

ANTHROPOLOGY 314

PRINCIPLES OF FORENSIC ANTHROPOLOGY

Dr. Randall Skelton 226 Social Sciences Building
Office Hours: MWF 10:00-11:00, TR: 8:00-8:50
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Fall 2020 is a strange short semester due to COVID-19. Weeks begin on Wednesdays and end on Tuesdays. Instead of 15 weeks of instruction and a week of finals we have 13 weeks of instruction and a week of finals. Further, we have been instructed not to decrease the amount of material covered. This is more manageable in an online class – face to face classes are asked to squeeze in an extra 230 minutes outside of normally scheduled class time. Therefore, I've had to take some steps to make the material fit into this short schedule.

- **I have to ignore holidays. Normally if there is a holiday in a certain week I only assign you 2 lectures instead of 3. This year, however, I'm assigning 3. Since this is an online class I don't think it will interfere with holiday related activities or festivities you may have planned.**
- **Even doing the above I still have an extra lecture that I have to squeeze in somewhere. So, expect at least one week in which there are 4 lectures.**
- **All assignments, exams, etc. are due on a Tuesday at 11:55pm Mountain Time.**
- **Due to the tight scheduling of everything I will not be able to accept late assignments or exams. Plan ahead and don't try to do assignments or exams at the last minute. Put them in your calendar so you don't forget due dates.**
- **Certain lectures, especially critiques of assignment may be out of order due to the timing of assignment submissions.**

GOALS AND PURPOSE

Students who successfully pass this class will acquire knowledge of the following:

- Basic forensic science, crime scene processing, and rules for handling evidence
- Forensic archaeology, including finding and recovering buried evidence
- State and federal burial regulations
- Criteria for evaluating the forensic relevance of discovered remains
- The nature, structure, composition, evolution, and function of bones and the skeleton
- The bones of the skeleton and some of their more important features
- Distinguishing human from non-human bones
- Methods for estimating age, sex, race, height, pathology, and trauma from the skeleton
- The role of forensic anthropologists in mass disasters, documenting human rights violations, recovery of war dead, and as expert witnesses in court
- How to write recovery reports, osteological inventories, and forensic reports

ADMINISTRIVIA

Required Texts: The Burns text will be vital for doing your assignments. The Steadman text is less critical.

- Burns, Karen Ramey, 2012. *Forensic Anthropology Training Manual*. 3rd Edition. Prentice Hall. (ISBN 0205022596)
- Steadman, Dawnie Wolfe, 2009. *Hard Evidence: Case Studies in Forensic Anthro*. 2nd Edition Prentice Hall. (ISBN 0136050735)

Lecture notes: Lecture notes for this class and other the course pack will be posted on the University's

Moodle online class system.

Attendance Policy: As experience has shown that students who attend class do markedly better than those who do not, attendance will be taken (at least randomly) and attendance will contribute to students' grades.

Academic Integrity: Students will be held to the provisions of the Student Conduct Code with regards to cheating, plagiarism, abusive language, and other issues. Violations will not be tolerated. Students may work together on homework assignment, but each student must turn in an assignment prepared and written by themselves. If submitted assignments are copies (identical or not) the credit for that assignment will be divided equally among all the copies.

Disabilities: Students with disabilities will be accommodated upon recommendation by Disability Services for Students. Accommodation services and facilities will be provided by DSS.

Grading: Three non-cumulative midterm exams and an optional cumulative final exam will be offered. 60% of your grade will be based on the best three scores out of these 4 exams. Another 40% of your grade will be based on four written assignments: a theory of the case assignment, a skeletal inventory report, a skeletal analysis report, and a final identity report. I use this grading scale: 90-100% = A, 80-89% = B, 60-79% = C, 50-59% = D, 0-49% = F. I don't normally assign + or - grades, but I reserve the right to do so in certain circumstances. The grading mode is "open" meaning that you can take the class for a traditional grade or CR/NCR. If you take a class CR/NCR you cannot count it toward specific major, minor, option, or certificate requirements that require a minimum grade.

ANTY 314: Principles of Forensic Anthropology – Provisional* Schedule

Readings designated as "B:" are from the Burns text. Those designated "S" are from the Steadman text.

PART 1: FORENSIC ARCHAEOLOGY

Week 1 (8/19-25): 3 lectures

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| 1. What is Forensic Anthropology? | Read: B: xv-6; S: 1-28 |
| 2. The Criminal Case Start to Finish | Read: B: 6-8, 180-184 |
| 3. The Forensic Sciences | Read: B: 184-188 |

Week 2 (8/26-9/1): 3 lectures

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| 4. The Crime Scene | |
| 5. Finding Buried Evidence | Read: B: 239-247, 263-267; S: 103-132 |
| 6. Site Context | Read: S: 255-270 |

Week 3 (9/2-8): 3 lectures, Assignment 1 (Theory of the Case) is due by the end of the week.

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| 7. Grave Excavation and Context | Read: B: 247-254, 262; S:91-102. |
| 8. Chain of Custody and Bone Conservation | Read: B: 189-195 |
| 9. Taphonomy and Time Since Death | Read: B: 255 -261; S:155-178 |

Assignment 1 Due

Week 4 (9/9-15): 2 lectures and Exam 1 (due by the end of the week)

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| 10. Critique of Assignment 1 | |
| EXAM 1!!! Covering lectures 1 thru 9 | |
| 11. Skeletal Inventory & Anatomical Terms | Read: B: 16-24, 189-197 |

PART 2: OSTEOLOGY

Week 5 (9/16-22): 3 lectures

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| 12. Osteology of the Skull | Read: B: 25-51, 55 |
| 13. Osteology of the Postcranial Skeleton | Read: B: 56-152 |
| 14. Teeth | Read: B: 153-163 |

Week 6 (9/23-29): 3 lectures and Assignment 2 (Skeletal Inventory) is due by the end of the week

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| 15. Bone Chemistry | Read: S: 197-226 |
| 16. Bone as an Organ System | Read: S: 3-6 |
| 17. Bone as a Tissue | Read: B: 9-16 |

Assignment 2 Due

Week 7 (9/30-10/6): 4 lectures.

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| 18. Bone Remodeling | |
| 19. Evolution and Functions of the Skeleton | |

- 21. Human Uniqueness
- 22. Is it Really Bone and is it Human?

Week 8 (10/7-13): 2 lectures and Exam 2 is due by the end of the week.

- 20. Critique of Assignment 2

Exam 2!!! Covering lectures 11 thru 22

- 23. Estimating Sex Read: B: 197-198, 52-54, 112-115

PART 3: SKELETAL ANALYSIS

Week 9 (10/14-20): 3 lectures

- 24. Estimating Race Read: B: 164, 222-227, 238
- 25. Estimating Age: The Early Years Read: B: 197, 165-168
- 26. Estimating Age: The Later Years Read: B: 51, 71-72, 82-84, 116-121, 169-172

Week 10 (10/21-27): 3 lectures

- 27. Estimating Height, Weight, & Occupation Read: B: 198-202
- 28. Pathology Read: B: 173-179
- 29. Trauma Read: B: 202-214

Week 11 (10/28-11/3): 3 lectures and Assignment 3 (Forensic Report is due by the end of the week.

- 30. Measuring bones Read: B: 228-235
- 31. Discriminant Functions Read: B: 236-237
- 32. Race Revisited

Assignment 3 Due

Week 12 (11/4-10): 3 lectures and Assignment 4 (Identity Report) due by the end of the week.

- 33. Critique of Assignment 3
- 34. Positive Identifications Read: B: 215-221
- 35. Being an Expert Witness and Ethics Read: B: 268-275

Assignment 4 Due

Week 13 (11/11-17): 3 lectures and Exam 3 due by the end of the week.

- 36. Mass Disasters, War, and Human Rights Read: B: 276-298
- 37. Critique of Assignment 4
- 38: Historical Forensic Science.

Exam 3!!! Covering lectures 23 thru 38

Week 14 (11/18-25): Final Exam is due by the end of the week.

Final Exam Due

***This schedule is provisional and tentative due to the somewhat unpredictable nature of this semester. Any schedule changes will be reflected on Moodle.**