



# The Alternative Introduction to Biological Anthropology

By Jonathan Marks

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In *The Alternative Introduction to Biological Anthropology*, author Jon Marks presents an innovative framework for thinking about the major issues in the field with fourteen original essays designed to correlate to the core chapters in standard textbooks. Each chapter draws on and complements--but does not reconstitute (except for the sake of clarity)--the major data and ideas presented in standard texts. Marks explores such topics as how we make sense of data about our origins, where our modern ideas come from, our inability to separate natural facts from cultural facts and values as we try to understand ourselves, and the social and political aspects of science as a culturally situated mental activity.

### Features

- \* Offers clear, intelligent, and completely original discussions--injected with a sense of humor--that will keep students reading
- \* Addresses core topics in a way that does not simply mirror what is in the basic textbooks but offers a new spin, thereby fostering critical thinking
- \* Complements traditional textbooks in biological anthropology and explores connections between biological and general anthropology
- \* Provides expert integration of topics, coherent narratives, and salient examples
- \* Utilizes theme statements at the start of each chapter that introduce the breadth of information covered and engage students in the material

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#### Review

"This is the best introductory book out there. Marks is a very effective and clear writer with an engaging and personal style. He does a wonderful job of placing biological anthropology appropriately within its theoretical and disciplinary context."--Adam Van Arsdale, *Wellesley College*

"*The Alternative Introduction to Biological Anthropology* is in a class of its own. It is a very approachable text injected with humor to grab students' attention."--Amelia Hubbard, *Wright State University*

"I like the critical approach that this book takes. Marks gives great examples that serve to illustrate his points clearly. I also like the direct, dynamic, and intelligent writing style."--Debbie Guatelli-Steinberg, *Ohio State University*

"*The Alternative Introduction to Biological Anthropology* is infused with perspective and personality. It is unique, effective, and successful. The book's pedagogical approach is why I use it. It reminds us that science is a human endeavor and therefore subject to human imperfections."--Thad Bartlett, *University of Texas at San Antonio*

"The most remarkable aspect of this book is how much material is covered in so little space. I am most impressed with Marks's talent for compressing so many important ideas in succinct, meaningful summaries. There is not a wasted word in this book."--Virginia Betz, *Phoenix College*

#### About the Author

**Jon Marks** is Professor of Anthropology at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte. He is a past president of the General Anthropology Division of the American Anthropological Association and was the recipient of the AAA/Mayfield Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching. He is the author of *Why I Am Not a Scientist: Anthropology and Modern Knowledge* (2009); *What It Means to Be 98% Chimpanzee: Apes, People, and Their Genes* (2002), which won the 2003 W. W. Howells Prize from the Biological Anthropology Section of the American Anthropological Association and the 2009 J. I. Staley Prize from the School for Advanced Research; and *Human Biodiversity: Genes, Race, and History* (1995).

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