

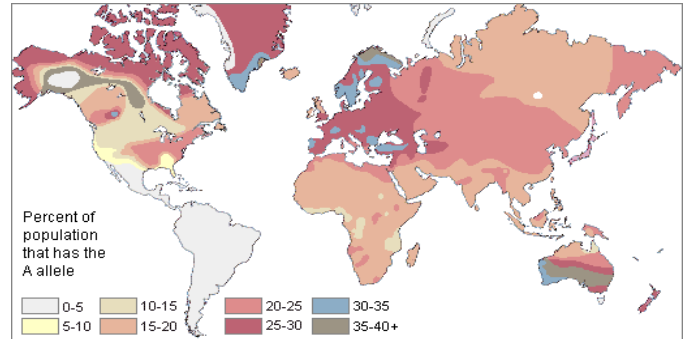
Anthropology 362

Human Biological Variation

Spring 2006

Instructor: Dr. Guy L. Tasa
Office: Chandler Building 107
Office Hours: Th 2:00-3:00 PM; Fr 9:00-10:00 AM
Contact: 617-4667; 346-3020 – UofO Moss Lab -
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Lecture Time: Th 5:00-7:55 PM
Class Location: Cascades Hall 201

Website: <http://darkwing.uoregon.edu/~tasa/anth362.htm>



Course Description: This course provides an understanding of modern human biological variation within the context of current evolutionary theory. Students will become familiar with important human biological similarities and differences and their geographical pattern of distribution. Traits of known and unknown inheritance, physiological adaptations, concepts of race, and interactions of culture and biology are emphasized.

Course Objectives: Upon successful completion of the course, students will be familiar with approaches to classifying human variation and its underlying biological basis, understand the inheritance of simple and complex traits, learn the functional and adaptive advantages of human biological traits, understand population-level variation in blood groups, skin pigmentation, and body morphology, understand human adaptations to heat and cold stress and hypoxia, learn of variation in human disease, and evaluate the biological basis of intelligence and its variation in humans.

Course Organization and Format: Classes incorporate both lecture and discussion formats. The first 2/3 of the Thursday class will consist primarily of lecture focusing on the principles and theory of human bio-genetic diversity but will also allow for some discussion time. Lectures will rely upon readings from Mielke et al. (2006) and from some additional readings. The last 1/3 of the class period will consist of laboratory exercises that will offer students analytical and practical experience with the measure of human biological variants and with the solving of Mendelian and population genetics problems. Labs will also allow additional discussion time of some of the more complicated topics we will investigate.

Grading and Exams: The evaluation of a students' performance will be undertaken through a variety of exercises including labs (9), quizzes (2), a midterm, and a final. Labs are worth 10 points each and are due the following lab session in which they were assigned, **unannounced** quizzes will be given once before and once after the midterm and will be worth 15 points each. A single midterm will be given during the fifth week of classes and will be worth 80 points and a final will be given during finals week and will be worth 100 points. Total possible points are 300. An important component in your final grade assessment is your daily preparedness, enthusiasm, contribution to the class, and improvement throughout the course. When one or more of these characteristics is manifested in a student it will be considered in their final grade evaluation.

Required Textbooks:

Mielke, James H., Lyle W. Konigsberg, and John H. Relethford
2006 *Human Biological Variation*. Oxford University Press, Inc., New York.

!!!!YOU WILL ALSO FIND THAT HAVING A BASIC CALCULATOR WILL BE OF GREAT USE IN THIS COURSE!!!!