

# **ANT 3520 - Skeleton Keys:**

## *An (Online) Introduction to Forensic Anthropology*

**Spring 2013**

**Instructor:** Allysha Winburn, MA

**E-mail:** aip231@ufl.edu

**Cyber Office Hours:** Wednesdays, 1:00-3:00pm (The instructor will be online and logged in to the course Sakai site during these “Cyber Office Hours” to answer any questions and concerns.)

### **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 determining 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.

### **REQUIRED TEXT**

**Warren et al. (2010) *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 required materials (e.g., handouts, supplemental readings) will be posted on the course website.

### **GRADING**

**Final grades will be computed as percentages of total points offered, as follows:**

<b>A</b>	93% - 100%	<b>C</b>	73% - 76%
<b>A-</b>	90% - 92%	<b>C-</b>	70% - 72%
<b>B+</b>	87% - 89%	<b>D+</b>	67% - 69%
<b>B</b>	83% - 86%	<b>D</b>	63% - 66%
<b>B-</b>	80% - 82%	<b>D-</b>	60% - 62%
<b>C+</b>	77% - 79%	<b>E</b>	59% or less

### **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. The specific learning objectives, assignments, and due dates associated with each module are posted on the course website.

## **COURSE MECHANICS, cont.**

Assignments are arranged by modules, corresponding with the weeks of the semester. Students who will be missing quizzes, activities, or discussions due to documented, excused absences (see below) 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).

There will be sixteen (16) non-cumulative, online multiple-choice quizzes (*i.e.*, one quiz per module/week). Each quiz is worth ten (10) points. Combined, these sixteen quizzes constitute approximately **45%** of the final grade. Each week, one quiz will open on the course website, and it **must** be taken during the scheduled five-day window (*i.e.*, each week, the student will have between 8:00 am Monday and 11:55 pm Friday to complete the scheduled quiz).

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

Each student will complete fourteen (14) online activities (*e.g.*, decision tree, short essay). One activity is assigned for each week of the course (except Weeks 1 and 16). Each week, the student will have between 8:00 am Monday and 11:55 pm Friday to complete the scheduled activity. 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 seven (7) assigned discussions (approximately one every other week). Each student must post to the course's online discussion board a minimum of one (1) original comment/relevant link and two (2) responses to others' threads and discussions **for 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 Monday and 11:55 pm Friday to contribute their insights on the topic. Online discussion groups will be assigned by the instructor.

Finally, 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"**

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 or cheating in any form is subject to university policy as outlined by the Dean of Students (<http://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/honorcodes/honorcode.php>).

Students requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the Dean of Students Office. The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the instructor within the first two weeks of the semester.

## Spring 2013: Skeleton Keys Course Outline and Lecture Schedule

See course website (and DUE DATES document) for assignments, details, and deadlines.

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

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

\*\*\*Disclaimer: Some Lectures Will Include Disturbing and Graphic Images - Consider Your Reaction Before Taking This Course. You Will Be Responsible for All Course Material\*\*\*