

ANT 3520: Class # 10534  
**Skeleton Keys: Forensic Identification (Spring 2023)**

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**Location:** Williamson 0100 (WM)

**Class Time:** MWF 11:45-12:35 (Period 5)

**Instructor:** Rose Bryson, MSc.

**Email:** [ebryson@ufl.edu](mailto: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 instead is 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.\*\*\***

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## 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
Out-of-Class Assignments (x5)	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) in class using scantron ballots. All exam materials will be provided. Each exam is worth 100 points. Exams may include a combination of multiple choice, fill in the blank, labeling, true/false, and short-answer questions. Exam material will include information from the lectures, textbook, or videos shown in-class.

### **Assignments**

Five (5) assignments will be given throughout the semester to be completed at home before class on due date (see schedule below). Assignments will cover a variety of topics related to the current module to test students' knowledge of the subject and serve as preparation for the upcoming Exam.

### **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
- Images/graphs/diagrams to clarify the case, critiques, assessment
- References Cited & 2 discussion questions for the class

### **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 352-3921575 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.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 2023 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)

Week	Date	Day	Topic	Readings
1	Jan 9-13	MWF	Introduction, Ethics, History, & Medicolegal aspects of death	Syllabus BB Ch 1, 2, 3
2	Jan 18 - 20	W, F	<b>Monday: HOLIDAY (No Class)</b> Wed/Fri: Protocols & Procedures	
3	Jan 23 - 27	MWF	Taphonomy & Postmortem Interval <b>Assignment #1 Due</b>	BB Ch 4 Canvas Reading
4	Jan 30 - Feb 3	MWF	<b>EXAM #1</b> Skeletal Biology & Spatial Relationships	
5	Feb 6 - 10	MWF	Osteology & Osteometrics Human Vs. Non-Human Identification	BB Ch 5
6	Feb 13-17	MWF	Biological Profile: Age, Sex & Stature	BB Ch 6, 7, 8
7	Feb 20-24	MWF	Biological Profile: Ancestry <b>Assignment #2 Due</b>	BB Ch 9 Canvas Reading
8	Feb 27- Mar 3	MWF	Individual Characteristics & Review <b>EXAM #2</b>	BB Ch 10
9	Mar 6 - 10	MWF	Pathology & Forensic Reconstruction Fracture Mechanics <b>Assignment #3 Due</b>	BB Ch 11, 13
10	Mar 13-17	MWF	<b>HOLIDAY: Spring Break (No Class)</b>	
11	Mar 20-24	MWF	Trauma –Blunt & Sharp Force, Ballistics <b>Assignment #4 Due</b>	BB Ch 12
12	Mar 27-31	MWF	Trauma – Fire & Heat Damage Mass Fatalities, Human Rights	BB Ch 14,15
13	Apr 3-7	MWF	MNI and Commingling <b>Assignment #5 Due</b>	BB Ch 15
14	Apr 10-14	MWF	Research and Careers <b>EXAM #3</b>	BB Ch 16
15	Apr 17-21	MWF	Group Presentations	
16	Apr 24-26	M, W	Group Presentations	