

ANT 3520
Skeleton Keys: Introduction to Forensic Anthropology
Spring 2011

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

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Class Time and Room: Tuesday 10 and Thursday 10-11
Building: CSE
Room: A101

Office Hours: To Be Determined

Office: To Be Determined

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.

Disclaimer: Some Lectures Will Include Disturbing and Graphic Images, Consider Your Reaction before Taking This Course. You Will Be Responsible for All Course Material

Required Textbook:

Warren MW *et al.* 2010. *Bare Bones: A Survey of Forensic Anthropology*, 2nd Edition.
Kendall-Hunt Publishing.

The second edition is required for the course, but a first edition is acceptable.

Additional supplemental readings and handouts will be provided by the instructor and posted on the online course site. Fair warning will be given in class and as an announcement on the online site 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. 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

Plagiarism in any form and cheating is subject to university policy outlined by the Dean of Students (www.dso.ufl.edu/judicial/academicdishonestystudent/html) and will be NOT BE TOLERATED.

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 will be required. All makeup exams will be given at the same time at the end of the course (time to determined), regardless of which exam was missed. The format of the makeup exams may differ from that of the regularly scheduled exams. The scheduled makeup exam is for prearranged, excused absences on regularly scheduled exam days only; it cannot serve as a second-chance exam if you are not happy with your previous exam score.

Extra Credit:

Opportunities for extra credit may be offered by the instructor throughout the term and if offered, will be available to all students.

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).

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Spring 2011 Tentative 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
January	6	R	Introduction and Ground Rules	
January	11	T	What is Forensic Anthropology?	Chapter 2
January	13	R	The Medical Examiner and Coroner systems	Chapter 1
January	18	T	VIDEO- <i>L.A. County Coroner's Office</i>	
January	20	R	Field Recovery of Human Remains; Processing Remains into Evidence	Chapter 3
January	25	T	Human v. Non-human	
January	27	R	Postmortem Damage and Taphonomy	Chapter 4
February	1	T	Skeletal Biology and Osteology	Chapter 5
February	3	R	Osteometry, EXAM REVIEW	
February	8	T	EXAM 1	
February	10	R	Biological sex	Chapter 6
February	15	T	Race - fact or fiction?	Chapter 7
February	17	R	Age at death, Forensic Stature	Chapter 8 & 9
February	22	T	VIDEO- <i>Unfleshed: The Story of Dr. Maples</i>	
February	24	R	Guest Lecture To Be Determined	
March	1	T	Individual Characteristics and Personal Identification	Chapter 10
March	3	R	Skeletal Analysis: Statistics and Reference Populations, EXAM REVIEW	
March	8	T	NO CLASS – SPRING BREAK	

March	10	R	NO CLASS – SPRING BREAK	
March	15	T	EXAM 2	
March	17	R	Forensic Art, VIDEO: <i>Skeleton Stories</i>	Chapter 11
March	22	T	Trauma and Cause of Death: AM v. PM Definitions and Mechanisms	Chapter 12
March	24	R	Trauma and Cause of Death: Blunt and Sharp Force Trauma	Chapter 12
February	29	T	Trauma and Cause of Death: Ballistics and GSW	Chapter 12
March	31	R	Pathologies, Burned Bodies and Cremated Remains	Chapter 13
April	5	T	Mass Fatality Case Histories	Chapter 14
April	7	R	Human Rights Missions, Military Identifications	Chapter 15
April	12	T	Overview of the Forensic Sciences	
April	14	R	The Profession of Forensic Anthropology, EXAM REVIEW	Chapter 16
April	19	T	EXAM 3	