

## Instructions for Essay Assignment ANTH 155

The essay is worth 25% of your final grade and is due in class on Tuesday November 27 (the first class after Thanksgiving). NO LATE ESSAYS WILL BE ACCEPTED.

Choose one of the following essay topics.

1. Compare and contrast the monogenist and polygenist perspectives of the origin of races, with reference to one or more of the historical thinkers on race, evolution or physical anthropology discussed in class.
2. Discuss Washburn's "New Physical Anthropology" with reference to the practice of American physical anthropology in the 19th and early 20th Centuries.
3. Compare and contrast the views of Roy D'Andrade and Nancy Scheper-Hughes (class readings) on the place of objective science in anthropology. How is this debate relevant to contemporary physical anthropology and its future as a sub-discipline within anthropology?
4. Compare and contrast the views of Gould and Lewontin (1979) and Mayr (1983) on the importance of adaptation by natural selection in the evolution of complex organisms.
5. Determining whether fossils from the earliest periods of hominid evolution belong to ape or human ancestors can be difficult. Discuss with reference to the readings by Brunet et al. (2002) and Galik et al. (2004).
6. Differentiating early *Homo* species, such as *habilis*, *rudolfensis* and *erectus/ergaster*, is fraught with difficulties and reflects controversies about theories of paleo species and speciation in general. Discuss with reference to Wood and Collard (1999), Ungar et al. (2006) and Spoor et al. (2007).
7. Analyze two of the theories about the origin of modern humans. Which theory do you think has the strongest evidence? Discuss with reference to the readings by Brown et al. (2004) and White et al. (2003).

### Essay Length

The body of your essay will be a minimum of four and a maximum of six double-spaced pages, 12-point font, 1" margins, excluding references and title page. Use a separate title page with your name and chosen essay topic, and start your reference list on a new page.

### Use of References

In addition to references to the class readings, your essay will include at least two (2) further primary-source references (i.e. peer-reviewed journals and scholarly books). Examples of potentially useful journals available in the library are listed below. DO NOT, under any circumstances, reference websites. Follow the referencing style of the American Journal of Physical Anthropology.

Any deviation from these instructions will result in grade reduction.

Essay Structure and Grading Expectations

Refer to *Dr. Sullivan's Essay Guide* (available from the class webpage) for further information on how to plan and organize your essay and my expectations in terms of grading your work.

Useful full-text journals that are available online at the CSUS library:

American Anthropologist

American Journal of Human Biology

American Journal of Physical Anthropology

Current Anthropology

Evolutionary Anthropology

Evolution and Human Behavior

Human Biology

Journal of Human Evolution

Nature (except the current year)

Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences (except the previous 6 months)

Science (except the current year)