

# **Skeleton Keys: Introduction to Forensic Anthropology**

## **ANT 3520 –Summer A 2017**

**Instructor: Samantha Coberly**

Email: [swcoberly@ufl.edu](mailto:swcoberly@ufl.edu)

Office Hours: Monday 1-3 p.m. and Friday 4-5 p.m.

**TAs:**

**Hailey Duecker**

Email: [hduecker@ufl.edu](mailto:hduecker@ufl.edu)

Office Hours: Tuesday 10 a.m. -12 p.m. and Wednesdays 11 a.m. -12 p.m.

**Petra Cunningham-Smith**

Email: [pcunninghamsmith@ufl.edu](mailto:pcunninghamsmith@ufl.edu)

Office Hours: Wednesdays 6-9 p.m.

### **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 and postmortem trauma

**\*\*\*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:**

Due to being an online class, students are expected to be self motivated. During the six week period the class is in session there will be sixteen modules with two to three a week. All assignments for the modules must be completed during the five day period they are assigned and will be due each Friday at 11:59p.m.. **DON'T wait till 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:**

There is one quiz for each of the sixteen modules. This means there will be two to three quizzes per week. Each quiz is multiple choice and worth 10 points. The quizzes make up **50%** of your grade.

Students will also need to complete fourteen online activities. This averages about one a week. The activities range from 5 to 10 points and are approximately **30%** of the total grade.

Every week there will be a discussion topic. Student must post a substantive original comment to the discussion by **Wednesday at noon (12:00 p.m.)**. They must then make two substantive responses to other individual's comments by **Friday at 11:59 p.m.** This means there are 6 original comments and 12 responses. Participation in these discussions is approximately **20%** of the final grade. Online discussion groups will be assigned by the instructor once the Add/Drop period has closed.

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

### **Online attendance:**

Only students with DOCUMENTED excused absence may turn in makeup work including quizzes, discussions and activities. Students must notify the instructor at least 48 hours before the absence. No arrangements for make-up work will be offered after the Friday deadline, except for illness/family emergency.

### **Late policy:**

Assignments that are due at 11:59 on Fridays for full credit. The students have 24 hours or until Saturday at 11:59 to turn in assignments with the understanding that 20% of the grade will be docked for lateness. After Saturday no late work will be accepted and the student will be given a zero.

For the Discussion due on Wednesday the students have until Thursday at 12:00 p.m. to turn in the assignment with the understanding that 20% will be docked for lateness.

### **Academic Honesty:**

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. 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 in which you need accommodations please provide me with the letter from the Dean of Students Office within the first week of class. I encourage you to meet with me as soon as possible to discuss accommodations.

If you have a documented disability of any kind you should make arrangements with the Disability Resource Center. This is located at 0001 Building 0020 (Reid Hall) on the UF campus. The Disability Resource Center can also be contacted by telephone at 352-392-8565 or via email at [accessuf@dso.ufl.edu](mailto:accessuf@dso.ufl.edu).

**Miscellaneous:**

Students requesting classroom accommodation should first register with the Dean of Students Office (<http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/>), who will then provide the necessary documentation for the course instructor. Please do this no later than two (2) weeks after the first day of class.

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

Thank you for Amanda and Katie for letting me use their wording on this Syllabus.

Week	Topic	What to Read	What to Watch	Due
<b>Introduction to canvas</b>				
Week 1: May 8-12	Introduction and Ground Rules: what to expect from an online course; syllabus review; course policies	Syllabus Start Here" module	211-Canvas Overview Video	
<b>Module 1: The History of Forensic Science</b>				
1	What is Forensic Anthropology?	Chapter 2 of Bare Bones	Lecture: What is Forensic Anthropology	Discussion 1
1	History of Forensic Anthropology at UF (and beyond!)	Chapter 2	Lecture: History of Forensic Anthropology at UF	Mod 1 Quiz
<b>Module 2: The medicolegal system</b>				
1	Medicolegal Aspects of Death	Chapter 1	Lecture: Medicolegal Aspects of Death	Mod 2 Quiz Activity1: Medico-legal matching
<b>Module 3: Forensic Anthropology in the Field</b>				
Week 2: 15-19	Recovery of Human Remains I: Site Location and Site Survey	articles on CSI effect (online) Chapter 3,	Lecture: Recovery of Human Remains I	Discussion 2
2	Recovery of	Chapter 3	Lecture: Recovery	Mod 3 quiz

	Human Remains II: Mapping, Excavation, and Documentation.		of Human Remains II	Activity 2: Recovery
<b>Module 4: Forensic anthropology in the laboratory</b>				
2	Processing Remains into Evidence	Chapter 3	Lecture: Processing Remains into Evidence	Mod 4: quiz
2	Laboratory Protocols, Procedures, and Quality Assurance	Supplementary "Lab SOP" (online)	Lecture: Laboratory Protocols...	Activity 3: SOP Discussion Tree
<b>Module 5: Taphonomy – from biosphere to lithosphere</b>				
2	What Happens After Death? Part I	Chapter 4	Lecture: What Happens after death? Part 1	Mod 5 Quiz
2	What Happens After Death? Part II	Chapter 4 practice activity (online)	Lecture: What Happens After Death II	Activity 4: Taphonomy Matching exercise
<b>Module 6: Anatomy, osteology, measurement, and statistics</b>				
Week 3: May 22-26	Skeletal Anatomy and Osteology	Chapter 5, practice activity (online)	Lecture: Skeletal Anatomy and Osteology	Mod 6 Quiz
3	Osteometry	Chapter 5	Lecture: Osteometry	Activity 5: Osteology Matching
<b>Module 7: Group Characteristics I: Biological sex</b>				
3	Sexual Dimorphism, Birth, and Locomotion	Chapter 6	Lecture: Sexual Dimorphism...	Mod 7 Quiz
3	Methods of Sex Discrimination	Chapter 6	Lecture: Methods of Sex Discrimination	Activity 6: Short Essay on Biological Sex
<b>Module 8: Group Characteristics II: Age-at-death</b>				
3	Estimating Age in Children	Chapter 8	Lecture: Estimating Age in Children	Mod 8 Quiz
3	Estimating Age in Adults	Chapter 8	Lecture: Estimating Age in Children	Activity 7: Age matching
3	Methods in age Estimation	Chapter 8	Lecture: Methods in Age Estimation	Discussion 3
<b>Module 9: Group Characteristics III: Stature</b>				
4 May 29- June 2	Living vs. Forensic Stature; Methods of Stature	Chapter 9, Ousley 1995 (online)	Lecture: Stature	Discussion 4 Mod 9 Quiz Activity 8: Stature

	Estimation			
<b>Module 10: Group Characteristics IV: "Race"...fact or fiction?</b>				
4	Race fact or fiction	Chapter 7 PBS website, Sauer 1992 (online)	Lecture: "Race" Fact or Fiction?	Mod 10 Quiz
4	Clinal Variation and Population Affinities	Chapter 7	Lecture: Clinal Variation...	Activity 9: Sorting people
4	Determination of Ancestry: Do anthropologists cheat?	Chapter 7	Lecture: Determination of Ancestry	
<b>Module 11: Individual characteristics and personal identification</b>				
4	Individuating Skeletal Characteristics	Chapter 10	Lecture: Individuating Skeletal Characteristics	Mod 11 Quiz
4	Ante and Postmortem Radiographic Comparison	Chapter 10, practice activity (online)	Lecture: Antemortem and Postmortem...	Activity 10: Radiographic Comparison
4	Personal Identification in Action	Chapter 10	Video: Unfleshed: The Story of Dr. Maples	
<b>Module 12: Forensic Art</b>				
Week 5 June 5-9	Forensic Reconstructions: Art or science?	Chapter 11	Lecture: Forensic Reconstructions; Video: Skeleton Stories Episode 7	Mod 12 Quiz Activity 11: Art vs Science
<b>Module 13: Trauma</b>				
5	Trauma and Cause of Death: Ante- vs. Postmortem	Chapter 12	Lecture: Trauma and Cause of Death I	Discussion 5
5	Trauma and Cause of Death: Blunt- vs. Sharp-force	Chapter 12	Lecture: Trauma and Cause of Death II	Mod 13 Quiz
5	Trauma and Cause of Death: Ballistics and Gunshots	Chapter 12	Lecture: Trauma and Cause of Death III	Activity 12: Trauma Matching
<b>Module 14: Cremation</b>				
5	Burned Bodies and Cremated Remains	Chapter 13	Lecture: Burned Bodies and Cremated Remains	Mod 14 Quiz
5	What Survives Cremation?	Chapter 13	Lecture: What Survives Cremation?	Activity 13: Cremation artifacts

<b>Module 15: Mass fatalities</b>				
Week 6 June 12-16	Mass Fatality Case History I: ValuJet Flight	Chapter 14	592 Lecture: Mass Fatality Case History I	Discussion 6
6	Mass Fatality Case History II: World Trade Center	Chapter 14	Lecture: Mass Fatality Case History II	Mod 15 Quiz
6	Mass Fatality Case History III: Hurricane Katrina	Chapter 14	Lecture: Mass Fatality Case History III	Activity 14: Mass Disaster response
<b>Module 16: Career paths and applications of forensic anthropology</b>				
6	Human Rights Missions	Chapter 15	Lecture: Human Rights Missions	Mod 16 Quiz
6	Military Identifications	Chapter 16	JPAC Video links	