Class Description: Anthropology concerns the study of humans from a global and comprehensive perspective. Anthropology employs a holistic, or multifaceted, approach to the study of human beings both past and present. The great breadth of anthropology has resulted in the development of several sub-disciplines and a number of fields of specialization. This course provides a thorough introduction to physical (biological) anthropology, one of the major sub-disciplines of anthropology. Physical anthropology is concerned with the origins and evolution of humans and with contemporary biological variations among human populations. Physical anthropology considers the biological aspects of humankind from an evolutionary perspective, studies human origins and development within the Order primates, and investigates the relationships between human biology and culture. This course covers a wide range of concepts and issues concerning the diversity of the Order Primates with an emphasis on human and non-human primate variation, adaptation, and evolution. Much of this course centers on paleoanthropology, a major specialization within physical anthropology that concerns the origins and physical evolution of humans and their hominin ancestors largely through the study of hominin fossils and associated paleoenvironmental, geological, and archaeological data. We also focus on population genetics in the conceptual framework of evolutionary processes and examine primate behavior from an evolutionary and comparative framework. The course concludes with an examination of modern human variation and critically assesses the concept of race. Students will complete written assignments, engage in class discussions, and prepare for course tests from lectures and assigned reading material covering a wide range of key topics drawn from various sub-fields of physical anthropology and related disciplines, such as paleoanthropology, molecular anthropology, evolutionary biology, evolutionary psychology; primatology, primate behavior ecology, archaeology, geology, osteology, comparative anatomy, paleontology, anthropometry, and forensic anthropology.


Other Course Materials Required: None

Initial instructions for beginning of class: This is a challenging, fast-paced five-week 100% online course. We cover in five weeks what is covered in a regular sixteen-week semester. This class begins Monday, June 8, 2015 and ends Saturday, July 11, 2015. You must log in to the
class on Blackboard by 11:59 PM on Tuesday, June 9, 2015, or risk being dropped from the course.

**Testing regulations (included proctoring guidelines link):** Testing is 100% online using Blackboard.

**Course Management System Information:** This course is 100% online using Blackboard. In this course you will work on your own without any face-to-face contact with me (your instructor) or other students. While you will interact online with me and other students, you will not get instant responses or the immediate answers to your questions that you may be accustomed to in a traditional on-campus course. There are no absences (excused or otherwise) in an online course and will not be able to work ahead or make up missed assignments. Online courses are NOT easier than their on-campus counterparts. Online courses require self-initiative and discipline. Students need to keep up on deadlines and readings. Students must log into the class Blackboard website at least several times a week to retrieve and submit assignments and to participate in message board and email exchanges. This is not a class where you can complete work far ahead of your classmates or make up work during the very end of the semester. If you are new to online courses, please be sure to check out the resources on the College of the Canyons Distance Learning web page: [http://www.canyons.edu/offices/distance_learning/](http://www.canyons.edu/offices/distance_learning/). Also, please visit the audio visual Blackboard tutorial designed to help students navigate Blackboard (click on the link below). This page lists the links for the Blackboard tutorials. It features a comprehensive BB tutorial that includes: How to log into Blackboard How to change your password How to enter your email address How to post to the Discussion Board How to reply to the Discussion Board How to take Quizzes/Exams in Blackboard [http://www.canyons.edu/BBTutorial](http://www.canyons.edu/BBTutorial) You will need daily access to a computer and you must also have a personal email address that can be shared with the instructor and other students enrolled in the course. It is necessary that you have Microsoft Word and a Web browser (with updated plug ins). In addition, you should consider finding a backup computer (off or on campus) to use in case a problem develops with your regular system. Computer or peripheral problems, software, or email-related problems are NOT acceptable excuses for failing to meet course requirements or deadlines in this course.

**Student Learning Outcomes:** The following are Student Learning Outcomes for the course. By the end of the semester each student should be able to: 1. Explain the specific evidence for human evolution using data from the common genetics, geology, paleontology, and archaeology of all living and extinct species. 2. Critique the historical idea of bio-cultural evolution and assess its validity in the context of changing intellectual, social, and religious events. 3. Demonstrate an understanding of the importance of evolution in both education and continued intellectual and personal growth.

Other: The course syllabus will be available on Blackboard beginning the first day of class, Monday, June 8.

DSPS Information: The College of the Canyons Disabled Students Programs and Services (DSPS) office promotes equal access by providing students with accommodations, alternate media, and other services. Any student who has a disability that impacts the way he/she learns or performs in class components, such as examinations, may register for services through the DSPS office. DSPS webpage: http://www.canyons.edu/Offices/DSPS/Pages/default.aspx