Dear Winter Intersession 2015 Anthropology 101 Online Participants,

Hello! Welcome to Anthropology 101, Physical Anthropology. This letter will provide you with important information regarding the course. Please read all of the information carefully.

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. Students will complete written assignments, engage in class discussions, and prepare for course quizzes and examinations 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.

Instructor email:
matthew.curtis@canyons.edu

NOTE:
This is a 100% online class. All of our work occurs on a Blackboard delivered website. This class begins Monday, January 5, 2015 and ends Saturday, February 7, 2015. You must log in to the class by 11:59 PM on Tuesday, January 6, 2015, or risk being dropped from the course.

You will not be able to access the course website until the first day of class (Monday, January 5).

COURSE WEBSITE (available on Monday, January 5):
http://bb.canyons.edu

COURSE TEXTBOOK:
The following Textbook IS REQUIRED for the course. This text can be purchased at the College of the Canyons Bookstore, or elsewhere online. STUDENTS MUST HAVE A COPY OF THE 2013-2014 EDITION OF THE COURSE TEXTBOOK:

Other Course Materials Required: None

College of the Canyons Bookstore:  
http://coc.bncollege.com/

Note: This is a five-week 100% online course. We cover in five weeks what is covered in a regular sixteen week semester. 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 discussion assignments. 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/

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

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 Internet Explorer or Firefox web browsers (with updated plug-ins) and the ability to open and create document files and pdf files. 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.

Please see syllabus (available on Monday, January 5) for more information on course content, requirements, schedule, grading, etc.

I look forward to meeting you in our online class!

Sincerely,

Dr. Matthew C. Curtis  
Anthropology Department  
College of the Canyons