Dear Fall Session 2017 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 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.

Instructor email:
matthew.curtis@canyons.edu

NOTE:
This is a 100% online class. All of our work occurs on a Canvas delivered website. This class begins at 12:00 PM on Monday, August 21, 2017 and ends at 11:59 PM on Saturday, October 14, 2017. You must log in to the class on Canvas by 11:59 PM on Tuesday, August 22, 2017, or risk being dropped from the course.

You will not be able to access the course Canvas site until 12:00 PM on the first day of class, Monday, August 21.

To access the course, login to the CANVAS WEBSITE (available by 12:00 PM on Monday, August 21): https://coc.instructure.com/login/canvas
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 15th edition (2017-2018) EDITION OF THE COURSE TEXTBOOK:


Other Course Materials Required: None

College of the Canyons Bookstore:  

**Note:** This is an eight-week 100% online course. We cover in eight 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 Canvas 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/](http://www.canyons.edu/offices/distance_learning/)

You will need daily access to a computer and you must also have an email address. It is necessary that you have Microsoft Word and a Web Browser, such as Microsoft Edge, Google Chrome, Safari, or Mozilla Firefox (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 by 12:00 PM on Monday, August 21) 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