

# **SKELETON KEYS: FORENSIC IDENTIFICATION ANT3520: Course 28185**

**Tuesday 3:00PM-4:55PM** [LIT 0237](#)  
**Thursday 4:05PM – 4:55PM** [CSE E222](#)

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**Instructor:** Isis Dwyer  
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**Office Hours:** Wed. 2pm-5pm or by appointment

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## **Course Objectives:**

This course introduces 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 graphic images of human remains. Please consider your reaction to this material before taking this course. You will be responsible for all course material.**

## **Course Materials:**

Required: Warren, Michael W., et al. *Bare bones: A survey of forensic anthropology*. Kendall Hunt Publishing Company, 2011.

Any additional readings will be provided by the instructor and posted on Canvas. Advanced warning will be given in class and via Canvas 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 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. Lecture slides will not be posted on Canvas.

**Electronics:** Cell phones, iPods, MP3 players, and other mobile devices are permitted during class time if they are not disruptive to the class. Recordings or photographing of the slides, presentations or lectures are not allowed unless permission is given by the instructor. If the use of these devices is disruptive to the class, and you do not comply when asked to stop the disruptive behavior, you will be asked to leave the lecture.

**Grading:** There will be three (3) exams worth 100 points each (300pts 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:

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

Letter grades are assigned based on the following scale:

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

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 October 31<sup>st</sup>, 2023. 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 December 9th, 2023 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 December 9th, 2023 at 11:59pm EST. File formats that cannot be viewed by the instructor will not receive credit.

**Accommodations:** Students requesting classroom accommodation should first register with the Disability Resources Office (<https://disability.ufl.edu/>) 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. 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 ‘

**Honor Code:** Students are expected to uphold the UF student Honor Code. Plagiarism and/or cheating on any exam, assignment, or quiz will not be tolerated. Plagiarism is representing the work of another as all or any portion of student's own work. This includes quoting published or unpublished work without proper attribution. Students found to be engaging in these behaviors will receive zero (0) points for that exam, assignment, or quiz. Plagiarism will result in zero (0) credit regardless of the student's intent. Disciplinary action will follow university policy outlined by the Dean of Students. See <https://sccr.dso.ufl.edu/students/student-conduct-code/>

**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/quiz if practicable. If a student misses an exam, quiz, 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 exam(s) may differ from that of regularly scheduled 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.

**Fall 2023 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 will be assigned and announced on the Canvas site.

	Date	Day	Topic	Assigned Reading	Assignments Due
<b>Week 1</b>	24 Aug.	Thursday	Introduction & Expectations	Syllabus	
<b>Week 2</b>	29 Aug.	Tuesday	What Is Forensic Anthropology		
	31 Aug.	Thursday	History of Forensic Anthropology	Chapter 2	
<b>Week 3</b>	5 Sep.	Tuesday	Medicolegal Aspects of Death	Chapters 1,3	Assignment 1
	7 Sept.	Thursday	Field Protocols and Procedures	Chapter 3	
<b>Week 4</b>	12 Sept.	Tuesday	Lab Protocols and Procedures	Chapter 3	
	14 Sept.	Thursday	Postmortem Interval and Taphonomy	Chapter 4	
<b>Week 5</b>	19 Sept.	Tuesday	Skeletal Biology and Human vs Non-human	Chapter 4	Assignment 2
	21 Sept.	Thursday	Osteology Part I	Chapter 5	
<b>Week 6</b>	26 Sept.	Tuesday	EXAM 1 (covers 27 Aug- 19 Sept)		
	28 Sept.	Thursday	Osteology Part II	Chapter 5	
<b>Week 7</b>	3 Oct	Tuesday	Biological Profile: Age at Death	Chapter 8	Assignment 3
	5 Oct.	Thursday	Biological Profile: Ancestry and Race	Chapter 7	
<b>Week 8</b>	10 Oct.	Tuesday	Biological Profile: Sex	Chapter 6	
	12 Oct.	Thursday	Biological Profile: Osteometrics/Stature	Chapters 5,9	
<b>Week 9</b>	17 Oct.	Tuesday	Biological Profile: Individualizing Characteristics	Chapter 10	Assignment 4
	19 Oct.	Thursday	Pathology	Chapter 10	
<b>Week 10</b>	24 Oct.	Tuesday	Forensic Reconstruction	Chapter 11	
	26 Oct.	Thursday	Fracture Mechanics and Postmortem vs Antemortem	Chapter 12	
<b>Week 11</b>	31 Oct.	Tuesday	EXAM 2 (covers 21 Sept-19 Oct)		
	2 Nov.	Thursday	Sharp Force Trauma	Chapter 12	
<b>Week 12</b>	7 Nov.	Tuesday	Blunt Force Trauma	Chapter 12	Assignment 5
	9 Nov.	Thursday	Burned Bones and Chemical Damage	Chapter 13	
<b>Week 13</b>	14 Nov.	Tuesday	Ballistics/Bomb Blast	Chapter 12	
	16 Nov.	Thursday	Mass Fatalities/Human Rights	Chapters 14, 15	
<b>Week 14</b>	21 Nov.	Tuesday	Historic Cases		
	23 Nov.	Thursday	THANKSGIVING BREAK – NO CLASS		
<b>Week 15</b>	28 Nov.	Tuesday	Beyond Forensic Anthropology		Assignment 6
	30 Nov.	Thursday	Careers in Forensic Anthropology/Ethics	Chapter 16	
<b>Week 16</b>	5 Dec	Tuesday	EXAM 3 (covers 29 Oct – 28 Nov)		
	9 Dec.	Saturday			Extra-Credit Final Paper

