

ANT 3520: Section 4853
Skeleton Keys: Introduction to Forensic Anthropology
Fall 2012

Instructor: Ms. Carrie A. Brown, MA	Class Times: T 8-9, R 9
Email: cbrown311@ufl.edu	Location: Turlington L005
Office: TBD	Office Hours: M 6-7, R 8, & by appointment

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. By the end of the course you are expected to have developed an understanding of the scope of forensic anthropology, including the medicolegal system, osteology, analytical techniques, and professional and ethical responsibilities. You will not be a proficient forensic anthropologist upon completion, but you will develop an appreciation for the role of applied anthropologists in the field of anthropology and forensic sciences.

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.* 2010 *Bare Bones: A Survey of Forensic Anthropology*. 2nd edition. Kendall-Hunt Publishing.

Additional readings will be provided by the instructor and posted on Sakai. Sufficient advance warning will be given in class and via Sakai when these readings will be needed for class.

Course Policies:

Attendance:

You are expected to attend class at all scheduled lecture times with all assigned readings completed *before* each lecture in order to facilitate discussion. If an additional reading applies to a class topic, it is in your best interest to bring a copy with you to lecture. ***Under no circumstances will any lectures be distributed by the instructor outside of class; this includes posting Power Point presentations to Sakai.*** If you are unable to attend class, you need to get the information covered that day from another student.

Grading:

There will be three (3) exams worth 100 points each. These exams are not cumulative and contribute equally to your final grade. Final grades will be calculated as a percentage of the total available points (300) and graded using the following scale:

Grade	%	Grade	%
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

Plagiarism and cheating in any form are subject to university policy as outlined by the Dean of Students (<http://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/honorcodes/conductcode.php>) and will NOT BE TOLERATED.

Exams:

Exams are to be taken on the scheduled day (see below). If you need to be excused from an exam, you may do so only by scheduling it with the instructor *in advance* and providing appropriate documentation. If you miss a test without making the appropriate arrangements, you will be assigned a grade of E (0 points) for that exam. **It is your responsibility to inform the instructor of a make-up situation at least 48 HOURS BEFORE THE EXAM.** All make-up exams will be given at the same time at the end of the course (TBD), regardless of which exam was missed. The format of the make-up exam(s) may differ from that of regularly scheduled exams (*e.g.*, primarily composed of essay questions). Make-up exams are exclusively for excused absences of regularly scheduled exams; these exams cannot serve as “second-chance” exams if you are not happy with your previous exam score(s).

Extra Credit:

At the discretion of the instructor, extra credit opportunities may be provided and, if provided, will be available to all students.

Miscellaneous:

Cell phones, Ipods, MP3 players, and any other mobile devices 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 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. 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 2012 Tentative Schedule:

Date	Day	Topic	Assigned Reading
23 Aug	R	Introduction, course overview, expectations, course topics, the need for a professional demeanor	Syllabus
28 Aug	T	What is forensic anthropology? The history of forensic anthropology Forensic anthropology at UF: The C.A. Pound Human Identification Laboratory	Chapter 2
30 Aug	R	Medicolegal aspects of death	Chapter 1; Excerpt from Byers 2008 (online)
4 Sep	T	The medical examiner and coroner systems VIDEO: <i>L.A. County Coroner's Office</i>	Chapter 1
6 Sep	R	In the field: Recovery of human remains, forensic archaeology (mapping, excavation, documentation)	Chapter 3
11 Sep	T	In the laboratory: Evidence processing of human remains, laboratory protocol Human versus non-human remains	Chapter 3
13 Sep	R	Taphonomy: From biosphere to lithosphere Postmortem damage	Chapter 4
18 Sep	T	Skeletal biology and osteology Osteometry Exam review	Chapter 5
20 Sep	R	EXAM #1	
25 Sep	T	Biological profile I: Biological sex Biological profile II: Age-at-death	Chapter 6 Chapter 8
27 Sep	R	Biological profile III: Stature	Chapter 9; article (online)
2 Oct	T	Biological profile IV: Race – fact or fiction?	Chapter 7; <i>Race – The Power of an Illusion</i> (http://www.pbs.org/race/)
4 Oct	R	VIDEO: <i>Unfleshed: The Story of Dr. Maples</i>	
9 Oct	T	Individual characteristics, personal identification Skeletal analysis: Statistics and reference populations	Chapter 10
11 Oct	R	Forensic reconstructions: Art or science?	Chapter 11
16 Oct	T	VIDEO: <i>Skeleton Stories</i> Exam Review	
18 Oct	R	EXAM #2	
23 Oct	T	Trauma and cause of death: Definitions and mechanisms Trauma: Antemortem	Chapter 12
25 Oct	R	Trauma: Blunt and sharp force	Chapter 12

Date	Day	Topic	Assigned Reading
30 Oct	T	Trauma: Ballistics and GSW	Chapter 12
1 Nov	R	Human taphonomy: Ritual use of human remains, case studies	Article (online)
6 Nov	T	Burned bodies, cremated remains	Chapter 13
8 Nov	R	Pathologies, pseudo-pathologies	Excerpt (online)
13 Nov	T	Missing in Action: Military field recoveries and identifications; case study	Chapter 15; www.jpac.pacom.mil
15 Nov	R	Human rights missions Additional case histories	Chapter 15
20 Nov	T	Mass fatality case histories	Chapter 14
22 Nov	R	NO CLASS: Thanksgiving	
27 Nov	T	Overview of the forensic sciences The CSI Effect The profession of forensic anthropology (expanding roles)	Chapter 16; article (online)
29 Nov	R	Exam Review	
4 Dec	T	EXAM #3	