

ANTH 473/573 ADVANCED FORENSIC ANTHROPOLOGY

INSTRUCTOR: Jeanne McLaughlin, Ph.D.

Office: 369/355 Condon

Location: 368 Condon

Office Hours: M and W 0800-0900 hours (Office hours held in Condon 368/369)

CLASS HOURS: M and W 0900-1050 hours

REQUIRED TEXTS:

The Human Bone Manual or Human Osteology by T.D. White and P.A. Folkens

Forensic Anthropology: Current Methods and Practice by A.M. Christensen, N.V. Passalacqua, and E.J. Bartelink (AC)

A Laboratory Manual for Forensic Anthropology by A.M. Christensen, N.V. Passalacqua
Strengthening Forensic Science in the United States: A Path Forward- supplied (FS)

OPTIONAL TEXTS:

Introduction to Forensic Anthropology (any edition) by S. Byers

COURSE DESCRIPTION: This course teaches the basic and advanced theory and analysis of human remains for the medico-legal profession, covering the history of the discipline, interactions with other professionals of the medico-legal community, the rules of evidence, crime scene evaluation, the biological parameters determined from the human skeleton, estimation of postmortem interval, trauma evaluation, individual identification, and court testimony. The course will include discussion of the investigation of crime scenes, the legal role of the forensic anthropologist, and the many types of cases in which an anthropological viewpoint can be useful. Case studies will be used. While the practical aspects of this field will be the primary focus, discussion will also include the incorporation of anthropological approaches to dealing with death and the proper handling of human remains.

This course is organized into two 1:50 minute sessions per week. In general, the first meeting each week will predominantly be a discussion and laboratory session with hands-on examination of material, whereas for the second meeting lecture will be the main activity. However, any given period may include significant elements of both. The first meeting every week will begin with discussion of articles chosen by students that cover the previous week's topics. In addition to time during the regular course hours, students are expected to spend significant time reviewing course materials. One such time will be during the instructor's office hours, I will also endeavor to make the material available as much as possible during other times as well. Graduate students will also be expected to complete a forensic case report based on actual remains.

EXPECTED LEARNING OUTCOMES: After taking this course you will be able to:

- Identify all elements of the human skeleton and their fragments
- Estimate the age, sex, stature and ancestry of human remains
- Recognize common skeletal pathologies and traumas
- Interpret taphonomic evidence on human and other remains
- Describe the basic components of the U.S. medico-legal system

GRADING POLICY:

Assessment Inventory. Grades in ANTH 473 will be determined based on the following

Assessment type:

Quizzes	3 quizzes @ 20 pts (60 pts)
Labs/Portfolio	30 points
Paper + Presentations	3 paper/presentations @ 30 pts (90 pts)
Case Report and Presentation	100 pts
Total:	280 pts

Grades in ANTH 573 will be determined based on the following assessment inventory:

Quizzes	3 quizzes @ 20 pts (60 pts)
Paper Presentations	5 presentations @ 30 pts (150 pts)
Forensic Case Study+Presentation	100 pts
Total:	310 pts

Grading Rubric

A+ 97-100%	B+ 87-89%	C+ 77-79%	D+ 67-69%	F <60%
A 93-96%	B 83-86%	C 73-76%	D 63-66%	
A- 90-92%	B- 80-82%	C- 70-72%	D- 60-62%	

This course follows the approved Department of Anthropology Statement on Grades, which is as follows:
A+: Quality of student's performance significantly exceeds all requirements and expectations required for an A grade. Very few, if any, students receive this grade in a given course.

- A: Quality of performance is outstanding relative to that required to meet course requirements; demonstrates mastery of course content at the highest level.
- B: Quality of performance is significantly above that required to meet course requirements; demonstrates mastery of course content at a high level.
- C: Quality of performance meets the course requirements in every respect; demonstrates adequate understanding of course content.
- D: Quality of performance is at the minimal level necessary to pass the course, but does not fully meet the course requirements; demonstrates a marginal understanding of course content.
- F: Quality of performance in the course is unacceptable and does not meet the course requirements; demonstrates an inadequate understanding of course content.

ASSIGNMENTS: Students in ANTH 473 will take three quizzes, present and summarize three articles, and examine a forensic case (including lab worksheets, final report and presentation). Graduate students will take three quizzes, present and summarize five articles, and complete a forensic case study. Reading is primarily from the assigned text, however additional articles may be posted on Canvas.

Quizzes. All students will take three quizzes. These may include practical application and/or written questions regarding major topics covered during the blocks of time between each quiz.

Article Presentations and Summaries. Each week students will choose an article that relates to the topic of the lecture and write a summary and critique of their selected article including citations from their texts, lecture material, and other scholarly sources. At the start of the first class session of the following week, students may be called on to present their summary critique of the article to the class for additional discussion. Undergraduates must each present a total of three times during the term either by

volunteering or being called on. Graduate students must present five times during the term. Graduate students will be favored for the first session. The paper and presentations will be worth 30 points each for undergraduates (60 total points) and 30 points each for graduate students (150 total points). Undergraduates are expected to read only their own article. Graduate students are expected to read their own article, plus those of the other graduate students (3-5 / week).

Once the article has been chosen it must be emailed to the professor and graduate students in the class. Your paper should be no more than four pages double spaced (12 font), and include a short concise summary of the chosen article, identify what collection was used for the study, who funded the study, a critique (good and bad) of the research, how could the design be improved upon, and does it address the rules of evidence. **Proper citations and a bibliography are a MUST.** Some of these areas may not be appropriate for all articles or all topics, use your best judgment. The primary journals of the field are: (however do not feel limited to these journals)

Journal of Forensic Science
American Journal of Physical Anthropology
International Journal of Osteoarchaeology
International Journal of Paleopathology
Journal of Forensic Anthropology
Forensic Science International

Lab/Portfolio. Undergraduate and graduate students will perform weekly lab activities related to the topics discussed in the previous week. The activities will be kept together in a portfolio style and turned in at the end of the term.

Case Study. All students will complete a hands-on forensic case study, including analysis and a formal report of findings based on actual skeletal material. During the first week of class, each graduate student will be issued a set of skeletal material that they must analyze for their final project. Undergraduates will be put into groups and assigned a skeleton for evaluation. This analysis will require utilizing all of the techniques covered in this course and applying them to their specific case. See chapter 17 in Byers for example of how to write a forensic case report. This will be due on the day of the final exam.

COURSE POLICIES:

Attendance Policy. Attendance is mandatory for successful completion of the class. As most of the points come from group activities your whole class depends on your attendance. Additionally, there will be no make ups or turning in assignments late without prior arrangements being made.

Etiquette. Respect, honesty and confidentiality are three standards expected of all professionals in forensic science. You are expected to exhibit these toward your instructor and fellow students. You are expected to participate in class discussions, but also allow others to participate. You will be handling human remains in this class.

Academic Integrity. Work submitted in this course must be your own. Violations of any form of academic dishonesty (cheating, plagiarism, fabrication, etc.) are taken seriously. We follow all of the principles of the University of Oregon's student code of conduct. For more information see: <http://uodos.uoregon.edu/StudentConductandCommunityStandards/StudentConductCode.aspx>

Accessible Education: The University of Oregon is dedicated to the principles of equal opportunity in education and accepts diversity as an affirmation of individual identity within a welcoming community. Disability is recognized as an aspect of diversity integral to the university and to society. Please see the following link for more information: <http://aec.uoregon.edu/>

COURSE SCHEDULE: is tentative and subject to change and it is your responsibility to make sure you have the most up to date information. Note: We will discuss articles that cover previous week's lecture topic.

<u>Week</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Readings (chapters)</u>
1 (04/02) (04/04)	M Introduction/What is forensic anthropology?/Skeletal Review W The Medicolegal System/Missing Persons	(AC)1, 2 (FS) Preface, 1, 9
2 (04/09) (04/11)	M Articles or job search/ Lab: Skeletal inventory W Evidence/Crime Scene Investigation and remains recovery	(AC) 6, 15 (FS) 2, 3, 4
3 (04/16) (04/18)	M Articles evidence / Lab: Skeletal inventory and measurements W Quiz. Preparation of remains/Biological Profile	(AC) 3, 4, 7, 8 (FS) 6, 8
4 (04/23) (04/25)	M Articles Sex estimation/ Lab: sex and ancestry estimation W Biological Profile	9, 10, 11
5 (04/30) (05/02)	M Articles Ancestry estimation/ Lab: Age estimation W Skeletal variation/Individual Identification	12, 14
6 (05/07) (05/09)	M Articles Aging estimation / Lab: Stature estimation/ variation W Bioarchaeology	
7 (05/14) (05/16)	M Quiz/ Articles on Individual Variation or Bioarchaeology/ Lab W Pathology and Trauma	13
8 (05/21) (05/23)	M Articles Pathology or Trauma/ Lab Trauma W Trauma cont/ Taphonomy and Postmortem Interval	13, 5
9 (05/28) (05/30)	M Holiday- no school W Quiz/ Articles Taphonomy / Lab: Taphonomy	14
10 (06/04) (06/06)	M Wrap up and start Presentations W Presentations	

Finals 1015 hours Wed June 13 Student Case Reports Due