course will address the following topics:** This course will cover such topics as the biological evolution of humans and our nonhuman primate relatives, the cultural evolution of humans since our origin until the development of complex civilizations, the origin and distribution of cultural and biological variation found in human populations throughout time and across geographic space, and the interaction between the biological forces of evolution (genetics, environment, ecology) and the cultural adaptations of human populations. More specifically this course will cover:

An introduction to the Anthropological Sciences

An introduction to biological evolution and heredity

The interaction of biology and culture in understanding humans past and present

Non-human Primates:

Taxonomy

Behavior

Hominid evolution:

Early hominids

Genus *Homo*

Modern human origins-

Neandertals, Anatomically Modern *Homo sapiens*

Upper Paleolithic

The Neolithic: origins of agriculture

Early complex societies:

Old World

New World

Human variation and adaptation

Applied fields in the Anthropological Sciences:

Cultural Resource Management,

Forensic anthropology,

Medical anthropology

## b. Detailed Description of Conduct of Course

As this will be a 100-level introductory course available to students from many majors and levels (including incoming freshmen), course content will be presented mainly through classroom lectures, readings, discussions, short writing assignments, and audio-visual materials. Whenever possible, current anthropological studies (both popular and professional) will be highlighted to introduce students to the Anthropological Sciences. Students will be encouraged to apply the discipline to understanding their past as well as solving current and future world problems.

## c. Student Goals and Objectives of the Course

Need to be stated in terms of student outcomes. What are the major learning objectives: What

new capabilities, skills, levels of awareness, etc. will students derive from the course? Example: "Having successfully completed this course, the student will be able to . . ." For a General Education Course, in addition to a statement of course-specific goals and objectives, include a description of the broad general education program goals and the goals established for the particular knowledge area of the program as these goals will be addressed in this course.

Having successfully completed this course, the student will be able to:

- Explain the origin and development of human biological and cultural variation
- Describe and explain the modern distribution of human biological and cultural diversity
- Discuss and evaluate competing theories for the long term trends in human biocultural evolution
- Discuss the interaction between human populations and the natural world throughout time and space, including human adaptation and environmental impacts
- Explain and interpret major behavioral science concepts such as our emergence as a biological and cultural species, and the impact of our biology and culture on the individual and the larger population
- Use anthropological methods and theory to explain the origins and development of human social, economic and political inequality
- Explain the application of anthropological concepts to solve problems in the areas of environmental sustainability, forensic science, archaeological preservation, and heritage management.

#### **d. Assessment Measures**

Three assessment measures will be used in this class including exams, quizzes, and short writing assignments.

- Quizzes will be used as both a self-assessment measures for the students as well as a way for the instructor to gauge student understanding of class materials. The quizzes will be short and given on a weekly basis.
- There will be four exams given during the course of the semester. These exams will be part multiple-choice and part written exercises.
- Several short writing assignments will be given throughout the semester and will allow students to demonstrate mastery of key course concepts.

#### **e. Other Course Information**

### **3. Background and Justification**

#### **a. Need for the Course**

ANSC 101 will serve as a comprehensive introduction to the central subject matter of the proposed new Anthropological Sciences program within the School of Environmental and Physical Science. The course will be a prerequisite for all upper division courses in Anthropological Sciences, as it will lay the basic methodological and theoretical foundations of the field.

This long-term evolutionary perspective provides a unique insight into the emergence and development of the human condition, with specific reference to the role of biology and culture in the behavior of individuals and populations. The course will also apply concepts from the

anthropological sciences to address real world problems in the areas of environmental sustainability, forensic science, and cultural resource management.

**b. Students for Whom Course is Offered**

This course will be required for all majors and minors in the proposed new Anthropological Science program. It will also be available to students in any other discipline.

**c. Anticipated Enrollment**

Enrollment in this course is expected to number from 30-45 students per section.

**d. Frequency of Course Offerings**

This course will be offered every semester; multiple sections of the course will be offered each semester to meet the needs of student enrollment.

**e. Level and Prerequisites**

There are no prerequisites for this course.

**4. Rationale for Resources Required**

**a. Faculty Resources**

There are no anticipated extra requirements for this course in terms of faculty resources.

**b. Effect on Existing Curricula**

This course will serve the proposed new Anthropological Sciences major and minor, and will be listed as a required course for this major and minor. There is no other similar class offered at Radford University and no impact on other departments is anticipated.

**c. Facilities, Equipment and Supplies**

The only facility requirement for this course is an appropriately sized classroom.

**d. Library Resources**

Early in the process of preparing the proposal, contact the library liaison who works with your department to determine the availability of materials to support the proposed course. Describe existing resources and append to the course proposal a list of additional materials to be purchased to support the course. Include the library liaison who worked with you to identify needed materials. Providing this list will enable the library to earmark funds especially for the purchase of materials for new courses. Refer to [http://lib.radford.edu/Collection\\_Development/liaison.cfm](http://lib.radford.edu/Collection_Development/liaison.cfm) for current list of library faculty liaisons.

1. Describe the adequacy of materials available to support this course.

This course serves as an introduction to the fields of Biological (Physical) Anthropology and Archaeology. While the library currently holds several seminal

publications on Archaeology which detail the development of complex civilizations, publications considering generally the field of Biological Anthropology and how the two fields come together could be enhanced. For example, the library does currently have two histories of the field of Physical Anthropology (by Frank Spencer, 1982,199), but more general works on the discipline as a career choice and its applications to biomedical and archaeological questions are needed.

2. List in priority order the additional materials to be purchased.

Physical Anthropology and Archaeology (2<sup>nd</sup> ed) (2007) C. Ember, M Ember, P Peregrine. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice-Hall.

Biological Anthropology and Prehistory: Exploring Our Human Ancestry (2005) P. Rice, N Moloney. Boston: Pearson.

Understanding Physical Anthropology and Archaeology (7<sup>th</sup> ed) (1999) W Turnbaugh, R Jurmain, H Nelson, L Kilgore. Belmont CA: West/Wadsworth.

Physical Anthropology and Archeology (4<sup>th</sup> ed) (1987) C Jolly and F Plog. New York: Alfred Knopf.

A Guide to Careers in Physical Anthropology (2002) A Ryan (ed.). Westport CT: Bergin & Garvey.

Attach additional sheets as needed.

Prepared by:

Signature of Faculty Member:

Signature of Librarian assigned  
to requesting department:

**e. Computer Resources**

There are no anticipated additional computer resources needed for the course.

**f. Other Anticipated Resources**

None anticipated.

\* Approval of new courses only. Resources required for new courses must be approved through the college resource allocation process.

All courses must be reviewed departmentally at three-year intervals. All General Education Courses must be reviewed by the General Education Curriculum Advisory Committee at five-year intervals.

**Date Action Reviewed By**

Revised 08/17/05

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