

## **ANT 3520 Skeleton Keys: Forensic Identification Spring 2021**

**Class Times:** Monday, Wednesday, Friday 11:45-12:35 (Period 5)

**Location:** Turlington Hall L005 (Class # 10669), Online (Class # 27083)

**Instructor:** Jordan Traff

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

**Office Hours:** TBA

**TA:** Matthew Newton

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

**Office Hours:** TBA

*Due to COVID-19 concerns, office hours will be held over Zoom and through email only\**

Because we expect a higher number of online communication this semester, please use Canvas messaging to contact the instructor or TA. If you do use email, please make sure to include "Skeleton Keys" or "ANT 3520" in the subject line.

**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 PowerPoints will not be posted on Canvas.** Lectures will be held in-person and over Zoom simultaneously, therefore if you are attending the online section you should sign in at the assigned class time.

**COVID-19 Statement:** Our class sessions may be audio/visually recorded. Students who participate with their camera engaged or utilize a profile image are agreeing to have their video or image recorded. If you are unwilling to consent to have your profile or video image recorded, be sure to keep your camera off and do not use a profile image. Likewise, students who un-mute during class and participate orally are agreeing to have their voices recorded. If you are not willing to consent to have your voice recorded during class, you will need to keep your mute button activated and communicate exclusively using the "chat" feature, which allows students to type questions and comments live. The chat will not be recorded or shared. As in all courses, unauthorized recording is prohibited.

**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 (300pts 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:

<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) 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, videos shown in-class.

**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. For these assignments, students will work in groups assigned by the instructor. These groups will be consistent through the semester and will also be used for the group project.

**Group Project:** Each group will pick a real case or event where forensic anthropology was utilized and then create a presentation for the class. Topics and group member roles should be submitted to the instructor for approval by the

date noted in the schedule below. Presentations will be recorded and uploaded to Canvas near the end of the semester so that everyone can view and comment on them. 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.

**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 352-3921575 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/](http://ufl.bluera.com/ufl/). Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/>.

**Spring 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
11-Jan	M	Introduction and Ethics	Syllabus	
13-Jan	W	The history of forensic anthropology	BB Ch 2	
15-Jan	F	Medicolegal aspects of death	BB Ch 1,3	
18-Jan	M	HOLIDAY		

<b>20-Jan</b>	W	Field protocols and procedures	BB Ch 3	
<b>22-Jan</b>	F	Lab protocols and procedures	BB Ch 3	
<b>25-Jan</b>	M	<i>Bias</i>	<i>Canvas Readings</i>	<i>In-Class Discussion 1</i>
<b>27-Jan</b>	W	Taphonomy	BB Ch 4	
<b>29-Jan</b>	F	Postmortem interval	BB Ch 4	
<b>1-Feb</b>	M	Skeletal biology	BB Ch 4	
<b>3-Feb</b>	W	Human vs non-human	BB Ch 4	
<b>5-Feb</b>	F	<i>Catchup and review</i>		
<b>8-Feb</b>	M	<b>Exam 1</b>		
<b>10-Feb</b>	W	Osteology I	BB Ch 5	
<b>12-Feb</b>	F	Osteology II	BB Ch 5	
<b>15-Feb</b>	M	Biological profile: Age at death	BB Ch 8	Project Topics, Roles Due
<b>17-Feb</b>	W	Biological profile: Sex	BB CH 6	
<b>19-Feb</b>	F	<i>Race and Racism</i>	<i>Canvas Readings</i>	<i>In-Class Discussion 2</i>
<b>22-Feb</b>	M	Biological profile: Ancestry	BB Ch 7	
<b>24-Feb</b>	W	Biological profile: Stature	BB Ch 9	
<b>26-Feb</b>	F	Biological profile: Osteometrics	BB Ch 5	
<b>1-Mar</b>	M	Biological profile: Individualizing characteristics	BB Ch 10	
<b>3-Mar</b>	W	Pathology	BB Ch 10	
<b>5-Mar</b>	F	Catch-up and review		
<b>8-Mar</b>	M	<b>Exam 2</b>		
<b>10-Mar</b>	W	<i>Biological Profile</i>		<i>In-Class Assignment 3</i>
<b>12-Mar</b>	F	<i>Profile Discussion</i>		

<b>15-Mar</b>	M	Forensic Reconstruction	BB Ch 11	
<b>17-Mar</b>	W	Burned bones and chemical damage	BB Ch 13	Project Outline Due
<b>19-Mar</b>	F	Fracture mechanics and postmortem vs antemortem		
<b>22-Mar</b>	M	Blunt force trauma	BB Ch 12	
<b>24-Mar</b>	W	RECHARGE DAY		
<b>26-Mar</b>	F	<i>Trauma Experiments</i>	<i>Canvas Readings</i>	<i>In-Class Assignment 4</i>
<b>29-Mar</b>	M	Sharp force trauma and ballistics	BB Ch 12	
<b>31-Mar</b>	W	Mass fatalities/human rights	BB Ch 14,15	
<b>2-Apr</b>	F	<i>Recognizing Trauma</i>		<i>In-Class Assignment 5</i>
<b>5-Apr</b>	M	Forensic anthropology career	BB Ch 16	
<b>7-Apr</b>	W	The other forensic sciences		
<b>9-Apr</b>	F	Catchup and review		
<b>12-Apr</b>	M	<b>Exam 3</b>		
<b>14-Apr</b>	W	Group Presentations		
<b>16-Apr</b>	F	Group Presentations		
<b>19-Apr</b>	M	Group Presentations		
<b>21-Apr</b>	W	Group Presentations		Group, peer, and self-evaluations due