



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

Instructor: Dr. Michael Warren (mwarren@ufl.edu) phone 273-8320
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Class Time and Room: Monday, Period 6 (12:50--1:40pm); Weimer Hall 1064
Wednesday, Periods 5 & 6 (11:45—1:40pm); Weimer Hall 1064

Office Hours: Monday, 3:00pm - 5:00pm, 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, Amazon.com, and Kendall-Hunt Publishing. *Note: The authors do 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 students who come to class do better on the tests. 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 6th: Introduction and Ground Rules: Announcement of course number, meeting times and location; Format, evaluations, text and grades.
- January 11th: What is Forensic Anthropology? How can anthropology help solve crimes?
- January 13th: 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? (*Reading: Chapter 1*)
- January 18th: Dr. Martin Luther King Day; no classes.
- January 20th: The Medical Examiner and Coroner systems; the relationship between the pathologist and the anthropologist - the ME office or the field; death investigations
- January 25th: Handling of evidence; the law and retention of anatomical specimens for evidence; biophotography and documentation of evidence. (*Chapter 1*)
- January 27th: Field Recovery of Human Remains: Ground penetrating radar and other geophysical techniques for discovering clandestine graves. (*Chapter 3*)

- February 1st: Field Recovery of Human Remains II: Mapping the site. (*Chapter 5*)
- February 3rd: 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 8th: Processing Remains into Evidence: Documentation and processing; maceration;
- February 10th: Laboratory Protocols, Procedures and Quality Assurance (*Chapter 5*)
- February 15th: Osteology and Osteometry Part 1: Skeletal anatomy, osteometry and the tools of skeletal analysis (*Chapter 5*)
- February 17th: Osteology and Osteometry Part 2: Skeletal anatomy, osteometry and the tools of skeletal analysis (*Chapter 5*)
- February 22nd: Skeletal Analysis: statistics and reference populations (*Chapter 5*)
- February 24th: **Midterm Test 1**
- February 29th: Spring Break
- March 2nd: Spring Break
- March 7th: Group Characteristics I - Sex and the skeletal biology of birth (*Chapter 6*)
- March 9th: 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*)
- March 14th: Group Characteristics II – Age at death: Age-related pathology and metamorphic changes in bone (*Chapter 8*)
- March 16th: Group Characteristics IV: Race - fact or fiction? Clinal variation and population affinities. Assessment of Ancestry (*Chapter 7*)
- March 21st: Group Characteristics III – Forensic Stature: Determining stature from bones; Anatomical stature vs. recorded stature (*Chapter 9*)
- March 23rd: Individual Characteristics and Personal Identification: Antemortem data - medical records and family histories; Frontal sinuses, 12th ribs and other unique biological markers; old fractures and medical hardware; Forensic Odontology; comparison of antemortem and postmortem radiographs (*Chapter 10*)
- March 28th: Forensic Art: Two and three-dimensional facial approximation; computer-enhanced forensic art (*Chapter 11*)
- March 30th: **Midterm Test 2**
- April 4th: Trauma and Cause of Death: Antemortem and perimortem trauma – definitions; mechanisms of injury (*Chapter 12*)
- April 6th: Trauma and Cause of Death: Ballistic trauma, blunt trauma and sharpforce trauma. (*Chapter 12*)
- April 11th: 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 15*)
- April 13th: Mass Fatalities: Disaster Mortuary Teams and jurisdiction; the World Trade Center & Hurricane Katrina (*Chapter 14*) Human Rights Missions: Documenting human rights abuses; Working with non-governmental organizations; Case history - Atrocities in the Balkans. (*Chapter 15*)
- April 18th: Missing in Action - Military Identifications: The U.S. Army Central Identification Laboratory
- April 20th: **Midterm Test 3:** All make-up exams for excused absences will be administered during this final class period.