

**ANT 3520 (Online) Spring 2014**  
**Skeleton Keys: Introduction to Forensic Anthropology**

**DLTA:** Ms. Carrie A. Brown, MA      **Class Time/Location:** Online  
**Email:** cbrown311@ufl.edu      **“Office” Hours:** T/R 6:00 – 8:00 PM (online) &  
**Office:** Online      by appointment (via telephone or online)

Please note: When e-mailing, include “ANT 3520” in the subject line.

**COURSE GOALS**

- *Introduction to principles of the recovery and analysis of human skeletal remains*

This course provides a broad overview of forensic anthropology – an applied field of biological anthropology. Forensic anthropology focuses the wider scope of human skeletal biology on problems of medico-legal significance, primarily in the determination of personal identity and cause of death from skeletonized human remains.

- *Theoretical and methodological approaches to determination of the biological profile and postmortem interval, and the interpretation of trauma and pathology*

This course does not teach proficiency in forensic anthropology techniques; however, students will complete the course with an appreciation for the role of the forensic anthropologist in a range of laboratory and field settings.

- *Applications/implications of forensic anthropology in broad scientific and social contexts*

This course discusses the full range of problems associated with human skeletal identification and trauma analysis. These problems will serve as a model for understanding the broader aspects of this field of applied anthropology.

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

**REQUIRED TEXT**

**Warren *et al.* (2011) *Bare Bones: A Survey of Forensic Anthropology, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition.*  
Kendall-Hunt Publishing Co.**

Please note: The second edition is the required text for the course, but a first edition textbook is acceptable. Additional materials (in the form of handouts and supplemental readings, *etc.*) will be provided by the instructor and posted on the course website.

**RECOMMENDED TEXT**

Maples and Browning (1995) *Dead Men Do Tell Tales: The Strange and Fascinating Cases of a Forensic Anthropologist.* Broadway Books.

## GRADING

Final grades will be calculated as a percentage of the total available points as follows:

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

Note: After summing all unrounded scores, final grades that include any fraction of a point will be rounded up to the next whole percentage point (*e.g.*, a 92.7 → 93; 89.1 → 90, but 90.0→90). No other adjustments are made.

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

## COURSE MECHANICS

To facilitate self-motivated distance learning, this online course is arranged in sixteen (16) modules (one per week). **ALL** work for each module **MUST** be completed during the **five-day window** for that week (between 8:00 am on Monday and 11:55 pm on Friday). The specific learning objectives, assignments, and due dates associated with each module are posted on the course website.

Comprehension of the syllabus and class policies is essential. An online syllabus/course handbook quiz will be **taken during Week 1**; this represents the only opportunity for **extra credit** in this course. If failed, it must be re-taken until the student has passed.

There will be sixteen (16) non-cumulative, online multiple-choice **quizzes** (*i.e.*, one quiz per module). Each quiz is worth ten (10) points. Combined, these sixteen quizzes constitute approximately **45%** of the final grade.

Each student will complete fourteen (14) **online activities** (*e.g.*, decision tree, short essay). One activity is assigned for each module of the course (except 1 and 16). Together, these online activities constitute approximately **30%** of the final grade (5-10 points/activity).

**Group discussion** and online participation constitute **20%** of the final grade (10 points/discussion). There are a total of seven (7) assigned discussions (approximately one every other week). Each student must post to the course's online discussion boards a minimum of one (1) original comment and two (2) responses to others' threads and discussions **for each assigned discussion**, for a total of seven (7) original comments and fourteen (14) responses. Online discussion group will be assigned by the instructor.

Each student will complete a **final paper** synthesizing ideas from at least three (3) different *Skeleton Keys* modules. The paper is worth 20 points (approximately **5%** of the final grade). Details about the final paper will be provided on the course website.

## **ONLINE “ATTENDANCE”**

Students who will be missing quizzes, activities, or discussions due to **documented**, excused absences must notify the instructor of the planned absence **no less than 48 hours** before the absence. No arrangements for make-up work will be offered after the Friday deadline, except for illness/family emergency (documentation must be procured through Dean of Students Office). Excused absences include: illness, family emergencies, special curricular requirements, military obligation, severe weather conditions, religious holidays, and participation in official university activities.

Although this is an online course, students are expected to view ***all links*** posted on the course’s website (*e.g.*, lecture videos, films, articles) and are responsible for all material covered therein. Attention to these materials is essential for success in this course, as material for quizzes, activities, and discussion topics may be drawn from any of them.

## **OTHER POLICIES**

Plagiarism and cheating in any form are subject to university policy as outlined by the Dean of Students (<http://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honor-code/>).

Students requesting classroom accommodation must 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

## Spring 2014: Skeleton Keys Course Outline and Lecture Schedule

See course website for assignments and deadlines – DUE DATES document

DATES	TOPIC	WHAT TO READ	WHAT TO WATCH
<b><i>INTRODUCTORY MODULE</i></b>			
<b>6-10 Jan</b>	Introduction and Ground Rules: what to expect from an online course; syllabus review; course handbook.	Syllabus, Course Handbook (online)	Welcome Video, Course Navigation Video
<b><i>MODULE 1: The history of forensic anthropology</i></b>			
<b>6-10 Jan</b>	What is Forensic Anthropology?	Chapter 2	Lecture Video 1
<b>6-10 Jan</b>	History of Forensic Anthro at UF (and beyond!)	Chapter 2	Lecture Video 2
<b><i>MODULE 2: The medicolegal system</i></b>			
<b>13-17 Jan</b>	Medicolegal Aspects of Death	Chapter 1	Lecture Video 3
<b><i>MODULE 3: Forensic anthropology in the field</i></b>			
<b>21-24 Jan (20 Holiday)</b>	Recovery of Human Remains I: Site Location and Site Survey	Chapter 3, articles on CSI effect (online)	Lecture Video 4
<b>21-24 Jan (20 Holiday)</b>	Recovery of Human Remains II: Mapping, Excavation, and Documentation.	Chapter 3	Lecture Video 5
<b><i>MODULE 4: Forensic anthropology in the laboratory</i></b>			
<b>27-31 Jan</b>	Processing Remains into Evidence	Chapter 3	Lecture Video 6
<b>27-31 Jan</b>	Laboratory Protocols, Procedures, and Quality Assurance	Supplementary “Lab SOP” (online)	Lecture Video 7
<b><i>MODULE 5: Taphonomy – from biosphere to lithosphere</i></b>			
<b>3-7 Feb</b>	What Happens After Death? Part I	Chapter 4	Lecture Video 8
<b>3-7 Feb</b>	What Happens After Death? Part II	Chapter 4,	Lecture Video 9
<b><i>MODULE 6: Anatomy, osteology, measurement, and statistics</i></b>			
<b>10-14 Feb</b>	Skeletal Anatomy and Osteology	Chapter 5	Lecture Video 10
<b>10-14 Feb</b>	Osteometry	Chapter 5	Lecture Video 11
<b><i>MODULE 7: Group Characteristics I: Biological sex</i></b>			
<b>17-21 Feb</b>	Sexual Dimorphism, Birth, and Locomotion	Chapter 6	Lecture Video 12
<b>17-21 Feb</b>	Methods of Sex Determination	Chapter 6	Lecture Video 13
<b><i>MODULE 8: Group Characteristics II: Age-at-death</i></b>			
<b>24-28 Feb</b>	Estimating Age in Children	Chapter 8	Lecture Video 14
<b>24-28 Feb</b>	Estimating Age in Adults	Chapter 8	Lecture Video 15
<b>24-28 Feb</b>	Methods of Age Estimation	Chapter 8	Lecture Video 16
<b><i>MODULE 9: Group Characteristics III: Stature</i></b>			
<b>3-7 Mar</b>	Living vs. Forensic Stature; Methods of Stature Estimation	Chapter 9, Ousley 1995, stature sheet (online)	Lecture Video 17
<b><i>SPRING BREAK 3-7 March – Assignments for Module 9 due 14 March</i></b>			

<b>DATES</b>	<b>TOPIC</b>	<b>WHAT TO READ</b>	<b>WHAT TO WATCH</b>
<b><i>MODULE 10: Group Characteristics IV: "Race"...fact or fiction?</i></b>			
<b>10-14 Mar</b>	Race...Fact or Fiction?	Chapter 7, PBS website, Sauer 1992 (online)	Lecture Video 18
<b>10-14 Mar</b>	Clinal Variation and Population Affinities	Chapter 7	Lecture Video 19
<b>10-14 Mar</b>	Determination of Ancestry: Do anthropologists cheat?	Chapter 7	Lecture Video 20
<b><i>MODULE 11: Individual characteristics and personal identification</i></b>			
<b>17-21 Mar</b>	Individuating Skeletal Characteristics	Chapter 10	Lecture Video 21
<b>17-21 Mar</b>	Ante- and Post-mortem Radiographic Comparison	Chapter 10	Lecture Video 22
<b>17-21 Mar</b>	Personal Identification in Action	Chapter 10	Video: <i>Unfleshed: The Story of Dr. Maples</i>
<b><i>MODULE 12: Forensic art</i></b>			
<b>24-28 Mar</b>	Forensic Reconstructions: Art or science?	Chapter 11	Lecture Video 23; Video: <i>Skeleton Stories</i>
<b><i>MODULE 13: Trauma and cause of death</i></b>			
<b>31 Mar – 4 Apr</b>	Trauma and Cause of Death: Ante- vs. Postmortem	Chapter 12	Lecture Video 24
<b>31 Mar – 4 Apr</b>	Trauma and Cause of Death: Blunt- vs. Sharp-force	Chapter 12	Lecture Video 25
<b>31 Mar – 4 Apr</b>	Trauma and Cause of Death: Ballistics and Gunshots	Chapter 12	Lecture Video 26
<b><i>MODULE 14: Cremation</i></b>			
<b>7-11 Apr</b>	Burned Bodies and Cremated Remains	Chapter 13	Lecture Video 27
<b>7-11 Apr</b>	What Survives Cremation?	Chapter 13	Lecture Video 28
<b><i>MODULE 15: Mass fatalities</i></b>			
<b>14-18 Apr</b>	Mass Fatality Case History I: ValuJet Flight 592	Chapter 14	Lecture Video 29
<b>14-18 Apr</b>	Mass Fatality Case History II: World Trade Center	Chapter 14	Lecture Video 30
<b>14-18 Apr</b>	Mass Fatality Case History III: Hurricane Katrina	Chapter 14	Lecture Video 31
<b><i>MODULE 16: Career paths and applications of forensic anthropology</i></b>			
<b>21-23 Apr</b>	Human Rights Missions	Chapter 15	Lecture Video 32
<b>21-23 Apr</b>	Military Identifications	Chapter 16	JPAC Video links