

Skeleton Keys
Introduction to Forensic Anthropology
ANT 3520
Spring 2013

Instructor: Kristina Ballard

Email: kballard@ufl.edu

Class meeting times and location: MWF 1:55-2:45 pm, Turlington L005

Office hours and location: TBA

Grader: Melissa Ayvaz

Email: ayvaz@ufl.edu

Course Objectives: Upon completion of this course, the student 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

Please note that, due to the nature of forensic anthropology and the study of human remains, students may find some of the images presented during lecture disturbing or graphic. Students who choose to remain in the course will be responsible for knowing all lecture materials.

Required Text: Warren MW *et al.* 2010. *Bare Bones: A Survey of Forensic Anthropology*, 2nd Edition*. Kendall-Hunt Publishing.

*The first edition is an acceptable substitute for the required text if the second edition is unavailable, however, page numbers may differ between editions.

Sections of the above text are assigned to prepare students for lecture and stimulate inquiry. Therefore, reading assignments are to be completed *before* corresponding lecture dates.

Classroom policies: Students are expected to conduct themselves in a respectful manner that facilitates the learning of their peers.

- Cell phones and other communication devices should be *turned off* during lecture
- Video recording devices are not allowed. Audio recording devices may only be used with express consent from the instructor.
- Students should avoid conversation with their classmates during lecture. If a student has a question, the instructor will be more than happy to answer it either in response to a raised hand, an email, or upon being approached immediately after lecture or during office hours.
- Disrespectful comments will not be tolerated

Students who do not abide by these guidelines may be asked to leave the lecture hall by the instructor.

Attendance: Formal attendance will not be taken. However, exams will draw on lecture materials. Therefore, it is in the student's best interest to regularly attend lectures and take notes.

Missed exams may not be made up without prior authorization from the instructor. 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.

Students with disabilities must register with the Disability Resource Center and present the instructor with an accommodation letter as soon as possible to allow enough time for accommodations to be made. Students who fail to make such arrangements by at least 2 business days prior to test time will not be allowed to make up the exam. More information can be found at <http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/current.php>

Grading: Final grades are determined by three non-cumulative exams, each worth 100 points (see schedule for dates) and 5 pop quizzes worth 10 points each. Exams are multiple-choice and based on material from lectures, assigned readings, and videos shown in class. *There will be no extra credit.*

The grading scale is as follows:

A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D+	D	D-	E
93%- 100%	90%- 92%	87%- 89%	83%- 86%	80%- 82%	77%- 79%	73%- 76%	70%- 72%	67%- 69%	63%- 66%	60%- 62%	59% or lower
324- 350 points	315- 323 points	303- 314 points	289- 302 points	280- 288 points	268- 279 points	254- 267 points	245- 253 points	233- 244 points	219- 232 points	209- 218 points	208 or fewer points

Questions about grades are to be addressed to the instructor *before* final grades are posted online.

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.

Course Schedule: Below is a tentative schedule of topics to be discussed over the course of the spring 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. Please note that pop quizzes are not listed on the below schedule.

Date	Lecture Topic	Assigned Reading
7 Jan.	Introduction	
9 Jan.	“What is Forensic Anthropology?”	Chapter 2
11 Jan.	The modern medicolegal system	Chapter 1
14 Jan.	Video: The LA County Coroner’s Office	
16 Jan.	Field recovery	Chapter 3
18 Jan.	Evidence processing	
21 Jan.	Martin Luther King Jr. Day – no class	
23 Jan.	Taphonomy	Chapter 4
25 Jan.	Bone histology	
28 Jan.	Human anatomy	
30 Jan.	Video: Pushing the Limits	
1 Feb.	Human Osteology	Chapter 5
4 Feb.	Osteometry	
6 Feb.	Exam 1 review	
8 Feb.	Exam 1	
11 Feb.	Human vs. non-human	
13 Feb.	Sex assessment	Chapter 6
15 Feb.	Ancestry assessment	Chapter 7
18 Feb.	Age estimation	Chapter 8
20 Feb.	Stature estimation	Chapter 9
22 Feb.	Skeletal pathology	
25 Feb.	Individualizing traits	
27 Feb.	Statistics and reference populations	
1 Mar.	Video: Unfleshed	
2-9 Mar.	Spring Break – no class	
11 Mar.	Exam 2 review	
13 Mar.	Exam 2	
15 Mar.	Video: Skeleton Stories	
18 Mar.	Bone mechanics	
20 Mar.	Blunt force trauma and fractures	Chapter 12
22 Mar.	Sharp force trauma	
25 Mar.	Projectiles and ballistics	
27 Mar.	Burned remains	Chapter 13
29 Mar.	Superimposition and reconstruction	Chapters 10 & 11
1 Apr.	Military identifications	
3 Apr.	Historic cases	
5 Apr.	Video: Mystery of the Romanovs	
8 Apr.	Mass disasters and human rights	Chapters 14 & 15
10 Apr.	Ethics and standards	
12 Apr.	Overview of the forensic sciences	
15 Apr.	The profession of forensic anthropology	Chapter 16
17 Apr.	Exam 3 review	
19 Apr.	Exam 3	

Additional Resources: Students are encouraged to take advantage of the following campus services if they are experiencing personal difficulties which interfere with their studies.

- University Counseling Center – 3190 Radio Road, 392-1575, <http://www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc/Default.aspx>

Academic help may be found through the following campus services.

- Teaching Center – Ground Floor, Broward Hall, 392-2010, <http://teachingcenter.ufl.edu>
- Reading and Writing Center – 302 Tigert Hall, 846-1138, <http://teachingcenter.ufl.edu/rwcenter/index.html>
- Academic Advising – Farrior Hall, 392-1521, <http://www.ufadvising.ufl.edu/>