

Instructions for Essay Assignment ANTH 153

The essay assignment is worth 25% of your final grade and is due in class on Tuesday April 22. NO LATE ESSAYS WILL BE ACCEPTED.

Choose one of the following essay topics.

1. Original essay topic. You can pursue an original essay topic that reflects some aspect of the readings and/or lecture themes. See me first to get approval for your essay topic.
2. Compare and contrast adaptations to hypoxia that are particular to indigenous Andeans and Tibetans. Discuss how these differences can be accounted for in evolutionary terms.
3. Discuss competing selection pressures in the course of human evolution that have resulted in design compromises affecting human birthing. How have constraints on human birthing resulted in selection for infant birth weight?
4. Human antibodies are highly variable. Describe two types of human antibodies, and discuss the evolutionary processes leading to genetic variability in the human immune response.
5. Infectious diseases have been a significant selection pressure on human populations. Discuss the issue of the evolution of virulence in bacterial and/or viral organisms as they relate to epidemiological and demographic transitions in human history and prehistory.
6. *Homo sapiens* are locked in an evolutionary “arms race” with parasitic organisms. With reference to two human helminthes parasites, discuss host-parasite co-evolution and the “Red Queen” principle.
7. *Homo sapiens* is the only species with a post-reproductive life stage (i.e. menopause). Compare and contrast two theories about the evolution of longevity and function of the post-reproductive life stage.

Essay Length

The body of your essay will be a minimum of five and a maximum of seven double-spaced pages, 12-point font, 1" margins, excluding references and title page. Use a separate title page with your name and chosen essay title, 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 Undergraduate 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)