

**ANT 3520: Class # 10611**  
**Skeleton Keys: Forensic Identification**  
**Spring 2020**

**Class Times:** M,W,F | Period 5 (11:45 AM - 12:35 PM)  
**Location:** LIT 0109

**Instructor:** Sarah M. Zaleski, MA, RPA

**Email:** [sarahmzaleski@ufl.edu](mailto:sarahmzaleski@ufl.edu)

The best way to contact me is through the Canvas messaging system, but if you email me, please include ANT3520 in the subject line.

**Office:** TBD

**Office Hours:** W,F 1-2:30 PM

**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. Please 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 are provided by the instructor and posted on Canvas.

## Course Policies:

**Attendance:** Requirements for class attendance and make-up exams, assignments, and other work in this course are consistent with university policies that can be found at: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/attendance-policies/>

You are expected to attend class at all scheduled lecture times with all assigned readings completed before each lecture in order to facilitate discussion and understanding of the material. Lectures will not be distributed by the instructor outside of class. If you are unable to attend class, you should get the information covered that day from another student. PowerPoints will not be posted on canvas.

**Late or Missed Work:** Late work will not be accepted without official documentation. It is the student's responsibility to provide the instructor with the appropriate documentation and meet with the instructor to devise a schedule for completing the missed work. If possible, the student must notify the instructor that they will miss an exam before the examination period begins. No make-ups will be accepted after two weeks past the original exam/assignment if practicable. If a student misses an exam or assignment without making the appropriate arrangements with the instructor, they will be assigned a grade of E (0 points). Note that the format of the make-up assignment(s) and exam(s) may differ from that of regularly scheduled assignments and exams (e.g., primarily composed of essay questions). Documentation for late or missed work, including exams, should be provided within 48 hours of the excused period of absence.

**Electronics:** Cell phones and all other mobile devices must be silenced during class. The use of recording devices is prohibited except with prior Instructor permission. Recordings or photographing of the slides, presentations or lectures are not allowed unless permission is given by the instructor.

**Grading:** There will be three (3) in-class exams worth 100 points each (300pts total). These exams are not cumulative and contribute equally to your final grade. Five in-class discussions based on assigned readings are worth 20 points each (100pts total). A group project based on a case history is worth 100 points. Final grades will be calculated as a percentage of the total available points (500pts).

Course Requirement	Points	% of Grade
Exam 1	100	20
Exam 2	100	20
Exam 3	100	20
In-class Discussions	100	20
Group Project: Case Histories	100	20

Letter grades are assigned based on the following scale:

<b>A</b>	93% or above	<b>C</b>	73-76 %
<b>A-</b>	90-92 %	<b>C-</b>	70-72 %
<b>B+</b>	87-89 %	<b>D+</b>	67-69 %
<b>B</b>	83-86 %	<b>D</b>	63-66 %
<b>B-</b>	80-82 %	<b>D-</b>	60-62 %
<b>C+</b>	77-79 %	<b>F</b>	below 60%

Final grades will be rounded following conventional math standards; grades ending with a decimal of .5 or greater will be rounded up to the next integer.

Further information on current UF grading policies for assigning letter grades can be found here: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/grades-grading-policies/>

**Exams:** Exams are to be taken on the scheduled day (see below). Each exam is worth 100 points. Exams may include a combination of multiple choice, fill in the blank, labeling, true/false, and short answer. Exam material includes lectures, the textbook, videos shown in-class, and guest speakers.

**In-class Discussions:** In-class discussions based on assigned readings will occur according to the schedule below. During specified class times, the instructor will provide 1-3 questions during class which students will first individually answer on Canvas discussion boards. Paper submissions will be accepted in cases of technical issues only if they are turned into the instructor immediately by the student themselves and have the student's name. Next, students will discuss the questions in small groups chosen randomly and assigned by the instructor. Finally, we will discuss the questions as a class.

**Group Project – Case Histories:** Students will work in groups assigned randomly by the instructor to present a case history to the class. Topics and group member roles should be submitted to the instructor for approval by the date noted in the schedule below. As part of this assignment, students will individually submit team, peer, and self-evaluations to the instructor. PowerPoint presentations must not exceed the time limit discussed in class, involve all group members, and include:

- a summary of the case
- highlights of forensic techniques/methods
- critiques in the literature, news, social media of the techniques/methods
- your assessment of the techniques/methods
- images/graphs/diagrams to clarify the case, critiques, assessment
- References Cited
- 2 discussion questions for the class based on the case

**Canvas Discussion Boards:** The instructor will occasionally monitor student discussion boards on Canvas for topics such as forensic training (a running list of graduate programs, professional programs, short courses, field schools), jobs, Twitter/social media/outreach, and general questions. The purpose of these boards is to spread the word about forensic programs and topics that may be of interest to the class. These discussions will not contribute to the overall grade. They are meant to function as a resource for you, if needed. Please be respectful and follow proper Netiquette guidelines. (Please address all questions concerning course mechanics to me via the Canvas messaging system.)

**Accommodations:** Students with disabilities who experience learning barriers and would like to request academic accommodations should connect with the disability Resource Center by visiting <https://disability.ufl.edu/students/get-started/>. It is important for students to share their accommodation letter with their instructor and discuss their access needs, as early as possible in the semester.

**Health and Wellness:** If you are experiencing personal problems that are interfering with your studies, you are encouraged to take advantage of the available university resources:

- *U Matter, We Care:* If you or someone you know is in distress, please contact [umatter@ufl.edu](mailto:umatter@ufl.edu), 352-392-1575, or visit <https://umatter.ufl.edu/> to refer or report a concern and a team member will reach out to the student in distress.
- *Counseling and Wellness Center:* Visit <https://counseling.ufl.edu/> or call 352-392-1575 for information on crisis services as well as non-crisis services.
- *Student Health Care Center:* Call 352-392-1161 for 24/7 information to help you find the care you need, or visit <https://shcc.ufl.edu/>.
- *University Police Department:* Visit <https://police.ufl.edu/> or call 352-392-1111 (or 9-1-1 for emergencies).
- *UF Health Shands Emergency Room / Trauma Center:* For immediate medical care call 352-733-0111 or go to the emergency room at 1515 SW Archer Road, Gainesville, FL 32608; <https://ufhealth.org/emergency-room-trauma-center>.

**University Honesty Policy:** UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge which states, "We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honor and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code. 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. 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 or TAs in this class.

**Course Evaluations:** Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. Guidance on how to give feedback in a professional and respectful manner is available at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/students/>. Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens, and can complete evaluations through the email they receive from GatorEvals, in their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals, or via [ufl.bluer.com/ufl/](https://ufl.bluer.com/ufl/). Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/>.

**Spring 2020 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 notify the class of any changes as they arise. Dates for exams will not change except for university wide cancellation of courses. (BB=Bare Bones)

Date	Day	Topic	Assigned Reading	Assignment
6 Jan	M	Introduction and Ethics	Syllabus	
8 Jan	W	The history of forensic anthropology	BB Ch 2	
10 Jan	F	Medicolegal aspects of death	BB Ch 1,3	
13 Jan	M	Field protocols and procedures	BB Ch 3	
15 Jan	W	Lab protocols and procedures	BB Ch 3	
17 Jan	F	Bias	Canvas Readings	In-Class Discussion 1
20 Jan	M	<b>HOLIDAY – NO CLASS</b>		
22 Jan	W	Taphonomy	BB Ch 4	
24 Jan	F	Postmortem interval	BB Ch 4	
27 Jan	M	Skeletal biology	BB Ch 4	
29 Jan	W	<b>Exam 1</b> (covers 6 Jan-24 Jan)		
31 Jan	F	Human vs on-human	BB Ch 4	
3 Feb	M	Osteology I	BB Ch 5	
5 Feb	W	Osteology II	BB Ch 5	
7 Feb	F	Biological profile: Age at death	BB Ch 8	
10 Feb	M	Biological profile: Sex	BB CH 6	Project Topics, Roles Due
12 Feb	W	Race and Racism	Canvas Readings	In-Class Discussion 2
14 Feb	F	Biological profile: Ancestry	BB Ch 7	

17 Feb	M	Biological profile: Stature	BB Ch 9	
19 Feb	W	Biological profile: Osteometrics	BB Ch 5	
21 Feb	F	Biological profile: Individualizing characteristics	BB Ch 10	
24 Feb	M	Sex Estimation	Canvas Readings	In-Class Discussion 3
26 Feb	W	Pathology	BB Ch 10	
28 Feb	F	<b>Exam 2</b> (covers 27 Jan-24 Feb)		
2 Mar	M	<b>SPRING BREAK – NO CLASS</b>		
4 Mar	W	<b>SPRING BREAK – NO CLASS</b>		
6 Mar	F	<b>SPRING BREAK – NO CLASS</b>		
9 Mar	M	Forensic Reconstruction	BB Ch 11	
11 Mar	W	Burned bones and chemical damage	BB Ch 13	
13 Mar	F	Fracture mechanics and postmortem vs antemortem		
16 Mar	M	Sharp force trauma	BB Ch 12	
18 Mar	W	Blunt force trauma	BB Ch 12	
20 Mar	F	Trauma Experiments	Canvas Readings	In-Class Discussion 4
23 Mar	M	Ballistics/bomb blast	BB Ch 12	
25 Mar	W	Mass fatalities/human rights	BB Ch 14, 15	
27 Mar	F	Minimum Number of Individuals and Commingling	Canvas Readings	In-Class Discussion 5
30 Mar	M	Current Research		
1 Apr	W	Forensic anthropology career	BB Ch 16	
3 Apr	F	The other forensic sciences		
6 Apr	M	<b>(AAA at EB meeting) – Canvas Links</b>	Canvas Suggestions	
8 Apr	W	<b>Exam 3</b> (covers 26 Feb-1 Apr)		
10 Apr	F	Group Presentations – Case Histories		
13 Apr	M	Group Presentations – Case Histories		
15 Apr	W	<b>(AAPA meeting) – Canvas Links</b>	Canvas Suggestions	
17 Apr	F	<b>(AAPA meeting) – Canvas Links</b>	Canvas Suggestions	
20 Apr	M	Group Presentations – Case Histories		
22 Apr	W	Group Presentations – Case Histories		Group, peer, self-evaluations due