

ANT 3520: Class # 10452
Skeleton Keys: Forensic Identification (Fall 2022)

Location: Turlington 2319

Class Times:

- Tuesdays 3:00-4:55 pm (Periods 8-9)
- Thursdays 4:05-4:55 pm (Period 9)

Instructor: Rose Bryson, MSc.

Email: ebryson@ufl.edu **When emailing please include "Skeleton Keys" in the subject line.*

Office Hours: TBD

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

Required Textbook:

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.*

*****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 Policies

Attendance

Lectures will be held in-person and you're expected to attend the lectures at the scheduled time with all assigned readings completed **before each lecture**. This is requested in order to facilitate a good discussion, and a critical understanding of the material. **Attendance will not be taken, but**

lectures will not be distributed by the instructor outside of class and PowerPoints will not be posted on Canvas.

- **Regarding COVID-19:** If you are able to do so, please get vaccinated. You are welcome to wear a mask in class. Do not attend class if you are sick, get tested as soon as possible, and email your instructor to inform them you'll be missing class. Accommodations will be made.

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 **before missing class** 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

Although students are allowed to record video or audio of class lectures, only to the extent required by law, **no images of human remains may be recorded or shared at any point.** Please discuss your intentions with the instructor **before** class, and before recording.

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 (x5)	100	20
Group Project: Case Histories	100	20

Letter grades are assigned based on the following scale:

A	93% or above	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 %	F	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) online through Canvas using HonorLock. 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, and videos shown in-class.

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. 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 the instructor 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, 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 352-3921575 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.bluera.com/ufl/. Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/>.

Fall 2022 Topics and Readings Schedule

Below you'll find 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	Readings	Assignment
25-Aug	Thursday	Introduction, Ethics & History of the field	Syllabus BB Ch2	
29-Aug	Tuesday	Medicolegal aspects of death	BB Ch1,3	
1-Sept	Thursday	Protocol & Procedures	BB Ch 3	
6-Sept	Tuesday	Discussion: Bias	Canvas Readings	In-Class Discussion
8-Sept	Thursday	Taphonomy & Postmortem interval	BB Ch 4	
13-Sept	Tuesday	EXAM 1		
15-Sept	Thursday	Skeletal Biology & Human vs. Non-Human	BB Ch 4	
20-Sept	Tuesday	Osteology	BB Ch 5	
22-Sept	Thursday	Biological Profile: Age at death	BB Ch 8	
27-Sept	Tuesday	Biological Profile: Sex	BB Ch 6	
29-Sept	Thursday	Biological Profile: Stature & Ancestry	BB Ch 7,9	Project Topics and Roles due
4-Oct	Tuesday	Discussion: Race	Canvas Readings	In-Class Discussion
6-Oct	Thursday	Osteometrics & individual characteristics	BB Ch 5,10	
11-Oct	Tuesday	EXAM 2		
13-Oct	Thursday	Pathology & forensic reconstruction	BB Ch 10, 11	

18-Oct	Tuesday	Discussion: Pathology	Canvas Readings	In-Class Discussion
20-Oct	Thursday	Fracture mechanics and chemical damage	BB Ch 13	
25-Oct	Tuesday	Trauma	BB Ch 12	
27-Oct	Thursday	Trauma (cont.) and Ballistics	BB Ch 12	
1-Nov	Tuesday	Discussion: Trauma	Canvas Readings	In-Class Discussion
3-Nov	Thursday	Mass fatalities & human rights	Ch 14, 15	
8-Nov	Tuesday	Discussion: MNI and Commingling	Canvas Readings	In-Class Discussion
10-Nov	Thursday	Research and Careers	BB Ch 16	
15-Nov	Tuesday	Other forensic sciences		
17-Nov	Thursday	EXAM 3		
22-Nov	Tuesday	TBD		
24-Nov	Thursday	HOLIDAY: No Class		
29-Nov to 6-Dec	T/Th/T	Group Presentations		Evaluations Due