

## Global Learning Semesters

### Course Syllabus

Course: BIOL-311 Human Biology and Culture

Department: Health and Life Sciences

Host Institution: University of Nicosia, Nicosia, Cyprus



| Course Summary           |                           |                              |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------------|
| Course Code              | Course Title              | Recommended Credit Hours     |
| BIOL-311                 | Human Biology and Culture | 3                            |
| Semester Offered         | Contact Hours             | Prerequisites                |
| Please contact us        | 42-45                     | BIOL-105, BIOL-106, BIOL-210 |
| Department               | Level of Course           | Language of Instruction      |
| Health and Life Sciences | Upper Division            | English                      |

### Course Description

The course gives a theoretical framework in cultural biology within which the student can explore aspects of modern human biology, behavior and culture within an evolutionary context. The course covers the major component of the field: evolutionary theory and genetics; the biology, behavior, and evolution of the living primates; human evolution; and human variation. The student is introduced to the relationships between evolution and the adaptive significance of key morphological innovations in early hominids as well as to primate models which form the basis for the development of an evolutionary foundation for the diversity in human behavior and culture. At the end of the course the student will have the basic knowledge and a good understanding of how evolutionary perspectives provide the biological continuity for assessing aspects of modern humans and of modern human culture and for evaluating the usefulness of applied human evolutionary theory in the study of modern humans. The course format is 3h lectures/week with assignments, reading material and discussions.

### Prerequisites

BIOL-105, BIOL-106, BIOL-210

### Topic Areas

1. Human biology and prehistoric culture
2. How diversity in nature and culture makes us humans
3. Body and behaviour
4. Biology and culture in the evolution of brain and language
5. Intelligence, diet, culture and individualized societies
6. The role of biology in beliefs and perceptions
7. Race and racisms; Eugenics and Culture
8. Genes, Cultures and the human prospect
9. Asymmetry in Biology and Culture
10. Sex differences and Culture
11. How biology and culture shape the way we parent
12. Phylogenetics and the cultural basis for mental illness
13. The biological consequences of inequality
14. Collisions between biology and Culture
15. Law, biology and Culture

## Readings and Resources

### Required Textbooks

1. Concepts of biology; a cultural perspective by Neal Dollison Buffalo Publisher: Prentice-Hall; ASIN: 013166.
2. Human Natures: Genes, Cultures, and the Human Prospect by Paul R. Ehrlich Publisher: Penguin USA (Paper); 1st edition (January 15, 2002) ISBN: 0142000531.

### Recommended Reading

1. Hunter-Gatherers : An Interdisciplinary Perspective by Catherine Panter-Brick (Editor), Robert H. Layton (Editor), Peter Rowley-Conwy (Editor) Publisher: Cambridge Univ Pr (Pap Txt); (May 2001) ISBN: 0521776724
2. Understanding Culture : An Introduction to Anthropological Theory by Philip Carl Salzman Publisher: Waveland Press; (March 13, 2001) ISBN: 1577661796
3. Human by Nature: Between Biology and the Social Sciences by Peter Weingart (Editor), Peter J. Richerson (Editor), Sandra D. Mitchell (Editor), Sabine Maasen (Editor) Publisher: Lawrence Erlbaum Assoc; (June 1997) ISBN: 0805821546
4. Biology and culture in modern perspective; readings from Scientific American by Joseph G. Jorgensen Publisher: W. H. Freeman; ASIN: 0716708612
5. The Dawn of Human Culture by Richard G. Klein (Author) Publisher: John Wiley & Sons; 1 edition (March 29, 2002) ISBN: 0471252522
6. Evolution's Eye: A Systems View of the Biology-Culture Divide (Science and Cultural Theory) by Susan Oyama Publisher: Duke University Press (April 1, 2000) ISBN: 0822324725
7. The Cultural Nature of Human Development by Barbara Rogoff Publisher: Oxford University Press; Reprint edition (February 1, 2003) ISBN: 0195131339
8. When Culture and Biology Collide: Why We Are Stressed, Depressed, and Self-Obsessed by Euclid O. Smith Publisher: Rutgers University Press (July 1, 2002) ISBN: 0813531039
9. Race: The Reality of Human Differences by Vincent Sarich, Frank Miele Publisher: Westview Press (January 1, 2004) ISBN: 0813340861
10. The Birth of the Mind: How a Tiny Number of Genes Creates the Complexities of Human Thought by Gary Marcus Publisher: Basic Books (January 1, 2004) ISBN: 0465044050