



ANT 3520 Section 9265 - Skeleton Keys: A Survey of Forensic Anthropology

Instructor: Dr. Michael Warren (mwarren@ufl.edu) phone 273-8320

Class Time and Room: MWF, Period 7 (1:55-2:45pm); Turlington Hall, Room L-005.

Office Hours: Thursday, 2:00pm - 4:00pm, in the C.A. Pound Human Identification Laboratory, Cancer & Genetics Building, Ground Floor.

Course Objectives: *This course provides a broad overview of forensic anthropology – an applied field of biological anthropology. Forensic anthropology focuses the wider scope of skeletal biology on problems of medicolegal significance, primarily in determining personal identity and cause of death from human remains. While I will not be teaching proficiency in forensic techniques in this class, we will discuss 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 applied anthropology.*

Required Textbook: Warren MW, Parr NL, Skorpinski KE and Zambrano CJ. Bare Bones: A Survey of Forensic Anthropology, 2nd Edition. Kendall-Hunt Publishing. ISBN: 978-0-7575-8785-60. The book is available in the campus bookstore, Orange and Blue Textbooks, and Amazon.com. **Note: Your instructor does not receive royalties from the sale of this textbook.**

Grading policy: There will be 3 exams. Attendance and classroom contribution will be heavily considered. I will attempt to reward attendance by constructing the exams so that attendance is rewarded. Final grades will be A (93-100), A- (90-92), B+ (87-89), B (83-86), B- (80-82), C+ (77-79), C (73-76), C- (70-72), D+ (67-69), D (63-66), D- (60-62), E (<60). Students are responsible for all of the information provided in the textbook. Make-up exams for excused absences will be administered on the last day of classes. Any students caught cheating will be receive an “E” for the course.

Students with letters from the Disability Resource Center should contact Dr. Warren at their earliest convenience. We will employ a note-taker to record the lectures and PowerPoints will be distributed to students requiring accommodations.

Course Outline: General topics and reading assignments. Page numbers may be inaccurate due to new text. Subject matter is subject to change at the discretion of the professor depending on current events and student interests.

- January 9th: Introduction and Ground Rules: Announcement of course number, meeting times and location; Format, evaluations, text and grades; Instructor’s background and interests; Student backgrounds; Review of the syllabus; Discussion of the somber subject matter and need for a professional demeanor.
- January 11th: The C.A. Pound Human Identification Laboratory – 40 years of forensic anthropology at UF.
- January 13th: What is Forensic Anthropology? Brief history of Physical and Forensic Anthropology; Osteology, human variation and life history theory; Applied Anthropology. (*Chapter 2*)
- January 16th: No Classes; Celebrate Dr. Martin Luther King’s life and accomplishments.**
- January 18th: Consulting and Collaboration – The team approach. Why an anthropologist instead of a pathologist? I present a case history. (*Chapter 2*)

- January 20th: Medicolegal Aspects of Death: The circumstances of human death - unattended death and/or suspicious circumstances; the origin of skeletal cases; Cause and manner of death; when is a forensic anthropologist needed? Guest Lecturer Maranda Kles (*Chapter 1*).
- January 20th: The Medical Examiner and Coroner systems; the relationship between the pathologist and the anthropologist - the ME office or the field; Death investigations; Handling of evidence; the law and retention of anatomical specimens for evidence; bio-photography and documentation of evidence. Guest Lecturer Maranda Kles (*Chapter 1*)
- January 23rd: Field Recovery of Human Remains: Ground penetrating radar and other geophysical techniques for discovering clandestine graves. (*Chapter 3*)
- January 25th: Field Recovery of Human Remains II: Mapping the site. (*Chapter 3*)
- January 27th: Processing Remains into Evidence: Documentation and processing; maceration. (*Chapter 3*)
- January 30th: Laboratory Protocols, Procedures and Quality Assurance.
- February 1st: Postmortem damage and taphonomy: Taphonomy and time since death - from the biosphere to the lithosphere; Carnivore and scavenger damage; Forensic Entomology; Ritual use of human skeletal material - Santeria and Palo Mayombe. (*Chapter 4*)
- February 3rd: Osteology and Osteometry: Skeletal anatomy, osteometry and the tools of skeletal analysis. (*Chapter 5*)
- February 6th: Skeletal Analysis: statistics and reference populations. (*Chapter 5*)
- February 8th: **Midterm Test 1**
- February 10th: Group Characteristics I - Determination of biological sex: The skeletal biology of birth. (*Chapter 6*)
- February 13th: Group Characteristics II – Age at death: Growth and development, and maturation and degeneration; determination of age at death in juveniles; the correlation between stature and age in fetuses and children. (*Chapter 8*)
- February 15th: Group Characteristics II – Age at death: Age-related pathology and metamorphic changes in bone. (*Chapter 8*)
- February 17th: Group Characteristics III – Forensic Stature: Determining stature from bones; Anatomical stature vs. recorded stature. (*Chapter 9*)
- February 20th, 22nd, and 24th: No Classes; Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Forensic Sciences.
- February 27th: Group Characteristics IV: Race - fact or fiction? Clinal variation and population affinities. (*Chapter 7*)
- February 29th: Determination of Ancestry: How anthropologists cheat to determine ancestry (*Chapter 7*)
- March 2nd: Individual Characteristics and Personal Identification: Antemortem data - medical records and family histories; Frontal sinuses, 12th ribs and other unique biological markers.
- March 5th, 7th, and 9th: **No Classes; Spring Break**

- March 12th: Forensic Odontology; comparison of antemortem and postmortem radiographs. *(Chapter 10)*
- March 14th: Test 2 Review after Spring Break
- March 16th: **Midterm Test 2**
- March 19th: Forensic Art: Two and three-dimensional facial approximation; computer-enhanced forensic art. *(Chapter 11)*
- March 21st: Trauma and Cause of Death: Antemortem and perimortem trauma – definitions; mechanisms of injury. *(Chapter 12)*
- March 23rd: Trauma and Cause of Death: Ballistic trauma. *(Chapter 12)*
- March 26th: Trauma and Cause of Death: Ballistic trauma II; distinguishing military combatants from war crime victims. *(Chapter 12)*
- March 28th: Trauma and Cause of Death: Blunt trauma and patterned injuries.
- March 30th: Sharpforce trauma. *(Chapter 12)*
- April 2nd: Burned Bodies and Cremation: Can a body be destroyed by fire? The process of commercial cremation; mortuary, dental and medical artifacts in personal identification; the anthropometry of cremation. *(Chapter 13)*
- April 4th: Mass Fatalities: Disaster Mortuary Teams and jurisdiction; Techniques in identification; Theoretical approach to a new problem: passenger lists and missing persons. *(Chapter 14)*
- April 6th: Mass Fatality Case Histories: ValuJet Flight 592 and the World Trade Center. *(Chapter 14)*
- April 9th: Mass Fatality Case Histories: Hurricane Katrina. *(Chapter 14)*
- April 11th: Human Rights Missions: Documenting human rights abuses; Working with non-governmental organizations; Case history - Atrocities in the Balkans. *(Chapter 15)*
- April 13th: Missing in Action - Military Identifications: The U.S. Army Central Identification Laboratory - Hawaii; The POW/MIA issue; Fieldwork in Indochina - ancient villages and scrap metal; The nature of forensic identification in high-speed jet crashes; The importance of studies based on military repatriation data (No reading assignment; Guest Lecturer).
- April 16th: The Profession of Forensic Anthropology: Education, career paths, and organizations. *(Chapter 16)*
- April 18th: The Scientific Working Group for Forensic Anthropology (SWGANTH).
- April 20th: How to get into graduate school; building your “CV” and the application process.
- April 23rd: **Midterm Test 3**
- April 25th: **All make-up exams for excused absences will be administered during this final class period.**