ANT 3520
Skeleton Keys: Introduction to Forensic Anthropology
Spring 2023
Mon, Wed, Fri: 11:45AM-12:35PM CSE E119

Course Instructor: Sheridan Lea, MSc

Email: slea1@ufl.edu or use the Conversations (Inbox) **tool in Canvas**
Office Hours: Tuesday 10:30 AM – 12:30 PM

Course Objectives:

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.

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 basic 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

Course Materials:

Required: Warren MW et al. 2011 Bare Bones: A Survey of Forensic Anthropology. 2nd edition. Kendall Hunt Publishing.

Additional readings will be provided by the instructor and posted on Canvas. Required readings are listed below in the course schedule. All graded assignments will only reference required materials.

Grading:
There will be three (3) exams worth 100 points each (300 pts total). The exams are not cumulative and contribute equally to your final grade. Participation will be given based on in-class quizzes and in-class activities worth 3 points each (60 pts total). The lowest 3 participation grades will be dropped. Assignments worth 15 points each will be due via Canvas (90 pts total). A final paper will be worth 50 points. If you would like to contest a grade, you must do so within one week of that grade being posted. After that time, all grades are final. Final grades will be calculated as a percentage of the total available points (500) and graded using the following scale:

	Points	% of Grade
Exam 1	100	20
Exam 2	100	20
Exam 3	100	20
Participation (Activities/Quizzes)	60	12
Assignments	90	18
Final Paper	50	10

Letter grades are assigned based on the following scale:

A 93% or above	B- 80-82.99%	D+ 67-69.99%
A- 90-92.99%	C+ 77-79.99%	D 63-66.99%
B+ 87-89.99%	C 73-76.99%	D- 60-62.99%
B 83-86.99%	C- 70-72.99%	E below 60%

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). Further information on current UF grading policies for assigning letter grades can be found here: https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx

Exams: Exams are open-note, and to be taken on the scheduled day via Canvas. The exam will be available for the entire day and must be completed before 11:59PM EST. Students will have 2 hours (the equivalent of the Tuesday class period) to complete their exam. Each exam is worth 100 points, consisting of a combination of matching, true/false, multiple choice, and short answer questions. Potential exam material includes information covered in lectures, the textbook, videos shown in-class, and guest speakers. Study guides detailing the content for upcoming exams will be provided two weeks before the exam. If any accommodations are necessary, please reach out at least 1 week before the exam.

Assignments: Six short assignments will be due by 11:59PM EST on days indicated on the Reading Schedule. Each assignment is worth 15 points. All assignments should be turned in via Canvas. The assignments vary and include activities such as interpreting a field map and discussions of the reading that was assigned to be completed on or before that day. All instructions for the assignments will be clearly stated in the assignment page on Canvas. If there is an error with submitting to Canvas, students should email the assignment to the instructor or grader before the deadline.

Class Participation and Quizzes: In-class quizzes or activities will occur throughout the semester, and will not be advertised beforehand. Some of these will be in class activities while others will be written in-class quizzes. Students must be present in class to receive credit for these in-class quizzes or activities. Students will receive zero points if their answer is illegible to the grader and/or their name is not present. The lowest 3 (three) quizzes/activities will be dropped.

Final Paper: Students must write a 5-8 page literature review of a topic related to this forensic anthropology. Topics need to be approved by the instructor via Canvas no later than March 1st, 2024. The paper must be font size 12 Times New Roman, double spaced, and 1-inch margins. A minimum of 7 recent (i.e., within the last 5 years) primary research articles that will inform you about a research question are required. You must integrate these articles (e.g. compare and contrast their findings) to lead you to a tentative conclusion on the topic. You should include articles that provide different viewpoints on the topic if possible. This document is due on Canvas no later than April 27th, 2024 at 11:59 pm EST. This is worth up to fifty (50) points. See Canvas for rubric and instructional pdf for additional details.

Extra Credit: One extra credit opportunity is available. Students are to watch a film or episode of television that includes forensic science or anthropology. A list of recommended media will be provided, but students are welcome to put forward their own suggestions for instructor approval. The assignment is a paper, guided by questions provided by the instructor about the techniques used in the media, comparing and contrasting them to what they have learned in class, and more. The paper must be font size 12 Times New Roman, single spaced, 1-inch margin, and no longer than 2 pages. The assignment is worth up to 2 additional points added to your final grade in the course. All papers should be submitted via Canvas no later than April 27th, 2024, at 11:59pm EST. File formats that cannot be viewed by the instructor will not receive credit.

The use of ChatGPT or any other AI program to generate student work is not allowed in this course.

Academic Honesty:

As a result of completing the registration form at the University of Florida, every student has signed the following statement: "I understand that the University of Florida expects its students to be honest in all their academic work. I agree to adhere to this commitment to academic honesty and understand that my failure to comply with this commitment may result in disciplinary action up to and including expulsion from the University." On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: "On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment." The Honor Code (https://sccr.dso.ufl.edu/process/student-conduct-code/) specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions – prohibited behavior includes the use of AI applications to write assignments. Furthermore, you are obligated to report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct to appropriate personnel. If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor in this class. The latest student honor code and student conduct code can be found at https://sccr.dso.ufl.edu/policies/student-honor-code-student-conduct-code/.

Accommodations:

Students requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the Dean of Students Office (https://disability.ufl.edu/get-started/), who will then provide the necessary documentation for the course instructor. It is the student's responsibility to provide the necessary documentation to the instructor. Accommodations cannot be applied retroactively, so be sure to submit documentation to the instructor as soon as possible. Allow for 3 (three) business days of processing time before the accommodations will begin.

UF Counselling Services:

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

U Matter We Care:

Your well-being is important to the University of Florida. The U Matter, We Care initiative is committed to creating a culture of care on our campus by encouraging members of our community to look out for one another and to reach out for help if a member of our community is in need. If you or a friend is in distress, please contact umatter@ufl.edu so that the U Matter, We Care Team can reach out to the student in distress. A nighttime and weekend crisis counselor is available by phone at 352-392-1575. The U Matter, We Care Team can help connect students to the many other helping resources available including, but not limited to, Victim Advocates, Housing staff, and the Counseling and

Wellness Center. Please remember that asking for help is a sign of strength. In case of emergency, call 9-1-1.

Spring 2024 Topics and Readings Schedule:

Below is a tentative schedule of topics to be discussed over the course of the semester. Dates and topics are subject to change; however, the instructor will make all attempts to notify the class of any changes as they arise. Due dates for assignments and exams will not change except for university wide cancellation of courses. Additional readings and study guides will be assigned and announced on the Canvas site.

Week	Date	Day	Topic	Assigned Reading	Assignments Due
1	Jan 8th – 12th	MWF	Introduction & Expectations, History, Medicolegal Aspects of Death	Syllabus BB Ch 1, 2	
2	Jan 15th – 19th	WF	Monday: MLK DAY, NO CLASS Wed/Fri: Protocols and Procedures	BB Ch 2, 3	
3	Jan 22nd – 26th	MWF	Postmortem Interval and Taphonomy	BB Ch 4 Canvas readings	Assignment 1
4	Jan 29th – Feb 2nd	MWF	Skeletal Biology and Spatial Relationships; Review & **EXAM 1**	BB Ch 4 Canvas readings	
5	Feb 5th – 9th	MWF	Osteology & Osteometrics Human & Non-human Identification	BB Ch 5	
6	Feb 12th – 16th	MWF	Biological Profile: Age, Sex, & Stature	BB Ch 6, 7, 8	Assignment 2
7	Feb 19th – 23rd	MWF	Biological Profile: Ancestry	BB Ch 9 Canvas readings	Assignment 3
8	Feb 26th – Mar 1st	MWF	Individual Characteristics Review & **EXAM 2**	BB Ch 10	
9	Mar 4th – 8th	MWF	Pathology & Forensic Reconstruction	BB Ch 11, 13	Assignment 4
10	Mar 9th – 16th	MWF	**SPRING BREAK NO CLASS**		
11	Mar 18th – 22nd	MWF	Trauma – Blunt & Sharp Force, Ballistics	BB Ch 12	Assignment 5
12	Mar 25th – 29th	MWF	Trauma – Fire & Heat Damage Mass Fatalities, Human Rights	BB Ch 14, 15	
13	Apr 1st – 5th	MWF	MNI and Commingling	BB Ch 15	Assignment 6
14	Apr 8th – 12th	MWF	Research and Ethics Review & **EXAM 3**	BB Ch 16	
15	Apr 15th – 19th	MWF	Historic Cases		
16	Apr 22nd – 24th	MW	Careers in Forensic Anthropology		
16	Apr 25th & 26th	Th F	**READING DAYS: NO CLASS**		
	Apr 27th – May 3rd		***** FINAL PAPER DUE APRIL 27TH BY 11:59 PM ***** Extra credit due April 27th by 11:59 PM		