

**COURSE SYLLABUS
AMERICAN UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL ASIA
ANTHROPOLOGY DEPARTMENT**

**HUMAN AND CULTURE CO-EVOOLUTION
ANT 201
Spring 2011**

Lecturer: Aida Abdykanova
E-mail: abdykanova@gmail.com
Office hours: by appointment

Class time and venue:

Course Description:

The comparison of genetic and cultural evolution is one of the main issues of this course. We now know that the whole universe is not static. It expands and evolves. Living species are not fixed in time; they too change and evolve as genes mutate and change over successive generations. Language and culture are not static either; they also experience changes with time.

Course goal is to show that an evolutionary framework, which by definition is based on time flowing, can unify the concepts of human origins, changes and cultural diversity. The course will present human diversity in a dynamic concept where human expansions over time and geographical space have fashioned our present biological and cultural world. You can understand how biological and cultural theories have themselves evolved in an attempt to paint a more and more precise picture of human evolution, both in a genetic and anthropological framework.

Course structure/approach: weekly lecture/discussion/active learning activities.

Textbook and required materials:

A).

- 1). *Genes, Culture and Human Evolution: A Synthesis*, by Linda Stone and Paul F. Lurquin with L. Luca Cavalli-Sforza. 2007.
- 2). *Humans before Humanity: an Evolutionary Perspective*, by Foley, R.A. 1995.
- 3). *Not by Genes Alone: How Culture Transformed Human Evolution*, by Richerson, P. and R. Boyd. 2005.
- 4). *Neanderthals and modern humans an ecological and evolutionary perspective*, by Finlayson, Clive. 2004
- 5). *The Dominant Animal: Human Evolution and the Environment*, by Paul Enrich. 2008

B).

- 1). Selected articles, projects and book chapters. All readings are in Electronic Folder (Course Support Information) and can be accessed via internal university server.
- 2). Prehistoric man Human Evolution in the Lower Paleolithic Age. Series of DVD-movies

Recommended:

Optional (books to purchase if you serious interested cultural and genetic issues) are available in the university library:

- 1) *Human genetics: concepts and applications*, by Lewis, Ricki. 2003
- 2) *The journey of man a genetic odyssey*, by Wells, Spencer. 2003
- 3) *Intelligence, heredity, and environment*. 1996
- 4) *Principles of genetics*, by Tamarin, Robert N. 1999
- 5) *Kinship*, by Harris, C. C. 1990
- 6) *Cultural anthropology: a global perspective*, by Scupin, Raymond. 2002

Requirements:

ACADEMIC HONESTY: Cheating, plagiarism and other academic dishonesty are dealt with severely, according to AUCA policy. Respectful behavior in the classroom is required: do your errands, phone calls, and pit stops before class; turn off cell phones; do not arrive late, leave early, or otherwise disrupt the class.

ACTIVE PARTICIPATION: Class participation will be graded and includes general discussion, asking/answering questions in the classroom, interactive games, and quizzes within seminar classes, viewing movies and writing reflection papers.

ATTENDANCE: Attendance is mandatory. Each student is expected to come to class prepared and to contribute to class all discussions and activities. You can expect to lose some participation points if you miss more than one class for any reason.

PRESENTATION: A specific assignment to find additional material about the subject of one chapter of the texts from the library, Internet, or any source, and report to the class when we get to that chapter (students can choose or be assigned a topic). Reporting will be done orally in class and in written/electronic form (presentation) posted on the class.

REVIEW (CRITICAL RESPONSE): Review should be written for one of given articles by student's choice.

Grading Policy:

Midterm Exam	20%
Catalog Project	15%
Presentation	15%
Review	20%
Active participation	20%
Attendance	10%
Total	100%

Grading Scale:

A	96-100%
A-	88-95%
B+	84-87%
B	77-83%
B-	74-76%
C+	70-73%
C	64-69%
C-	61-63%
D+	56-60%
D	51-55%
D-	46-50%
F	<45%

COURSE OUTLINE

1. Introduction. Genetic and cultural theory: a brief overview.
2. Foundations of classical and molecular genetics
3. Fundamentals of human evolution
4. Cultural evolution, cultural transmission, cultural drift
5. Genetic diversity and languages
6. The prehistory of human genes. Where do we come from?
7. Midterm Exam
8. Spring break (no classes)
9. Prehistoric human expansions
10. The story of the Neolithic migrations
11. Genes, kinship and human identity
12. The process of cultural evolution: gladiatic view
13. The evolutionary future of humankind
14. Final Exam