

ANT 3520 (Online)
Skeleton Keys: Introduction to Forensic Anthropology
Spring 2015

Instructor: Theresa Schober
E-mail: via Canvas
Office: Online
Class Time & Location: Online

Online Office Hours: Tuesday & Thursday
7:00-8:00 am and 6:00-7:00 pm
or by e-appointment

Teaching Assistants:

James Pampush, Office hours: Monday 1:00-3:00 pm, Wednesday 1:00-2:00 pm

Randy Crones, Office hours: Wednesday 2:00-3:00 pm, Friday 1:00-3:00 pm

Please note: When e-mailing, include "ANT3520 Online" in the subject line

Course Objectives:

- *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.

*** *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. 2nd Edition.
Kendall Hunt Publishing Company, Dubuque.

Any additional readings for select topics will be provided by the instructor and posted on the course website.

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

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>

Course Mechanics:

To facilitate self-motivated distance learning, this online course is arranged in sixteen (16) modules corresponding with the weeks of the spring semester. All work for each module **must** be completed during the seven-day window for that week (between 8:00 am on Saturday and 11:59 pm on Friday). 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 160 points or approximately 45% of the final grade.

Each student will complete fourteen (14) online activities (*e.g.*, decision tree, short essay, matching). One activity will be assigned per module of the course with the exception of the first and last modules (*i.e.*, Modules 1 and 16). Together, these online activities constitute 100 points or 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/relevant link and two (2) responses to others' threads and discussions during each assigned discussion, for a total of seven (7) original comments/links and fourteen (14) responses. Each week that discussions are assigned, the student will have between 8:00 am Saturday and 11:59 pm on Friday to contribute their insights on the topic with an original post due no later than 12:00 pm (noon) on Wednesday of the discussion week and responses due no later than Friday at 11:59 pm. Online discussion groups will be assigned by the instructor.

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

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 severe illness/family emergency (documentation must be procured through Dean of Students Office). Excused absences include: severe 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/or cheating will not be tolerated. Students found cheating will receive a grade of E and zero (0) points for the relevant assignment/activity. 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>.

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) 392-11

Spring 2015 Topics and Readings Schedule

WK	DATES	TOPIC	WHAT TO READ	WHAT TO WATCH
INTRODUCTORY MODULE				
1	6-9 Jan	Introduction and Ground Rules: What to expect from an online course; Syllabus review; Course handbook	Syllabus & Course Handbook (online)	Welcome Video, Course Navigation Video
MODULE 1: The history of forensic anthropology				
1	6-9 Jan	What is Forensic Anthropology?	Chapter 2	Lecture Video 1
		History of Forensic Anthropology at UF (and beyond!)	Chapter 2	Lecture Video 2
MODULE 2: The medicolegal system				
2	12-16 Jan	Medicolegal Aspects of Death	Chapter 1	Lecture Video 3
MODULE 3: Forensic anthropology in the field				
3	20-23 Jan	Recovery of Human Remains I: Site Location and Site Survey	Chapter 3, articles on CSI effect (online)	Lecture Video 4
		Recovery of Human Remains II: Mapping, Excavation, and Documentation	Chapter 3	Lecture Video 5
MODULE 4: Forensic anthropology in the laboratory				
4	26-30 Jan	Processing Remains into Evidence	Chapter 3	Lecture Video 6
		Laboratory Protocols, Procedures, and Quality Assurance	Supplementary “Lab SOP” (online)	Lecture Video 7
MODULE 5: Taphonomy – from biosphere to lithosphere				
5	2-6 Feb	What Happens After Death? Part I	Chapter 4	Lecture Video 8
		What Happens After Death? Part II	Chapter 4	Lecture Video 9
MODULE 6: Anatomy, osteology, measurement, and statistics				
6	9-13 Feb	Skeletal Anatomy and Osteology	Chapter 5	Lecture Video 10
		Osteometry	Chapter 5	Lecture Video 11
MODULE 7: Group Characteristics I: Biological sex				
7	16-20 Feb	Sexual Dimorphism, Birth, and Locomotion	Chapter 6	Lecture Video 12
		Methods of Sex Determination	Chapter 6	Lecture Video 13
MODULE 8: Group Characteristics II: Age-at-death				
8	23-27 Feb	Estimating Age in Children	Chapter 8	Lecture Video 14
		Estimating Age in Adults	Chapter 8	Lecture Video 15
		Methods of Age Estimation	Chapter 8	Lecture Video 16
MODULE 9: Group Characteristics III: Stature				
9	2-6 Mar	Living versus Forensic Stature; Methods of Stature Estimation	Chapter 9, Ousley 1995, stature sheet (online)	Lecture Video 17
SPRING BREAK 28 February to 7 March – Assignments for Module 9 are due on March 13				

WK	DATES	TOPIC	WHAT TO READ	WHAT TO WATCH
MODULE 10: Group Characteristics IV: Race...fact or fiction?				
10	9-13 Mar	Race...Fact or Fiction?	Chapter 7, PBS website, Sauer 1992 (online)	Lecture Video 18
		Clinal Variation and Population Affinities	Chapter 7	Lecture Video 19
		Determination of Ancestry: Do anthropologists cheat?	Chapter 7	Lecture Video 20
MODULE 11: Individual characteristics and personal identification				
11	16-20 Mar	Individuating Skeletal Characteristics	Chapter 10	Lecture Video 21
		Ante- and Post-mortem Radiographic Comparison	Chapter 10	Lecture Video 22
		Personal Identification in Action	Chapter 10	Video: <i>Unfleshed: The Story of Dr. Maples</i>
MODULE 12: Forensic art				
12	23-27 Mar	Forensic Reconstructions: Art or science?	Chapter 11	Lecture Video 23; Video: <i>Skeleton Stories</i>
MODULE 13: Trauma and cause of death				
13	30 Mar – 3 Apr	Trauma and Cause of Death: Ante- vs. Postmortem	Chapter 12	Lecture Video 24
		Trauma and Cause of Death: Blunt- vs. Sharp-force	Chapter 12	Lecture Video 25
		Trauma and Cause of Death: Ballistics and Gunshots	Chapter 12	Lecture Video 26
MODULE 14: Burned Bodies and Cremation				
14	6-10 Apr	Burned Bodies and Cremated Remains	Chapter 13	Lecture Video 27
		What Survives Cremation?	Chapter 13	Lecture Video 28
MODULE 15: Mass fatalities				
15	13-17 Apr	Mass Fatality Case History I: ValuJet Flight 592	Chapter 14	Lecture Video 29
		Mass Fatality Case History II: World Trade Center	Chapter 14	Lecture Video 30
		Mass Fatality Case History III: Hurricane Katrina	Chapter 14	Lecture Video 31
MODULE 16: Career paths and applications of forensic anthropology				
16	20-22 Apr	Human Rights Missions	Chapter 15	Lecture Video 32
		Military Identifications	Chapter 16	JPAC Video links

Spring 2015: ANT 3520 Due Dates – Use this chart to track your graded assignments

Assignment/Quiz	Description/Notes	Due Date	Points	Done
Week 1				
Quiz: Syllabus/Course Policies	Check your understanding of the course policies; in Quizzes tool	16 Jan	Extra Credit (up to +5)	
Discussion: Introduction	Discussion tool, original post and two responses	16 Jan	10	
Quiz: Module 1	Quizzes tool	16 Jan	10	
Week 2				
Activity: Medicolegal System Matching	Quizzes tool	16 Jan	5	
Quiz: Module 2	Quizzes tool	16 Jan	10	
Week 3				
Discussion: The CSI Effect	Discussion tool, original post and two responses	23 Jan	10	
Activity: Recovery Scene	Handout with questions in Module 3; enter answers in Quizzes tool	23 Jan	10	
Quiz: Module 3	Quizzes tool	23 Jan	10	
Week 4				
Activity: Decision Tree	Create with Gliffy and upload in Quizzes tool; example and Gliffy tutorial in Module 4	30 Jan	10	
Quiz: Module 4	Quizzes tool	30 Jan	10	
Week 5				
Discussion: Taphonomy and Forensics	Discussion tool, original post and two responses	6 Feb	10	
Activity: Taphonomy Matching	Practice in Module 5; Graded activity in Quizzes tool	6 Feb	5	
Quiz: Module 5	Quizzes tool	6 Feb	10	
Week 6				
Activity: Osteology Matching	Practice in Module 6; Graded activity in Quizzes tool	13 Feb	5	
Quiz: Module 6	Quizzes tool	13 Feb	10	
Week 7				
Activity: Biological Sex Essay	Write a 1-page paper (double-spaced, 12-point font, 1-inch margins); topic in Module 7, upload in Quizzes tool	20 Feb	10	
Quiz: Module 7	Quizzes tool	20 Feb	10	
Week 8				
Discussion: Inaccuracy of Age Estimation	Discussion tool, original post and two responses	27 Feb	10	

Week 8 (continued)				
Activity: Age Matching	Quizzes tool	27 Feb	5	
Quiz: Module 8	Quizzes tool	27 Feb	10	
Week 9 (Spring Break – students have additional week to complete assignments)				
Activity: Stature Estimation	Handouts with questions and formulae in Module 9; enter answers in Quizzes tool	13 Mar	10	
Quiz: Module 9	Quizzes tool	13 Mar	10	
Week 10				
Discussion: “RACE?”	Discussion tool, original post and two responses	13 Mar	10	
Activity: “Sorting people” and Reaction Exercise	Instructions in Module 10; upload in Quizzes tool	13 Mar	10	
Quiz: Module 10	Quizzes tool	13 Mar	10	
Week 11				
Activity: Radiograph Comparison	Practice in Module 11; Graded activity in Quizzes tool	20 Mar	5	
Quiz: Module 11	Quizzes tool	20 Mar	10	
Week 12				
Discussion: Forensic Reconstruction	Discussion tool, original post and two responses	27 Mar	10	
Activity: Art vs. Science Matching	Quizzes tool	27 Mar	5	
Quiz: Module 12	Quizzes tool	27 Mar	10	
Week 13				
Activity: Trauma Matching	Practice in Module 13; Graded activity in Quizzes tool	3 Apr	5	
Quiz: Module 13	Quizzes tool	3 Apr	10	
Week 14				
Discussion: Burned Bodies	Discussion tool, original post and two responses	10 Apr	10	
Activity: Cremation Artifacts ID	Quizzes tool	10 Apr	5	
Quiz: Module 14	Quizzes tool	10 Apr	10	
Week 15				
Activity: Mass Disaster Response	Create with Gliffy and upload in Quizzes tool; example and Gliffy tutorial in Module 15	17 Apr	10	
Quiz: Module 15	Quizzes tool	17 Apr	10	
Week 16 (Assignments due on last day of class, Wednesday, April 22)				
Quiz: Module 16	Quizzes tool	22 Apr	10	
FINAL PAPER	Write a 4-page paper (double-spaced, 12-point font, 1-inch margins); instructions in Module 16, upload in Quizzes tool	22 Apr	20	
TOTAL POINTS			350	