

Liverpool John Moores University

Title: CURRENT TOPICS IN BIOLOGICAL ANTHROPOLOGY
Status: Definitive
Code: **6317NATSCI** (128136)
Version Start Date: 01-08-2021

Owning School/Faculty: Biological and Environmental Sciences
Teaching School/Faculty: Biological and Environmental Sciences

Team	Leader
Alex Wilshaw	Y
Rui Leite Portela Martiniano	
Laura Buck	
Mark Grabowski	
Samuel Roberts	
Barbara Fruth	
Richard Jennings	
Kyoko Yamaguchi	
Joel Irish	
Fatima Perez de Heredia	

Academic Level: FHEQ6 **Credit Value:** 20 **Total Delivered Hours:** 43
Total Learning Hours: 200 **Private Study:** 157

Delivery Options

Course typically offered: Semester 1

Component	Contact Hours
Lecture	20
Off Site	6
Practical	4
Seminar	5
Workshop	6

Grading Basis: 40 %

Assessment Details

Category	Short Description	Description	Weighting (%)	Exam Duration
Essay	Essay	2500 word essay on a selected	50	

Category	Short Description	Description	Weighting (%)	Exam Duration
		topic		
Exam	Exam	short answer exam that tests the knowledge, understanding and ability of students to evaluate aspects of the topics covered in the module	50	2

Aims

This module introduces advanced knowledge of biological anthropology through the presentation of current research topics in the field. The topics build on knowledge gained at L4 and L5, as well as introducing novel topics, with the aim of developing specialist knowledge and critical skills that can be applied across a variety of subject areas/disciplines within the field of biological anthropology. Current research topics are addressed thematically, with input from appropriate specialists in all relevant major subfields including palaeoanthropology, primatology, genetics, archaeology, evolutionary psychology and environmental sciences. The chronology of Human Evolution is used as a framework to give coherence to the module and enhance student comprehension of the broader picture of biological anthropology and the profound changes in views of human and hominin behavioural and morphological evolution in the last 15 years. The need for inter-disciplinary study and collaboration to address novel and complex research questions is emphasised.

Learning Outcomes

After completing the module the student should be able to:

- 1 Appraise advanced research and research methods in biological anthropology.
- 2 Explain, assess, and critique the use of inter-disciplinary studies in biological anthropological research.
- 3 Critically review and appraise scientific literature in the field of biological anthropology.
- 4 Identify, develop and apply appropriate novel methodological or subjective approaches to an area of research in biological anthropology.

Learning Outcomes of Assessments

The assessment item list is assessed via the learning outcomes listed:

2500 word essay	2	3	4
Examination (2 hours)	1	2	

Outline Syllabus

Introduction: latest methodological advances in Biological Anthropology. Genetics. Advanced Palaeoanthropology. Neanderthal Ecology. Evolutionary approaches to

the study of Human Behaviour. Social Networks: Health, Disease, and Reproduction.

Learning Activities

Learning will be supported through lectures, practicals, seminars, workshops and offsite visits.

Notes

This module provides a chance to engage with current research topics at an advanced level and to encourage students to formulate their own ideas. It also serves as a conduit for the development of critical thinking and analytical skills in order to integrate evidence from a range of disciplines. For those who intend to continue their studies to graduate level, it provides a view of the way in which research is conducted, the skills needed, and the inter-disciplinary nature of addressing complex research questions in a modern research environment.