

ANT 3522; SECT 8005

Skeleton Keys: Introduction to Forensic Anthropology

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Tuesday, Period 2 (8:30 – 9:20); CSE A101

Thursday Periods 2-3 (8:30 – 10:25); NRN 0137

*****Please note: class meets in different buildings on Tuesdays and Thursdays***

Course Objectives:

This course provides a broad overview of forensic anthropology – an applied field of biological anthropology. Forensic anthropology focuses the wider scope of skeletal biology on problems of medicolegal significance, primarily in determining personal identity and cause of death from human remains. While I will not be teaching proficiency in forensic techniques in this class, we will discuss the full range of problems associated with human skeletal identification and trauma analysis. These problems will serve as a model for understanding the broader aspects of applied anthropology.

Text:

There is no textbook for this course. Exams will be based entirely on in-class lecture.

Grading policy:

You will take 3 exams. Attendance and classroom contribution will be heavily considered.

Extra credit: Extra credit will be given to students who bring in *dry and clean* animal bones.

Course Outline:

This is an outline of the topics that will be covered over the course of the semester; syllabus is subject to change at the discretion of the professor.

- 8/24 Intro, ground rules
- 8/29 What is Forensic Anthropology
- 8/31 History of Forensic Anthropology
- 9/5 What happens to a body after death; MEO system
- 9/7 MEO system (con't); Medicolegal aspects of death
- 9/12 Field recovery of human remains
- 9/14 Documentation and processing of human remains
- 9/19 Human vs. non-human, archaeological vs. historic, Santaria
- 9/21 Taphonomy and time since death
- 9/26 Review
- 9/28 Exam 1
- 10/3 Osteology and Osteometry
- 10/5 NO CLASS – Homecoming Week
- 10/10 Stature in adults and subadults (for aging purposes)
- 10/12 Determination of sex
- 10/17 Determination of age-at-death
- 10/19 Concept of “race” and determination of ancestry
- 10/24 Individual characteristics
- 10/26 Mass Disasters
- 10/31 Review
- 11/2 Exam 2
- 11/7 Trauma
- 11/9 Pathology
- 11/14 Human rights missions
- 11/16 Military identifications
- 11/21 Forensic art and reconstruction
- 11/23 NO CLASS - Thanksgiving

11/28 Burned bodies and cremation

11/30 Collaboration with other disciplines; American Academy of Forensic Sciences; job opportunities

12/5 Review

12/7 Final