

**ANT 3520 Skeleton Keys: Forensic Identification
Fall 2021**

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

Location: Turlington Hall 2319 (Class #10495, Section 17CG)

Instructor: Megan LeBlanc

Email: leblanc.megan94@gmail.com

Office Hours: Tuesdays 11am-12pm, Thursdays 1:45-3:45pm

Office Location: Turlington B327

I will be in my office during the times listed above. There is also the option for you to schedule a zoom office hours appointment during these times. See the "Zoom Conferences" tab on canvas to access my personal meeting room link.

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: 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: You are expected to attend the lectures at the scheduled time with all assigned readings completed *before* each lecture in order to facilitate discussion and understanding of the material. **Attendance will not be taken, but lectures will not be**

distributed by the instructor outside of class and PowerPoint will not be posted on Canvas. Lectures will be held in-person. A hyflex option will be available to students who are quarantining and/or isolating due to exposure to or testing positive for COVID-19. The instructor will monitor guidelines released by the university related to COVID-19.

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: 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 (300 pts total). These exams are not cumulative and contribute equally to your final grade. Five in-class assignments 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 Assignments	100	20
Group Project	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) in class. This might change due to changing COVID-19 conditions and university guidelines. A study guide for each exam will be posted to canvas.

Class assignments: Throughout the semester there will be several assignments where students will be required to submit work during the class period. The purpose of each of these assignments is to foster debate and discussion on important topics, and most will require supplemental reading that will be assigned over Canvas.

Group Project: Each group will pick a real case or event where forensic anthropology was utilized and then create a 10-minute presentation for the class. Topics and group member roles should be submitted to the instructor for approval on September 30th at 11:59pm. Presentations will be given during finals week on December 16th from 10am-12pm. As part of this assignment, students will individually submit team, peer, and self-evaluations to the instructor. Specific details and instructions will be provided in class. This project will be worth 100 points total. Each group will have 5-6 members.

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, 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:

“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/. Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/>.

In-Class Recording: Students are allowed to record video or audio of class lectures. However, the purposes for which these recordings may be used are strictly controlled. The only allowable purposes are (1) for personal educational use, (2) in connection with a complaint to the

university, or (3) as evidence in, or in preparation for, a criminal or civil proceeding. All other purposes are prohibited. Specifically, students may not publish recorded lectures without the written consent of the instructor.

A “class lecture” is an educational presentation intended to inform or teach enrolled students about a particular subject, including any instructor-led discussions that form part of the presentation, and delivered by any instructor hired or appointed by the University, or by a guest instructor, as part of a University of Florida course. A class lecture does not include lab sessions, student presentations, clinical presentations such as patient history, academic exercises involving solely student participation, assessments (quizzes, tests, exams), field trips, private conversations between students in the class or between a student and the faculty or lecturer during a class session.

Publication without permission of the instructor is prohibited. To “publish” means to share, transmit, circulate, distribute, or provide access to a recording, regardless of format or medium, to another person (or persons), including but not limited to another student within the same class section. Additionally, a recording, or transcript of a recording, is considered published if it is posted on or uploaded to, in whole or in part, any media platform, including but not limited to social media, book, magazine, newspaper, leaflet, or third party note/tutoring services. A student who publishes a recording without written consent may be subject to a civil cause of action instituted by a person injured by the publication and/or discipline under UF Regulation 4.040 Student Honor Code and Student Conduct Code.

Fall 2021 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. (BB=Bare Bones)

Date	Day	Topic	Assigned Reading	Assignment
24-Aug	T	Syllabus Introduction: Ethics, & history of forensic anthropology	Syllabus BB Ch 2 (if possible read before first day of class)	
26-Aug	R	Medicolegal aspects of death	BB Ch 1	
31-Aug	T	Field & Lab protocols & procedures	BB Ch 3	
2-Sept	R	Taphonomy & Postmortem interval		
7-Sept	T	Skeletal biology & Human vs non-human	BB Ch 4	
9-Sept	R	<i>Bias</i>	<i>Canvas Readings</i>	<i>In-class Discussion 1</i>

14-Sept	T	Group Presentation Intro; Get into Groups		
16-Sept	R	<i>Catch up and review</i>		
21-Sept	T	Exam 1		
23-Sept	R	Osteology	BB Ch 5 (pp. 65-82)	
28-Sept	T	Osteology (cont.) Biological profile: Osteometry	BB Ch 5 (pp. 83-86)	<i>Biological profile: Osteometry (in-class discussion 2)</i>
30-Sept	R	Biological profile: Age at death	BB Ch 8	Project Topics, Roles Due
5-Oct	T	Biological profile: Sex	BB Ch 6	
7-Oct	R	<i>Sex, Gender, and Identity</i>	<i>Canvas Reading</i>	<i>In class-discussion 3</i>
12-Oct	T	Biological profile: Ancestry & Stature	BB Ch 7 & Ch 9	
14-Oct	R	<i>Race and Racism</i>	<i>Canvas Readings</i>	<i>In-Class Discussion 4</i>
19-Oct	T	Biological profile: Individualizing characteristics	BB Ch 10	
21-Oct	R	<i>Catch up and Review</i>		
26-Oct	T	Exam 2		
28-Oct	R	Forensic Reconstruction	BB Ch 11	
2-Nov	T	Fracture mechanics & postmortem vs antemortem	BB Ch 12 (pp. 211-215)	<i>Project Outline Due</i>
4-Nov	R	Burned bones and chemical damage	BB Ch 13	
9-Nov	T	Blunt force trauma, sharp force trauma, and ballistics	BB Ch 12 (pp. 215-229)	
11-Nov	R	NO CLASS		
16-Nov	T	<i>Trauma Experiments & Recognizing Trauma</i>	<i>Canvas Readings</i>	<i>In-Class Assignment 5</i>
18-Nov	R	<i>Meet with Project Groups</i>		

23-Nov	T	Mass fatalities/human rights	BB Ch 14,15	
24-28 Nov		THANKSGIVING BREAK		
30-Nov	T	Forensic anthropology careers & the other Forensic sciences	BB Ch 16	
2-Dec	R	<i>Catch up and Review</i>		
7-Dec	T	Exam 3		
9-10-Dec		READING DAYS		
16-Dec	10am-12pm	GROUP PRESENTATIONS		Group, peer, and self-evaluations due