PHYSICAL ANTHROPOLOGY MAKEUP EXAM QUESTIONS

By taking the optional exam you can replace a low score or a zero from a missed exam. The makeup exam is essay-based and the questions asked will come from the following list. Three questions will be selected from each of the two sections below. You will answer two of the three questions selected for the section you are making up and one of the one of the three questions asked from the other section — a total of three questions. You will have one hour to complete the entire exam; please bring a totally blank small blue book to the exam. These will be collected, stamped, shuffled, and handed back randomly to students prior to taking the makeup.

Remember, that each essay should 1) answer the question asked, 2) be well organized, 3) be well written, 4) include specific details, and 5) demonstrate a thorough understanding of the subject. Correct spelling, grammar, sentence structure, and organization will be rewarded.

EXAM I

1. What are the five major evolutionary forces? How can each work to drive evolution?
2. Trace the history of evolutionary thought, ending with the modern synthesis of the 1940s.
3. Describe the role of DNA in inheritance and the regulation of cellular process through protein synthesis.
4. What are mutations, are they good or bad (explain), and finally which mutations are likely to be most significant (explain) and least significant (explain)?
5. What is anthropology and how does it differ from the other social and natural sciences? Include discussion of holism, the comparative approach, and the biocultural approach.
6. What is race? Is it a valid concept in terms of modern evolutionary thought?
7. What is the relationship between solar radiation and skin color? How is skin color adaptive?
8. What are Mendel's contributions to evolutionary thought?
9. Describe in some detail how natural selection works to create a new species.
10. Name and discuss three major influences on Darwin. What specific effects or influences did each of these people have? Explain in some detail.

EXAM 2

1. What are the characteristics of primates as a whole? Which are derived and which are more primitive?
2. How does understanding non-human primate behavior aid us in understanding human behavior?
3. Explain the differences between an anthropoid, a hominoid, and a hominid.
4. What are the most "primitive" group of living primates? How are they primitive? If primitive is bad, why are they still around? Where are they found?
5. Describe and differentiate the platyrhines and catarrhines, giving examples from each major subdivision that demonstrate your understanding.
6. Please describe three major fossil primate finds and their importance.
7. Please describe the basic differences between relative and chronometric dating, giving a detailed example of two of each.
8. How has diet changed over the last 10,000 years and what are the problems associated with this change?
9. How do humans differ from other primates in brain size, reproductive strategy, life stages, cultural behavior, and physical morphology?
10. Compare and contrast the Visual Predation and Arboreal hypotheses; be sure to include references to how supporters of each interpret the suite of characteristics common to primates.