

Skeleton Keys: Introduction to Forensic Anthropology

ANT 3520 (Online) – Spring 2019

Instructor: Janet Finlayson

Email: jfinlayson@ufl.edu or via the Conversations (Inbox) tool in Canvas

Office Hours: Online, Monday 2 -3 pm and Friday 10 am -12 noon
(available to answer emails and monitor discussions)

Teaching Assistant (TA): Siobhan Summers

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Office Hours: Online, Wednesday 1-3 pm and Thursday 1-2 pm
(available to answer emails and monitor discussions)

Course Objectives:

This course provides an introduction to the field of forensic anthropology. Forensic anthropology is an applied area of biological anthropology that focuses on the identification of human skeletal remains in a medicolegal context. This course will introduce you to basic terms and principles of forensic anthropology, focus on concepts and their applications, and present case histories. This is not intended to be a “how-to” course but a general overview of the discipline. Upon completion of this course, you should be able to:

- Define the field of forensic anthropology and its purview
- Have a general understanding of human osteology
- Understand the basic concepts underlying determination of the biological profile, including sex, age, ancestry, and stature
- Describe different types of skeletal trauma, and differentiate between antemortem trauma, perimortem trauma, and postmortem damage

*****Some lectures will include disturbing and graphic images. Consider your reaction to this material before taking this course. You will be responsible for all course material.*****

Course Materials:

Required: Warren MW et al. 2011 Bare Bones: A Survey of Forensic Anthropology. 2nd edition. Kendall-Hunt Publishing.

Additional readings may be provided by the instructor and posted on Canvas.

Grade Distribution:

Final grades will be calculated as a percentage of the total available points as follows:

A 93% - 100%	B- 80% - 82%	D+ 67% - 69%
A- 90% - 92%	C+ 77% - 79%	D 63% - 66%
B+ 87% - 89%	C 73% - 76%	D- 60% - 62%
B 83% - 86%	C- 70% - 72%	E 59% or less

Grades ending in a fraction of a percentage point will be rounded to the nearest whole number (ex. a grade of 89.6 becomes a 90.0). Should you have questions, please feel free to consult the University of Florida's current grading policies and procedures at the following website:

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx>

Course Mechanics:

Because this is an online class, students are expected to be self-motivated. During the sixteen week period the class is in session there will be sixteen modules with one a week – except week 14 where there are two modules; you will be permitted slightly extended access to complete these modules. All other assignments for the modules must be completed during the week they are assigned and will be due each Friday at 11:59p.m. Except for discussions (see below), **DON'T wait until the last minute to complete the assignments.**

The instructions and materials needed for each assignment can be found under the relevant module. Please make sure you read the syllabus and familiarize yourself with Canvas. Students are responsible for all the material in each module and need to view all links posted on the course's website (e.g., lecture videos, films, articles). All of the material is fair game when it comes to quizzes, discussions and activities.

Assignments:

You will have 1-3 online assignments per week associated with each the content presented in each module. To facilitate self-motivated distance learning, all work for a given module must be completed during the seven-day window for that week (from 8:00 am Saturday through 11:59 pm Friday).

There is one quiz for each of the sixteen modules. Each quiz is multiple choice and worth 10 points (160 total points). The quizzes make up **46%** of your grade. Quizzes are due by **Friday at 11:59 p.m.** of the week they are assigned.

Students will also need to complete eleven online activities. This averages less than one activity per week. The activities range from 5 to 15 points (88 total points) and are worth **25%** of the total grade.

There will be 6 discussion topics throughout the semester. Student must post a substantive, original comment to the discussion by **Wednesday at 11:59 p.m.** (worth 5 points). They must then make two substantive responses to other individual's comments by **Friday at 11:59 p.m.** (worth 2.5 points each, totaling 5 points). This means there are 6 original comments and 12 responses (60 total points).

Participation in these discussions is worth **17%** of the final grade.

There will be a final exam administered online. You must complete this by the indicated date. This exam covers material from the entirety of the course, is worth 40 points, and is **12%** of the final grade.

There may be opportunities for extra credit at the discretion of the instructor.

Online attendance and Late Policy:

Assignments must be turned in by 11:59 on Fridays for full credit. No late work will be accepted and the student will be given a zero.

For the discussion topics, the original Discussion is due by Wednesday at 11:59. One point will be deducted for each day that is late. All assignments for a given week must be submitted by the Friday deadline unless otherwise specified, or due to a holiday for that week. No late work will be accepted, and the student will receive zero credit (there is no partial credit). Only students with DOCUMENTED excused absences may turn in work after the Friday deadline, including quizzes, discussions and activities. Students must notify the instructor at least 48 hours before the absence or excuse impeding work productivity.

Academic Honesty:

Every registered student at the University of Florida has signed the following statement: “I understand that the University of Florida expects its students to be honest in all their academic work. I agree to adhere to this commitment to academic honesty and understand that my failure to comply with this commitment may result in disciplinary action up to and including expulsion from the University.”

Cheating and plagiarism, intentional or otherwise, during the course will not be tolerated. Students found cheating will receive a score of zero (0) points for the assignment. Disciplinary action will follow university policy as outlined by the Dean of Students. I advise that you visit this website (<http://mediasite.video.ufl.edu/mediasite/Viewer/?peid=adaa44500eaf460a84f238e6b9a558f9>) for a video discussion of what constitutes plagiarism, citing references, and use of quotes in writing. **However, if you are not sure if something is plagiarism, please ask!**

See <http://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/honorcodes/honorcode.php> for more information on student academic honesty, rights, responsibilities, and behavior consequences.

Accommodations:

If you have a documented disability for which you need accommodations, please provide me with documentation from the Disability Resource Center/Dean of Students Office within the first week of class. If you are requesting a classroom accommodation, you must register with the Dean of Students Office, which will provide documentation to you. You must provide this documentation to me, the course Instructor, when requesting accommodation. I encourage you to meet with me as soon as possible to discuss accommodations. You can visit <http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc> for more information.

UF Counseling Services:

If you are experiencing personal problems that are interfering with your studies, you are encouraged to take advantage of the available university resources:

UF Counseling and Wellness Center: 3190 Radio Road, (352) 392-1575

Student Mental Health: Student Health Care Center, (352) 392-1171

Sexual Assault Recovery Services: Student Health Care Center, (352) 392-1161

U Matter We Care:

Your well-being is important to the University of Florida. The U Matter, We Care initiative is committed to creating a culture of care on our campus by encouraging members of our community to look out for one another and to reach out for help if a member of our community is in need. If you or a friend is in distress, please contact umatter@ufl.edu so that the U Matter, We Care Team can reach out to the student in distress. A nighttime and weekend crisis counselor is available by phone at 352-392-1575. The U Matter, We Care Team can help connect students to the many other helping resources available including, but not limited to, Victim Advocates, Housing staff, and the Counseling and Wellness Center. Please remember that asking for help is a sign of strength. In case of emergency, call 9-1-1.

SCHEDULE

	<i>Topic</i>	<i>What to Read</i>	<i>What to Watch</i>	<i>What is Due</i>
Introduction to the Course and Canvas				
Week 1: Jan 7-11	Introduction and Ground Rules: what to expect from an online course; syllabus review; course policies	Syllabus “Start Here” module	Canvas Overview Video	1) Syllabus Quiz
Module 1: The History of Forensic Science				
Week 1: Jan 7-11	What is Forensic Anthropology?	Chapter 2	<u>Lecture:</u> What is Forensic Anthropology	2) Discussion 1 3) Mod 1 Quiz
	History of Forensic Anthropology at UF (and beyond!)		<u>Lecture:</u> History of Forensic Anthropology at UF	
Module 2: The medicolegal system				
Week 2: Jan 14-18	Medicolegal Aspects of Death	Chapter 1	<u>Lecture:</u> Medicolegal Aspects of Death	1) Mod 2 Quiz 2) Activity 1: Medico-legal matching exercise
Module 3: Forensic Anthropology in the Field				
Week 3: Jan 21-25	Recovery of Human Remains I: Site Location and Site Survey	1) Articles on CSI effect (online) 2) Chapter 3	<u>Lecture:</u> Recovery of Human Remains I	1) Discussion 2 2) Mod 3 Quiz 3) Activity 2: Recovery
	Recovery of Human Remains II: Mapping, Excavation, and Documentation.		<u>Lecture:</u> Recovery of Human Remains II	
Module 4: Forensic anthropology in the laboratory				
Week 4: Jan 28-Feb 1	Processing Remains into Evidence	1) Chapter 3 2) Supplementary “Lab SOP” (online)	<u>Lecture:</u> Processing Remains into Evidence	1) Mod 4 Quiz 2) Activity 3: SOP Decision Tree
	Laboratory Protocols,		<u>Lecture:</u> Laboratory Protocols	

	Procedures, and Quality Assurance			
Module 5: Taphonomy – from biosphere to lithosphere				
Week 5: Feb 4-8	What Happens After Death? Part I	1) Chapter 4	<u>Lecture</u> : What Happens after death? Part 1	1) Mod 5 Quiz
	What Happens After Death? Part II	2) Article: Stock et al. 2017 3) Practice activity (online)	<u>Lecture</u> : What Happens After Death? Part II	2) Activity 4: Taphonomy Matching exercise 3) Discussion 3: Taphonomy and forensics
Module 6: Anatomy, osteology, measurement, and statistics				
Week 6: Feb 11-15	Skeletal Anatomy and Osteology	1) Chapter 5	<u>Lecture</u> : Skeletal Anatomy and Osteology	1) Mod 6 Quiz
	Osteometry	2) Practice activity (online)	<u>Lecture</u> : Osteometry	2) Activity 5: Osteology Matching exercise
Module 7: Group Characteristics I: Biological sex				
Week 7: Feb 18-22	Sexual Dimorphism, Birth, and Locomotion	Chapter 6	<u>Lecture</u> : Sexual Dimorphism, Birth, and Locomotion	Mod 7 Quiz
	Methods of Sex Discrimination		<u>Lecture</u> : Methods of Sex Discrimination	
Module 8: Group Characteristics II: Age-at-death				
Week 8: Feb 25-Mar 1	Estimating Age in Children	Chapter 8	<u>Lecture</u> : Estimating Age in Children	1) Mod 8 Quiz 2) Activity 6: Age matching exercise
	Estimating Age in Adults		<u>Lecture</u> : Estimating Age in Adults	
	Estimating Age in Adults		<u>Lecture</u> : Methods of Age Estimation	
Spring Break over Week 9: Mar 4-8, No Assignments Due				
Module 9: Group Characteristics III: Stature				
Week 10: Mar 11-15	Living vs. Forensic Stature; Methods of Stature Estimation	1) Chapter 9 2) Article: Ousley 1995 (online)	<u>Lecture</u> : Stature	1) Mod 9 Quiz 2) Activity 7: Stature exercise

		3) Article: Jantz et al 1995		
Module 10: Group Characteristics IV: “Race” ... fact or fiction?				
Week 11: Mar 18-22	Race fact or fiction	1) Chapter 7	<u>Lecture</u> : “Race”... Fact or Fiction?	1) Mod 10 Quiz
	Clinal Variation and Population Affinities	2) PBS website	<u>Lecture</u> : Clinal Variation	2) Activity 8: Sorting people exercise
	Determination of Ancestry: Do anthropologists cheat?	3) Sauer 1992	<u>Lecture</u> : Determination of Ancestry	3) Discussion 4
Module 11: Individual characteristics and personal identification				
Week 12: Mar 25-29	Individuating Skeletal Characteristics	1) Chapter 10	<u>Lecture</u> : Individuating Skeletal Characteristics	1) Mod 11 Quiz
	Ante and Postmortem Radiographic Comparison	2) Practice activity	<u>Lecture</u> : Antemortem and Postmortem...	2) Activity 9: Radiographic Comparison matching exercise
	Personal Identification in Action		<u>Video</u> : Finding Anastasia	
Module 12: Forensic art				
Week 13: Apr 1-5	Forensic Reconstructions: Art or science?	Chapter 11	<u>Lecture</u> : Forensic Reconstructions; <u>Video</u> : forensic Files Saving Face	1) Mod 12 Quiz 2) Discussion 5
Module 13: Trauma				
Week 14: Apr 8-12	Trauma and Cause of Death: Ante- vs. Postmortem	1) Chapter 12	<u>Lecture</u> : Trauma and Cause of Death I	1) Mod 13 Quiz
	Trauma and Cause of Death: Blunt- vs. Sharp-force	2) Article: Langley 2007	<u>Lecture</u> : Trauma and Cause of Death II	2) Activity 10: Trauma matching exercise

	Trauma and Cause of Death: Ballistics and Gunshots		<u>Lecture:</u> Trauma and Cause of Death III	
Module 14: Cremation				
Week 14: Apr 8-12	Burned Bodies and Cremated Remains	Chapter 13	<u>Lecture:</u> Burned Bodies and	3) Mod 14 Quiz
Module 15: Mass fatalities				
Week 15: Apr 15-19	Mass Fatality Case History I: ValuJet Flight	Chapter 14	<u>Lecture:</u> Mass Fatality Case History I	1) Discussion 6 2) Mod 15 Quiz
	Mass Fatality Case History II: World Trade Center		<u>Lecture:</u> Mass Fatality Case History II	
	Mass Fatality Case History III: Hurricane Katrina		<u>Lecture:</u> Mass Fatality Case History III	
Module 16: Career paths and applications of forensic anthropology				
Week 16: Apr 22-24	Human Rights Missions	Chapter 15	<u>Lecture:</u> Human Rights Missions	Mod 16 Quiz
	Military Identifications	Chapter 16	JPAC Video links	
*** FINAL EXAM DUE MAY 3rd BY 11:59 PM ***				