

ANT 3520: Section 4853  
Skeleton Keys: Introduction to Forensic Anthropology  
Spring 2014

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Class Times: T 8-9, R 9  
Location: Turlington Hall L005  
Office Hours: Tuesday 1:00-2:30pm  
Thursday 2:00-3:30pm  
and by appointment

**Course Objectives:**

This course provides a broad overview of 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. As such, this course will introduce you to basic terminology, techniques and applications of the field relative to how a forensic anthropologist aids in determination of personal identity from skeletal remains and makes observations related to skeletal trauma and taphonomy. This is not intended to be a “how-to” course but a general overview of the discipline using a case history approach. 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
- Define the role of applied anthropologists in the forensic sciences and anthropology

*\*\*\* 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 Text: Warren MW, Parr NL, Zambrano CZ, and Skorpinski K (2011)  
*Bare Bones: A Survey of Forensic Anthropology*. 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition.  
Kendall Hunt Publishing Company, Dubuque.

Additional readings for select topics will be provided by the instructor and posted on Sakai. Advance warning will be given in class and via Sakai when these supplemental readings will be needed for class.

**Course Policies:**

Portable devices: Cell phones, iPods, MP3 players, cameras 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 without express permission of the instructor.

**Attendance:** On-time attendance at scheduled lectures is expected. All assigned readings are to be completed *before* lecture in order to facilitate discussion and understanding of the course material. Lectures will not be distributed by the instructor outside of class; this includes posting of Power Point presentations to Sakai. If you are unable to attend class, you should get the information covered that day from another student.

**Grading:** There will be three (3) in-class exams worth 100 points each. The exams are comprehensive but not cumulative and contribute equally to your final grade. Final grades are calculated as a percentage of the total available points (300) 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

Final grades will be rounded following conventional math standards.

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

Plagiarism and/or cheating during exams will not be tolerated. Students found cheating will receive a grade of E and zero (0) points for the exam. Disciplinary action will follow university policy as outlined by the Dean of Students. Information on student academic honesty, rights, responsibilities, and consequences is available at:  
<http://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/honorcodes/honorcode.php>.

**Exams:** Each of the three (3) exams will be administered in class on the scheduled day (see Topics and Reading Schedule). If you are unable to take the exam at its scheduled time, it is the student's responsibility to notify the instructor at least two (2) business days *prior to* 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. If you miss a test without making the appropriate arrangements, you will be assigned a grade of E and zero (0) points for the exam. Note that the format of the make-up exam(s) may differ from that of regularly scheduled exams (e.g., may be primarily composed of essay questions).

**Extra Credit:** At the discretion of the instructor, extra credit opportunities *may* be provided and, if provided, will be available to all students.

### Additional Information:

Students requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the Dean of Students Office (<http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/>). The Dean of Students Office will then provide the necessary documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to 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 affecting your studies, you are encouraged to take advantage of available university resources:

- UF Counseling and Wellness Center at 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 2014 Topics and Readings Schedule

What follows is a tentative schedule of topics to be discussed over the course of the semester. Dates and topics are subject to change. All attempts to notify the class in advance of class schedule changes will be made.

Date	Day	Topic	Assigned Reading
Aug 26	T	Introduction and course overview What is forensic anthropology? The C.A. Pound Human identification Laboratory	
Aug 28	R	History of forensic anthropology	Chapter 2
Sept 2	T	Medicolegal aspects of death Medical examiner and coroner systems	Chapter 1
Sept 4	R	VIDEO: <i>L.A. County Coroner's Office</i>	
Sept 9	T	Professionalism and Ethics In the field: Recovery of human remains	Chapter 3
Sept 11	R	In the lab: Evidence processing	Chapter 3
Sept 16	T	Taphonomy and Time since death Bone biology basics	Chapter 4 Chapter 5
Sept 18	R	Human osteology & osteometry	Chapter 5; Handouts
Sept 23	T	Osteology & osteometry continued Human vs. non-human remains Exam review	Chapter 5
Sept 25	R	<b>EXAM #1</b>	

Sept 30	T	Biological profile I: Biological Sex Biological profile II: Age at death	Chapter 6 Chapter 8
Oct 2	R	Biological profile III: Ancestry	Chapter 7
Oct 7	T	Biological profile IV: Stature Statistics and reference populations	Chapter 9
Oct 9	R	Individualizing characteristics and personal identification	Chapter 10
Oct 14	T	Forensic reconstructions: Art or science? VIDEO: <i>Unfleshed: The Story of Dr. Maples</i>	Chapter 11
Oct 16	R	Pathology	
Oct 21	T	Fracture mechanics and Antemortem trauma Exam review	Chapter 12
<b>Oct 23</b>	<b>R</b>	<b>EXAM #2</b>	
Oct 28	T	Trauma and cause of death Blunt trauma and patterned injuries Sharp force trauma	Chapter 12
Oct 30	R	Ballistics and gunshot wounds	Chapter 12
Nov 4	T	VIDEO: <i>Skeleton Stories</i>	Chapter 12
Nov 6	R	Burned bodies and cremated remains Ritual use of human remains	Chapter 13
Nov 11	T	NO CLASS – Veterans Day	
Nov 13	R	Mass fatalities	Chapter 14
Nov 18	T	Mass fatalities – case studies Military field recoveries and identifications	Chapter 14
Nov 20	R	GUEST LECTURE: Dr. Michael Warren, Director, C.A. Pound Human Identification Laboratory Human rights missions	Chapter 15
Nov 25	T	Tour: C.A. Pound Human Identification Laboratory	
Nov 27	R	NO CLASS - Thanksgiving	
Dec 2	T	Historic cases VIDEO: <i>Mystery of the Romanovs</i>	
Dec 4	R	The profession of forensic anthropology Exam review	Chapter 16
<b>Dec 9</b>	<b>T</b>	<b>EXAM #3</b>	