ANTH 176: Introduction to Forensics
Anthropology

Fall 2021

University of Oregon

Note: Please print this document for your records.

Course Location: 101 LLCS
Course Time: 2:00-3:20 pm, Tuesday and Thursday

Instructor: Dr. Lawrence Ulibarri
Office: 373 Condon Hall
Office Hours: Tuesday 5:30-6:30pm
I regularly check my email
Email usually returned within 24 hours
E-mail larryu@uoregon.edu

GE: Ms. Aileen Fernandez
Office: Zoom or in-person by appointment
Office Hours: Thursday 9-11 via zoom
I regularly check my email
Email usually returned within 24 hours
E-mail aileenf@uoregon.edu

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course will familiarize you with the basic aspects of analysis of human remains for the medico-legal profession, covering the history of the discipline, the biological parameters determined from the human skeleton, estimation of postmortem interval, trauma evaluation, and individual identification. The course will include discussion of the investigation of crime scenes, the legal role of a 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 includes both lecture and laboratory components, which are two complementary aspects of a single course and not separate classes. Each is designed to reinforce the material in the other, and each will emphasize some different aspects of the material: lectures are more introductory and theoretical and labs focus on hands-on experience and identification. Your principal period of access to the skeletal material is
during your scheduled lab time. You can also take advantage of office hours. Thus, you have several opportunities to familiarize yourself with the human skeleton. *Given the emphasis in this class on specimen identification, it is strongly recommended you do not miss labs, and to use your lab time wisely.*

**LEARNING OBJECTIVES**

After successful completion of this course, students will have an understanding of the following key elements in the study of forensic anthropology:

- Theoretical knowledge of the field of forensic anthropology.
- Proper use of anatomical terminology.
- Respectful handling of human remains.
- Ability to evaluate and identify human osteological remains to element and side of the body.
- Theoretical knowledge of types of analyses performed when evaluating human remains.

**COURSE FORMAT and WORKLOAD**

The course is designed in a Lecture/Lab format. There will be two lecture meetings per week. Most often, lectures will consist of presenting and discussing information about forensics and forensic anthropology. Labs will give students the opportunity to familiarize themselves with the bones, processes, and features discussed in lecture, and to compare, evaluate and analyze skeletal remains.

In total, students should expect to spend about **10 hours** each week for successful completion of this course, including the time devoted to our weekly lecture and lab meetings, reading, studying, and completing assignments.

**CANVAS**

This course is supported by an online CANVAS site. Our Canvas learning support site will help you to complete academic work and assignments. Syllabus, lecture notes, laboratory assignments, relevant links, and other important information will be included on the course site. Please go to the MODULES tab to find all of this information, which will be uploaded each week. Course notes will not be uploaded until after class has met, and certainly by the end of the week.

When you register for the class, you will automatically be enrolled in our canvas site. All problems concerning the use of Canvas, access to Canvas, and computer related Canvas issues should be handled by the UO Canvas support. If in-person meetings are again allowed, then students can get **in-person help with Canvas** at the Information Services Technology Service Desk in Room 68 of Prince Lucien Campbell Hall from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday. However, you can also contact Canvas remotely or via phone (depending on the pandemic restrictions). Anyone seeking **Canvas help by phone** should call the Technology Service Desk at 541-346-4357. The Tech Desk's phone lines
are currently open 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday. Issues more specifically related to the design and accommodation accessibility of this course and the material should be directed to me. The Canvas site will contain essential information for the course including the syllabus and additional readings. **Make sure that you regularly check your e-mail account which will notify you of material and announcements placed on our Canvas site.**

**EXPECTATIONS AND GRADING**

Regular classroom attendance, participation in the lab, and maintaining course readings are required to pass this course. We have weekly readings and weekly laboratory assignments. There will be two lecture exams (midterm and final), two quizzes, two laboratory practical exams, and various laboratory exercises. **Under no circumstances will make-up assignments or extensions be given without a documented and cleared excuse** (see Accommodations). Evaluation of your course grade will be based on the following components:

1) **Lecture exams** – There will be two lecture exams; a midterm and a final exam. will include multiple choice, true false, matching, fill in the blank, and short answer questions. They are closed book and taken in class. The final is comprehensive. Please keep your notes, and study them regularly.

2) **Quizzes** – There will be two lecture quizzes (see schedule below). Quizzes will be similar in format to lecture exams, but much shorter and taken online. They are designed to help you prepare for the exams. They will be taken online, but will be timed and accessible during a window. There may also be pop-quizzes offered during the term. If so, these will only be for extra credit.

3) **Laboratory exercises** – There are 8 laboratory assignments. These exercises can be accessed on Canvas, and they are to be read before attending your lab section for the week. **You are responsible for retrieving laboratory exercises from the canvas site and printing them out prior to attending lab.** Lab time is valuable and your only chance to prepare for the practical exams. You need to arrive prepared, knowing what you need to do. Don’t just complete the exercises while in lab, but be sure you know all the material before you leave. Your lab instructor will either collect them at the end of lab or the following week, and grade them for completion.

4) **Laboratory practical exam** – There will be 1 laboratory practical exam. This exam will consist of a series of stations with specimens that must be studied in a prescribed period of time. Students who miss scheduled labs and practical exams will not be able to make them up as laboratory content requires considerable setup and curatorial effort. If you arrive late, you will not be permitted to take the practical exam. You need to be on time. Make sure you plan accordingly.
GRADING

The weight of each form of evaluation to the total course grade is as follows:

- Midterm Exam: 24% 100 pts
- Final Exam: 27% 115 pts
- Quizzes (2x): 5% 20 pts
- Lab Exercises (8x): 28% 120 pts
- Lab Practical Exam I: 16% 70 pts

TOTAL 100% 425 pts

Grades will be assigned as follows:
A+ = 97% and above.
A = 93-96.9%,
A- = 90-92.9%
B+ = 87-89.9%
B = 83-86.9%,
B- = 80-82.9%
C+ = 77-79.9%
C = 73-76.9%
C- = 70-72.9%
D+ = 67-69.9%
D = 63-66.9%
D- = 60-62.9%
F = 59.9% and below

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.

There is no extra credit for this course aside from possible pop-quizzes.

REQUIRED TEXTS

We have two required textbooks, which you can purchase at the UO Duckstore, or online through sites like Amazon or Barnes & Noble if you choose. In addition to readings from these books, I may upload other pdfs based on peer-reviewed literature.


ACCOMMODATIONS

Appropriate accommodations will be provided for students with documented disabilities. If you have a documented disability and anticipate needing accommodations in this course, please make arrangements to discuss with me immediately. The Accessible Education Center (http://aec.uoregon.edu/) works with students to provide an instructor notification letter that outlines accommodations and adjustments to class design that will enable better access. Contact the Accessible Education Center for assistance with access or disability-related questions or concerns.

Attendance is necessary for successful completion of the class. There will be no makeup of missed exams or assignments except as defined by University of Oregon policy. Anticipated absences, such as approved university activities, must be cleared with the instructor before missing class. Emergency absences consist of illness, injury, or serious illness or death in the family. Notification must be as soon as possible, via email to your instructor and GE.

PERSONAL ISSUES

If there is a serious issue as noted above that impedes your ability to participate in our course, you need to contact me immediately. Delay in asking for help right away will cause you to fall seriously behind in the course, and make-up work will not be accepted unless prior accommodations have been made. Examples of serious issues are noted above. However, you may need to provide some documentation, and I can help you obtain that documentation in many circumstances. Personal travel and work do not apply to accommodations. However, conference participation, and participation in or travel
associated with other events related to campus organizations, clubs, or groups do apply, so long as you are in contact with me before hand. In any situation, please contact me so I understand what is going on, and can evaluate the possibility or need for an accommodation on a case by case basis.

University Health Services help students cope with difficult emotions and life stressors. If you need general resources on coping with stress or want to talk with another student who has been in the same place as you, please visit the Duck Nest (located in the EMU on the ground floor) and get help from one of the specially trained Peer Wellness Advocates. Find out more at health.uoregon.edu/ducknest. University Counseling Services (UCS) has a team of dedicated staff members to support you with your concerns, many of whom can provide identity-based support. All clinical services are free and confidential. Find out more at counseling.uoregon.edu or by calling 541-346-3227 (anytime UCS is closed, the After-Hours Support and Crisis Line is available by calling this same number).

LECTURE and LAB RULES
No food is allowed in the lab or classroom. Drinks are also not allowed because it requires you to take off your mask, which is not permitted. Although I do not like this, we all have to abide by these regulations. No photographs are to be taken in the lab. Due to the timed nature of the practical exams there will be no entering the classroom late- the door will be locked at the start of the exam and you will receive a 0 if you come after that time. To receive an exam you must be prepared to show a valid student identification.

PHONES and ELECTRONICS
During quizzes and exams cell phones and other electronic devices MUST be turned OFF. If a phone or other electronic device goes off or vibrates during a practical or exam the owner of the phone risks failing the exam, and a report may be filed for violation of the Student Code of Conduct.

ACADEMIC HONESTY
The University of Oregon and I consider academic honesty to be essential for each student’s intellectual development. As an institution fundamentally concerned with the free exchange of ideas, our University depends on the academic integrity of each of its members. In the spirit of this free exchange, students and teachers of our University recognize the necessity, and accept the responsibility, for academic honesty. As a student who enrolls in this course, you agree to respect and acknowledge the research and ideas of others in your work and to abide by those rules for your discussions, posts, final projects, etc. The University Student Conduct Code (available at conduct.uoregon.edu) defines academic misconduct. Students are prohibited from committing or attempting to commit any act that constitutes academic misconduct. If there is any question about whether an act constitutes academic misconduct, it is the students’ obligation to clarify the question with the instructor before committing or attempting to commit the act.
Additional information about a common form of academic misconduct, plagiarism, is available at [https://researchguides.uoregon.edu/citing-plagiarism](https://researchguides.uoregon.edu/citing-plagiarism).

**Plagiarism:**
Plagiarism is defined as the use of intellectual material produced by another person without acknowledging its source. For example:

- Wholesale copying of passages from works of others into a discussion or presentation
- Using the views, opinions, or insights of another without acknowledgment
- Paraphrasing another person’s characteristic or original phraseology, metaphor, or other literary device without acknowledgment

For further information about the UO policy on plagiarism and matters of social conduct, please refer to your student handbook. Also, the UO provides excellent resources to help you avoid plagiarism. Check out [http://library.uoregon.edu/guides/plagiarism/students/index.html](http://library.uoregon.edu/guides/plagiarism/students/index.html).

Please, for your protection and development, cite your sources properly and **do not plagiarize**. You can find proper use and examples of the APA citation method at the University of Oregon library website: [http://researchguides.uoregon.edu/citing-plagiarism/styleguides](http://researchguides.uoregon.edu/citing-plagiarism/styleguides).

**UO COVID-19 REGULATIONS**
The University of Oregon (UO), in accordance with guidance from the Centers for Disease Control, Oregon Health Authority, and Lane County Public Health requires faculty, staff, students, visitors, and vendors across all UO locations to use face coverings, which include masks, cloth face coverings, or face shields, when in UO owned, leased, or controlled buildings. If you are on campus, including in an in-person classroom, please correctly wear a suitable face covering. Students unable to wear face coverings can work with the Accessible Education Center to find a reasonable accommodation. Additionally, vaccinations are required, and students are encouraged to maintain 6 ft. distance from others. You can find a full list of the UO covid regulations here, and a statement on required vaccination here: [https://coronavirus.uoregon.edu/covid-19-regulations](https://coronavirus.uoregon.edu/covid-19-regulations)

[https://around.uoregon.edu/content/forward-together-what-you-need-know-about-vaccines](https://around.uoregon.edu/content/forward-together-what-you-need-know-about-vaccines)

Please conduct regular symptom self-checks ([https://symptomcheck.uoregon.edu/](https://symptomcheck.uoregon.edu/)). In addition, familiarize yourself with these exposure scenarios and guidelines to determine if you should come to campus or an in-person class after suspected exposure to someone with the virus. [https://coronavirus.uoregon.edu/covid-exposure](https://coronavirus.uoregon.edu/covid-exposure)

**ACADEMIC DISRUPTION DUE TO COVID-19, etc.**
In the event of a campus emergency that disrupts academic activities, course requirements, deadlines, and grading percentages are subject to change. Information about changes in this course will be communicated as soon as possible by email, and on Canvas. If we are not able to meet face-to-face, students should immediately log onto Canvas and read any announcements and/or access alternative assignments. Students are
also expected to continue coursework as outlined in this syllabus or other instructions on Canvas.

In the event that the instructor of this course has to quarantine, this course may be taught online during that time.

COVID CONTAINMENT PLAN FOR IN-PERSON CLASSES

As the University of Oregon returns to in-person instruction, the key to keeping our community healthy and safe involves prevention, containment, and support. Here is information critical to how the UO is responding to COVID-19.

- **Prevention:** To prevent or reduce the spread of COVID-19 in classrooms and on campus, all students and employees must:
  - Comply with vaccination policy
  - Wear face coverings in all indoor spaces on UO campus
  - Complete weekly testing if not fully vaccinated or exempted
  - Wash hands frequently and practice social distancing when possible
  - Complete daily self-checks
  - Stay home/do not come to campus if feeling symptomatic
  - Complete the UO COVID-19 case and contact reporting form if you test positive or have been in close contact with a confirmed or presumptive case.

- **Containment:** If a student in class tests positive for COVID-19, all relevant classes will be notified via an email by the Corona Corps Care Team with instructions for students and staff based on their vaccination status. Specifically:
  - **Vaccinated and Asymptomatic students:** Quarantine not required, but daily self-monitoring before coming on campus is advised; sign up for testing through MAP 3-5 days after exposure if advised you are a contact.”
  - **Unvaccinated or partially vaccinated students:** 14-day quarantine advised – do not come to class – and sign up for testing 3-5 days after notification through MAP, if asymptomatic, or through University Health Services (541-346-2770) or your primary care provider, if symptomatic.
  - **Symptomatic students:** stay home (do not come to class/campus), complete the online case and contact form, and contact University Health Services (541-346-2770) or your primary care provider to arrange for immediate COVID-19 testing.

Students identified as a close contacts of a positive case will be contacted by the Corona Corps Care Team (541-346-2292).

- **Support:** The following resources are available to you as a student.
  - University Health Services or call (541) 346-2770
  - University Counseling Center or call (541) 346-3277 or (541) 346-3227 (after hrs.)
  - MAP Covid-19 Testing
  - Corona Corps or call (541) 346-2292
  - Academic Advising or call (541) 346-3211
  - Dean of Students or call (541)-346-3216

**Good Classroom Citizenship**
• Wear your **mask** and make sure it fits you well
• **Stay home** if you’re sick
• **Get to know your neighbors** in class, and let them know if you test positive
• **Get tested** regularly
• Watch for **signs and symptoms** with the daily symptom self-check
• **Wash your hands** frequently or use hand sanitizer

Complete the UO COVID-19 [case and contact reporting form](#) if you test positive or are a close contact of someone who tests positive.

**FOOD INSECURITY AND BASIC NEEDS**

Any student who has difficultyaffording groceries or accessing sufficient food to eat every day, or who lacks a safe and stable place to live and believes this may affect their performance in the course is urged to contact the Dean of Students Office (346-3216, 164 Oregon Hall) for support.

This UO webpage includes resources for food, housing, healthcare, childcare, transportation, technology, finances, and legal support: [https://blogs.uoregon.edu/basicneeds/food/](https://blogs.uoregon.edu/basicneeds/food/)

**REPORTING**

I am a student-directed employee. For information about my reporting obligations as an employee, please see [Employee Reporting Obligations](#) on the Office of Investigations and Civil Rights Compliance (OICRC) website. Students experiencing any form of prohibited discrimination or harassment, including sex or gender-based violence, may seek information and resources at [safe.uoregon.edu](https://safe.uoregon.edu), [respect.uoregon.edu](https://respect.uoregon.edu), or [investigations.uoregon.edu](https://investigations.uoregon.edu) or contact the non-confidential Title IX office/Office of Civil Rights Compliance (541-346-3123), or Dean of Students offices (541-346-3216), or call the 24-7 hotline 541-346-SAFE for help. I am also a mandatory reporter of child abuse. Please find more information at [Mandatory Reporting of Child Abuse and Neglect](#).

**KEEP COPIES OF YOUR WORK**

You may have notes and other digital files stored for our course. You should consider storing your work on a personal external hard drive to protect your material from possible hard drive failures. The University of Oregon and I (your instructor) are not responsible for lost or missing coursework. Be safe…back up your work.
NOTE: Class schedule is subject to change in the event of extenuating circumstances, or otherwise modified as appropriate.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Dates (m/d)</th>
<th>Topics</th>
<th>Required Reading</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>09/28</td>
<td>Introduction, Historic background</td>
<td>AC: Ch 1</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>09/30</td>
<td>Historic background cont., Introduction to Human Osteology</td>
<td>AC: Ch 2</td>
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<td></td>
<td>10/01</td>
<td>LAB – Anatomical terminology (due at the end of lab)</td>
<td>TW: for reference</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>10/05</td>
<td>Introduction to Human Osteology cont., Osteology of the Cranium</td>
<td>AC: Ch 2</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>10/07</td>
<td>Osteology of the Cranium</td>
<td>AC: Ch 2</td>
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<td></td>
<td>10/08</td>
<td>LAB – Cranial osteology (due at the end of lab)</td>
<td>TW: for reference</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>10/12</td>
<td>Human Osteology cont.</td>
<td>AC: Ch 2</td>
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<td></td>
<td>10/14</td>
<td>Human Odontology</td>
<td>AC: Ch 2</td>
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<td></td>
<td>10/15</td>
<td>LAB – Postcranial osteology (due at the end of lab)</td>
<td>TW: for reference</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>10/19</td>
<td><strong>Online QUIZ will be due this week</strong> Establishing medicolegal significance</td>
<td>AC: Ch 4</td>
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<td></td>
<td>10/21</td>
<td>Search and Recovery</td>
<td>AC: Ch 6</td>
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<td></td>
<td>10/22</td>
<td>LAB – Human vs. non-human remains/fragments (due at the end of lab)</td>
<td>TW: for reference</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>10/26</td>
<td>Postmortem interval</td>
<td>Byers (Reading found on Canvas)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>10/28</td>
<td>Postmortem interval cont.</td>
<td>Byers</td>
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<td></td>
<td>10/29</td>
<td>LAB – Lab report and review (due at the start of Week 7)</td>
<td>TW: for reference</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>11/02</td>
<td><strong>Midterm Exam</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td>11/04</td>
<td>Preparation of remains</td>
<td>AC: Ch 7</td>
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<td></td>
<td>11/05</td>
<td>LAB – <strong>Lab Practical Exam #1</strong></td>
<td>Study for exam</td>
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<td>Week</td>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Topic</td>
<td>Reference</td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>11/09</td>
<td>Biological Profile</td>
<td>Byers (Canvas)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>11/11</td>
<td>- No Class, Veterans Day Holiday- LAB – Ancestry and sex estimation (due at the end of lab)</td>
<td>TW: for reference</td>
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<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>11/16</td>
<td>Big four: sex and ancestry estimation</td>
<td>AC: Ch 8 &amp; 9</td>
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<td></td>
<td>11/18</td>
<td>Big four: age and stature estimation</td>
<td>AC: Ch 10 &amp; 11</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>11/19</td>
<td>LAB – Age and stature estimation (due at the end of lab)</td>
<td>TW: for reference</td>
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<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>11/23</td>
<td><strong>Online QUIZ will be due this week</strong> Antemortem skeletal conditions, trauma</td>
<td>AC: Ch 12 &amp; 13</td>
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<td></td>
<td>11/25</td>
<td>- No Class, Thanksgiving Holiday-</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>11/26</td>
<td>- No Lab, Thanksgiving Holiday-</td>
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<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>11/30</td>
<td>Postmortem change and taphonomy</td>
<td>AC: Ch 5</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>12/02</td>
<td>Individual identification, mass disaster, court testimony. Conclusion and the future</td>
<td>AC: Ch 14 &amp; 15</td>
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<td></td>
<td>12/03</td>
<td>LAB – Trauma and Pathology (due at the end of lab)</td>
<td>TW: for reference</td>
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<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>12/06</td>
<td><strong>Final Exam, 12:30pm</strong>, same lecture room (LLCS 101)</td>
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<tr>
<td>finals</td>
<td><strong>Monday</strong></td>
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