



Essentials of Physical Anthropology (Third Edition)

Clark Spencer Larsen

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The big picture of physical anthropology.

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Sarah says

This was an excellent textbook. The most glowing thing I can say about it is that my nephew looked at the pictures and then spent an hour having me explain to him the ins and out of inheritance and sickle cell anemia. He's six years old and refers to himself as a primate.

Timmy says

As a college student and non-Anthropology major, I found this book to be an excellent source as an overview on the subject. I applaud the author for his focus on historical men and women who have made an impact in the field of Anthropology, and the also for how Larsen constructs each chapter to build on each other until the final three chapters bring everything together within the context of the modern world. Of note is the inclusion of Rosalyn Franklin, the scientist who received no credit from her peers for several decades regarding her work with the DNA strand, and her use of the x-ray machine that would end up claiming her life as a young woman. It is a joy to see her name in the textbook, and her posthumous recognition is an important recognition for all aspiring women scientists. Of course this book is a "textbook", and as such, doesn't afford a friendly narrative (although it does try, with anecdotes at the beginning of each chapter), but it's one of the better textbooks out there for this course of study, and there is much to be learned within the pages of Larsen's tome.
