

ANT 4520-001

FORENSIC ANTHROPOLOGY

Spring 2011

<u>Time:</u>	Tues. 7:10 – 10:00 pm	<u>Instructor:</u>	Dr. Robert McCarthy
<u>Place:</u>	AL 189		Office: SO 173
<u>Format:</u>	Lecture and lab		Phone: 561-297-1355
			E-mail: rmccar10@fau.edu
			Office hours: T Th 1 – 3 pm
		<u>Teaching Assistant:</u>	Sarah Lynn Redding
			Office: SO 180
			Phone: 561-297-3230
			E-mail: sreddin1@fau.edu
			Office hours: W 1 – 4 pm

Course objectives:

Forensic anthropology is the application of anthropological techniques to human remains in support of law enforcement. Students completing this course will be able to carry out basic analysis and interpretation of human remains, which will provide a background for further work in the field of forensics. However, it is important to note that **this course is designed to introduce you to the profession, not to make you a forensic anthropologist.** The course will cover techniques for recovering human skeletal remains; for constructing a biological profile from these remains; for assessing time since death; for evaluating skeletal trauma and disease; and for reconstructing the identity of the decedent using fingerprints, DNA analysis, facial reconstruction and photo superimposition. In addition, this course will provide basic information on the investigation of crime scenes, the legal role of forensic anthropologists and the preparation of reports and court appearances. Several case studies will be used to further explore the practical applications of the above topics. Questions and comments during lecture are encouraged.

Textbook and readings:

Byers, Steven N. 2011. *Introduction to Forensic Anthropology*, 4th ed. Pearson Education, Boston, MA.

Byers, Steven N. 2008. *Forensic Anthropology Laboratory Manual*, 2nd ed. Pearson Education, Boston, MA.

In addition to reading the textbook, students will be expected to read a few supplemental articles and handouts posted on Blackboard. Please be sure to check Blackboard regularly, as there will be new announcements, articles, handouts, and grades posted throughout the semester. Also, the following reference books are available in SO 180 and may prove helpful during the course of the semester.

White, Timothy D. and Folkens, Pieter A. 2000. *Human Osteology*, 2nd ed. Academic Press.

White, Timothy D. and Folkens, Pieter A. 2005. *The Human Bone Manual*. Academic Press.

Bass, William. 1995. *Human Osteology: A Laboratory and Field Manual*, 4th ed. Special Publications of the Missouri Archaeological Society No. 2.

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), students who require special accommodations due to a disability to properly execute coursework must register with the Office for Students with Disabilities (OSD) located in Boca Raton - SU 133 (561-297-3880), in Davie - MOD 1 (954-236-1222), in Jupiter - SR 117 (561-799-8585), or at the Treasure Coast - CO 128 (772-873-3305), and follow all OSD procedures.

Students at Florida Atlantic University are expected to maintain the highest ethical standards. Academic dishonesty, including cheating and plagiarism, is considered a serious breach of these ethical standards, because it interferes with the University mission to provide a high quality education in which no student enjoys an unfair advantage over any other. Academic dishonesty is also destructive of the University community, which is grounded in a system of mutual trust and places high value on personal integrity and individual responsibility. Harsh penalties are associated with academic dishonesty. For more information, see http://www.fau.edu/regulations/chapter4/4.001_Honor_Code.pdf.

Grading:

Regular attendance is crucial for understanding the material presented in class – especially so for this course. Florida law (“Dale Earnhardt’s law”) stipulates that many medico-legal images can be used in instruction, but not posted online, so many Powerpoint slides cannot be posted to Blackboard. In other words, your notes will be crucial! Your grade in this course will be based on **one exam (30%), four lab activities (5% each), four lab quizzes (10% each), and attendance (10%)**. Please notify the T.A. ahead of time, whenever possible, if you need to schedule a make-up due to a documented emergency. Letter grades for the course will be assigned according to standard FAU policy.

COURSE SCHEDULE

<u>Date</u>	<u>Lecture/lab</u>	<u>Readings</u>	<u>Activity</u>
Jan. 11	Course introduction, history of FA	Ch. 1, pp. 27-29, Lab Ch. 1	
Jan. 18	Human osteology: skull and teeth	Ch. 2 (focus pp. 29-35, 48-51)	
Jan. 25	Human osteology: postcrania	Ch. 2 (focus 35-48)	
Feb. 1	LAB: osteology	Lab Ch. 2	QUIZ
Feb. 8	Forensic context and recovery methods	Ch. 3, 4	
Feb. 12 (Sat.)	VOLUNTEER LAB: recovery methods	Lab Ch. 4	
Feb. 15	Estimating time since death	Ch. 5	
Feb. 22	Determining stature and ancestry	Ch. 7, 10	
Mar. 1	LAB: Stature and ancestry	Lab Ch. 7, 10	QUIZ
Mar. 8	NO CLASS – MIDSEMESTER BREAK		
Mar. 15	Determining sex and age at death	Ch. 8, 9	
Mar. 22	Pathology, ante- and postmortem changes	Ch. 15, 16	
Mar. 29	LAB: Sex and age at death	Lab Ch. 8, 9	QUIZ
Apr. 5	Projectile, blunt and sharp force injuries	Ch. 11-14	
Apr. 12	Identification of decedent	Ch. 17, 18, SR	
Apr. 19	Legal and ethical issues	Ch. 19, SR	
Apr. 26	LAB: Injuries, ID of decedent	Lab Ch. 11-14	QUIZ
May. 3	FINAL 7:00 – 9:30 pm		EXAM

SR=supplemental reading

Updated on 1/11/2011

Note: This syllabus is subject to change at any time. Updates may be posted on Blackboard.