

ANT 3520: Section 4853
Skeleton Keys: Introduction to Forensic Anthropology
Fall 2015

Instructor: Janet Finlayson, M.A.
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Instructor Office: TUR B325

Class Times: T 8-9, R 9
Location: Turlington L011
Instructor Office Hours: T 1:00-2:30, R 2:00-3:30, and by appt

Grader: Katie Rubin, M.S.
Grader Office: TUR B325

Email: krubin@ufl.edu
Grader Office Hours: W 3:15-6:15

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 the 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 trauma and postmortem damage

****Some lectures will include disturbing and graphic images. Consider your reaction to this material before taking this course. You will be responsible for all course material.****

Course Materials:

Required: Warren MW et al. 2011 Bare Bones: A Survey of Forensic Anthropology. 2nd edition. Kendall-Hunt Publishing.

Additional readings may be provided by the instructor and posted on Canvas. Advance 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; this includes posting Power Point presentations to Canvas.** If you are unable to attend class, you should get the information covered that day from another student.

Submission of in-class activities during each class meeting will be counted as record of your attendance, and comprise part of your course grade.

Cell phones, iPods, MP3 players, and any other mobile devices must be turned off during class time. Computers may be used for note-taking purposes only. Recording devices are prohibited, except with instructor permission.

Grading:

There will be three (3) in-class exams worth 100 points each, and in-class participation/attendance activities worth 25 points total (1 point each). These exams are not cumulative and contribute equally to your final grade. Final grades will be calculated as a percentage of the total available points (325) and graded using the following scale:

Grade	%	Grade	%
A	93-100	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	E	≤ 59

Information on current UF grading policies for assigning grade points can be found here: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx>

Cheating during exams will not be tolerated. Students found cheating will receive a score of zero (0) points for the exam. Disciplinary action will follow university policy as outlined by the Dean of Students. See <http://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/honorcodes/honorcode.php> for more information on student academic honesty, rights, responsibilities, and behavior consequences.

Exams:

Exams are to be taken on the scheduled day (see below). If the student is unable to take the exam at its scheduled time, it is the student's responsibility to notify the instructor at least 2 business days before the exam so that the necessary arrangements can be made. Exams that are missed due to medical or family emergencies may only be made up after presenting the instructor with documented evidence of the emergency. Make-up exams will not be arranged for students who are simply unhappy with their test scores or for students who missed the exam for any reason other than a documented emergency. If you miss a test without making the appropriate arrangements, you will be assigned a grade of E (0 points) for that exam. 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).

Extra Credit:

At the discretion of the instructor, extra credit opportunities *may* be provided. *If* provided, extra credit will be available to all students, and not on an individual student basis.

Miscellaneous:

Students requesting classroom accommodation should first register with the Dean of Students Office (<http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/>), who will then provide the necessary documentation for the course instructor. Please do this no later than two (2) weeks after the first day of class.

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

Fall 2015 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.

Date	Day	Topic	Assigned Reading
25 Aug	T	Introduction What is forensic anthropology?	Syllabus
27 Aug	R	The history of forensic anthropology	Chapter 2
1 Sep	T	Medicolegal system	Chapter 1
3 Sep	R	VIDEO: <i>L.A. County Coroner's Office</i>	
8 Sep	T	Remains Recovery and Processing	Chapter 3
10 Sep	R	Time since death and taphonomy	Chapter 4
15 Sep	T	Skeletal biology and osteology	Chapter 5; Also see Canvas
17 Sep	R	Osteometry Human vs. non-human remains	Chapter 5
22 Sep	T	EXAM #1	
25 Sep	R	Biological profile I: Biological sex	Chapter 6
29 Sep	T	Biological profile II: Age at death Biological profile III: Ancestry	Chapter 7 Chapter 8
1 Oct	R	Biological profile IV: Stature Statistics and reference populations	Chapter 9
6 Oct	T	Individualizing characteristics and personal identification VIDEO: <i>Unfleshed: The Story of Dr. Maples</i>	Chapter 10
8 Oct	R	Forensic reconstructions and forensic art	Chapter 11
13 Oct	T	Pathology	See Canvas
15 Oct	R	Fracture mechanics	Chapter 12
20 Oct	T	Trauma I: Antemortem Trauma	Chapter 12
22 Oct	R	VIDEO: <i>Skeleton Stories</i>	
27 Oct	T	EXAM #2	
29 Oct	R	Trauma II: Blunt force trauma	Chapter 12
3 Nov	T	Trauma III: Sharp force trauma Ballistics and gunshot wounds	Chapter 12
5 Nov	R	Burned bodies	Chapter 13
10 Nov	T	Cremated remains Ritual use of human remains	Chapter 13 See Canvas
12 Nov	R	Military field recoveries and identifications	Chapter 15
17 Nov	T	Human rights investigations and mass fatalities	Chapter 14
19 Nov	R	Historic cases	See Canvas
24 Nov	T	The profession of forensic anthropology and other forensic sciences	Chapter 16
26 Nov	R	NO CLASS - THANKSGIVING	

Date	Day	Topic	Assigned Reading
1 Dec	T	Ethics VIDEO: <i>Mystery of the Romanovs</i>	See Canvas
3 Dec	R	Review	Bring questions
8 Dec	T	EXAM #3	