INSTITUTIONAL SYLLABUS

(Check One)

__X__ New Course (OR)      Date of Last Review _____
_____Substantive Change in Existing Course      _____

I. Course Title: Physical Anthropology

II. Course Number: ANTH 205

III. Credit Hours: 3

IV. Prerequisites: None

V. Catalog Description:

The course will provide an overview of the general field of physical (biological) anthropology. The unifying theme will be human evolution, which will be approached through the study of the genetics of evolution, primate diversity, primate behavior, and human paleontology.

VI. Curricular Relationships:

This course is one of the four courses that make up a complete introduction to the larger field of anthropology.

VII. Course Objectives:

Students will:

➢ Describe the genetic processes related to evolution.
➢ Outline the history of the theories of evolution.
➢ Describe and apply the concept of natural selection.
➢ Identify the major taxonomic categories of the primates.
➢ Describe the essential physical characteristics of fossil hominids and pre-hominids.
➢ Identify the unique qualities of human behavior.
➢ Appraise competing models for human phylogenetic trees.
➢ Construct and defend a phylogenetic tree for modern humans.

VIII. Content Outline:

The following topics will be covered although the order may vary:

➢ The history of evolutionary studies.
➢ The concept of natural selection
VIII. Course Procedures:

The instruction will consist of lectures and discussions. Lectures will be used to present issues and topics concerning human evolution. Various techniques will be employed to engage students in discussions of the concepts. Students will be required to read, in addition to the text, a series of issue-related articles, which will then be discussed in class.

Students will be evaluated on up to three examinations, which include both essays and objective sections, and on an objective final examination. In the essays, students will describe, analyze, and or critique various theories related to the subject.

Students will be given the option of rewriting any essay to improve their score

Grading Scale:

(Based on a percentage score)
- A - 90% or above
- B - 80% - 89%
- C - 70% - 79%
- D – 60% - 69%
- F – Below 60%

X. Required/Recommended Readings:

Students will be required to read a comprehensive textbook and a collection of issue related articles.

XI Any Issues Unique to this Course:

The theory of evolution, and specifically human evolution, periodically comes under fire from various religious groups. This course examines evolutionary theory and the evidence used to support it and makes no judgment about the various creationist theories.

XII Additional Issues of the Department's Choosing: