

Understanding Physical Anthropology and Archeology

Fifth Edition



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**Understanding
Physical Anthropology
and Archeology**

Preface

Understanding Physical Anthropology and Archeology is designed as an integrated textbook to bring together related topics in physical/biological anthropology with those in the field of archeology. Prior users of this text, both instructors and students, have made numerous suggestions relating to expansion of some topics and reduction of coverage in other areas.

Thus, this fifth edition of *Understanding Physical Anthropology and Archeology* is considerably revised from earlier versions of this book. First of all, the sections on archeology, written by archeologist William A. Turnbaugh, have been significantly increased, with greatly expanded coverage of the development of domestication and the emergence of civilization in both the Old and New Worlds (Chapters 17–19). Moreover, a new chapter on archeological method and theory has been added (Chapter 16), integrating topics relating to modern *Homo sapiens*.

In addition, the materials on physical anthropology have also been much revised and reorganized. In the prior editions of this text, these topics were covered in 13 chapters. In this edition, we also devote 13 chapters to topics of evolutionary theory, genetics, human diversity, nonhuman primates, and hominid evolution, but here, while the range of topics is actually broader (including, for example, more coverage of modern human variation), it takes up far less space than before. Consequently, even with greatly expanded coverage of archeology, the text is actually shorter than that of prior versions. In accomplishing this aim, chapters were made more concise and less detailed, and more emphasis was placed on essential topics. In addition, the complex topics on the emergence of *Homo sapiens* and the diversity of cultures in the late Pleistocene have now been divided into two chapters (Chapters 14 and 15).

Much of the reorganization of the physical anthropology sections has been facilitated through use of materials drawn from our new text, *Essentials of Physical Anthropology*, published by West in Spring, 1992. The third author of that textbook, Lynn Kilgore, has thus also been added as a new author of this book.

Several photo essays, another popular feature of the *Essentials* text, have also been added to this book. These photo layouts, with accompanying descriptions, are designed to capture student interest with visual depictions of research in our fields, especially work pursued by some of the authors of this text.

We have attempted in this textbook to present materials to motivate students to ask questions concerning their origins, both biological and cultural.

We are obviously excited by the nature and constantly emerging scientific frontiers of our disciplines. If we can bring to students the basic knowledge of our fields and, at the same time, communicate some of our enthusiasm for our research, we then would have accomplished much of what we set out to do with this book.

As in any undertaking of this magnitude, we have been greatly assisted by a wide range of people in preparing this textbook for publication. We thus would like to thank the reviewers who provided such detailed and useful comments:

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William A. Turnbaugh
 Harry Nelson
 Robert Jurmain
 Lynn Kilgore

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