

ANT 3520 Section 8005
Skeleton Keys: Introduction to Forensic Anthropology
Fall 2009

Instructor: Traci L. Van Deest, M.A.

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Class Time and Room: Monday, Wednesday, and Friday
Period 7 (1:55-2:45pm)
Turlington L005

Office Hours: Monday 12:30-1:30pm and Wednesday 3-4pm, or by Appointment
Office: Turlington B335

Objectives:

This course provides a introduction to the field of forensic anthropology, an applied area of biological anthropology. Forensic anthropology focuses the wide scope of skeletal biology on problems of medicolegal significance. Through this course you will be introduced to basic terms and principles of forensic anthropology, primarily establishing identity and events surrounding death from skeletal remains. The material in this course will focus on concepts and how they are applied; as such, this is not intended to be a 'how-to' course. By the end of the course you will develop an understanding of the scope of forensic anthropology through a basic overview of terminology, the medicolegal system, osteology, analytical techniques, and professional and ethical responsibilities.

Required Textbook:

Warren MW and Parr NL. *Bare Bones: A Survey of Forensic Anthropology*. Kendall-Hunt Publishing. ISBN: 978-0-7575-447-7

Additional supplemental readings and handouts will be provided by the instructor and posted on WebCT/E-learning (lss.at.ufl.edu). Fair warning will be given in class and as an announcement on WebCT/E-Learning when additional readings and handouts will be needed for class.

Attendance Policy:

Attendance is expected at all scheduled lecture times, although attendance will not be taken. Some lectures have disturbing and graphics images, so consider your reaction. You are responsible for all material presented. Please have the assigned readings completed before each lecture. If a handout applies to a class period, it will be in your best interest to bring a copy with you to lecture. *Lectures will not be distributed outside of class, electronically or by the instructor for any reason.* If you are unable to attend class, you must get the information covered that day from another student.

Grading policy:

There will be 3 exams, which are not cumulative and contribute equally to your final grade. Final grades will be calculated as a percentage of the available points and distributed according to the following scale:

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

Grade points for the new minus system have changed; information on the calculation of grade points can be found at: <http://www.registrar.ufl.edu/catalog/policies/regulationgrades.html>

Plagiarism in any form is subject to university policy outlined by the Dean of Students (www.dso.ufl.edu/judicial/academicdishonestystudent/html).

Exam Policy:

Exams should be taken on the scheduled day. You may be excused from taking an exam when scheduled if and only if: 1) You have a written excuse from the appropriate agency, and 2) You make arrangements **BEFORE THE EXAM**. If you miss a test without making arrangements, you will be assigned a grade of E (0 points) for that exam. **It is your obligation to inform the instructor by e-mail or in person of a make-up situation at least 48 HOURS BEFORE EXAM**. Contact after a missed exam will not be accepted except in cases of extreme illness or family emergency, for which documentation may be required. All makeup exams will be given on the last day of the course, regardless of which exam was missed. The format of the makeup exams may differ from that of the regularly scheduled exams.

Extra Credit:

Extra credit points will be given to any student who brings in *dry and clean* animal bones. Please discuss *all* remains with the instructor prior to bringing them in to ensure they are appropriate. Do not purposefully exterminate an animal for extra credit!! Up to five extra credit points may be received per exam. All donations must be received prior to or up to one week following an exam. All extra credit is due by December 16.

Other opportunities for extra credit may be offered by the instructor throughout the term.

Other Policies:

Cell phones, Ipods, MP3 players, and any other mobile device must be turned OFF during class time. Computers may be used for note taking purposes only. Recording devices are prohibited, except with instructor permission. Students requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the Dean of Students Office, who will provide the necessary documentation. If you are experiencing personal problems that are interfering with your studies, you are encouraged to take advantage of the available University resources at the University Counseling Center (301 Peabody Hall, 392-1575), Student Mental Health (Student Health Care Center, 392-1171), or Sexual Assault Recovery Services (Student Health Care Center, 392-1161).

Fall 2009 Course Schedule:

The following is an outline of the topics which will be covered throughout the semester. This is subject to change by the instructor to incorporate current events and student interests.

Month	Date	Day	Topic	Assigned Reading
August	24	M	Introduction and Ground Rules	
August	26	W	What is Forensic Anthropology?	Chapter 2 p13-25
August	28	F	Teamwork in the Medicolegal System	Chapter 1 p1-13
August	31	M	The Medical Examiner and Coroner systems	Chapter 1 p1-13
September	2	W	The Medical Examiner and Coroner systems- Part 2	Chapter 1 p1-13
September	4	F	VIDEO- L.A. County Coroner's Office	
September	7	M	NO CLASS - Labor Day	
September	9	W	Field Recovery of Human Remains	Chapter 3 p27-36
September	11	F	Forensic Archaeology	
September	14	M	Processing Remains into Evidence	Chapter 3 p36-42
September	16	W	Postmortem damage and taphonomy	Chapter 4 p43-56
September	18	F	Postmortem damage and taphonomy – Part 2	Chapter 4 p43-56
September	21	M	EXAM 1	
September	23	W	Osteology and Osteometry: osteology and skeletal biology	Chapter 5: 57-80
September	25	F	Osteology and Osteometry: osteometry and the tools of skeletal analysis	Chapter 5: 57-80
September	28	M	VIDEO – <i>Unfleshed: The Story of Dr. Maples</i>	
September	30	W	Skeletal Analysis: Statistics and Reference Populations	
October	2	F	Group Characteristics I - Biological sex	Chapter 6 p83-98
October	5	M	Group Characteristics II – Age at death	Chapter 8 p113-134
October	7	W	Group Characteristics II – Age at death: Part 2	Chapter 8 p113-134
October	9	F	Group Characteristics III – Forensic Stature	Chapter 9 p135-150
October	12	M	Group Characteristics IV: Race - fact or fiction?	Chapter 7 p99-112
October	14	W	Individual Characteristics and Personal Identification	Chapter 10 p151-172

October	16	F	NO CLASS - Homecoming	
October	19	M	Individual Characteristics and Personal Identification: Part 2	Chapter 10 p151-172
October	21	W	Forensic Art	Chapter 11 p173-186
October	23	F	VIDEO – <i>Skeleton Stories</i>	
October	26	M	EXAM 2	
October	28	W	Ritual Use of Human Skeletal Remains	
October	30	F	Trauma and Cause of Death: AM v. PM Definitions and Mechanisms	Chapter 12 p189-210
November	2	M	Trauma and Cause of Death: Ballistics and GSW	Chapter 12 p189-210
November	4	W	Trauma and Cause of Death: Blunt and Sharp Force Trauma	Chapter 12 p189-210
November	6	F	Pathology in Skeletal Remains	
November	9	M	Burned Bodies and Cremation	Chapter 13 p211-226
November	11	W	NO CLASS – Veteran’s Day	
November	13	F	Mass Fatality Case Histories	Chapter 14 p227-240
November	16	M	Mass Fatality Case Histories	Chapter 14 p227-240
November	18	W	Human Rights Missions	Chapter 15 p241-250
November	20	F	Issues in Identification	
November	23	M	Missing in Action – Military Identifications	Chapter 15 p241-250
November	25	W	Missing in Action – Military Identifications	Chapter 15 p241-250
November	30	M	The Profession of Forensic Anthropology	Chapter 16 p251-260
December	2	W	Overview of the Forensic Sciences	
December	4	F	VIDEO – To Be Determined	
December	7	M	EXAM 3	
December	9	W	Make-up Exam	