

# Forensic ANTHROPOLOGY

Department of Sociology & Anthropology,  
College of Arts and Sciences at the University of Central Florida

## ANT4521C Forensic Anthropology (3 credits) Summer 2009 (Term A; Section A001)

Instructor:	Dr. John J. Schultz
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Class Website:	see webcourses
Class Hours:	MTuWTh 12:00-1:50, CL1 308
Office Hours:	Tu and We – 9:00AM – 11:00AM; or by appointment

### Course Description

This course will emphasize the role of forensic anthropology within broader forensic investigations of death. Forensic anthropologists study the human skeleton, and forensic anthropology is an applied subfield of biological anthropology that utilizes methods developed in skeletal biology and forensic science towards issues of medicolegal significance. Students will be presented with an overview of the techniques that forensic anthropologists utilize in the laboratory for human identification and trauma analysis. Proficiency in forensic anthropology techniques will not be taught. Class material will also be supplemented with guest lectures and films.

### Course Goals

- Provide an overview of the history of forensic anthropology
- Discuss the methods used by forensic anthropologists.
- Discuss the role of forensic anthropology within broader forensic investigations of death

### Required Text

Burns KA. 2006. The Forensic Anthropology Training Manual, 2nd Edition. Prentice Hall. (ISBN-10: 0130492930)

See course website for additional readings.

**Grade Assessment - Total Possible Points: 400**

- 1) The First and Second Exams are worth 115 points each
- 2) The Third Exam, or Final Exam, is worth 115 points and is not cumulative
- 3) Osteology Quiz is worth 15 points
- 4) Biological Profile Quiz is worth 10 points
- 5) CSI Effect and Critical Evaluation Paper Assignment is worth 30 points

You can calculate your grade by dividing the total number of points you have earned by the total points possible. For example, if you earned 330 total points, you can calculate your grade by dividing your total points by the total number of possible points for the course:  $330/400$ , for a score of 82.5%.

**Do not ask me make special allowances for your grade because I will not make individual allowances. If you are doing poorly in the class, you need to see me early in the semester so we can discuss ways to improve your study habits and effectiveness taking exams.**

**Exams:** There will be three non-cumulative exams. Exams will consist of multiple choice, true or false, fill in the blank and short essay questions. All material covered in this course (lectures, discussions, movies and required readings) is fair game for exams. Also, Case Examples in the textbook, articles provided in the course, and discussions are fair game for the exams. **I will not allow make-up exams without a valid excuse and I will require documentation of your absence.**

I usually do not go over exams during class times. Also, I will retain all of the exams and they will not be returned. However, I encourage every one of you to make an appointment with me and I will gladly go over your exams on an individual basis. My only stipulation is you need to see me by June 22 to go over your first and second exams.

**Attendance:** I will not take formal class attendance, although I may take attendance of individual students if warranted. I expect that students will attend class regularly. Even though I provide partial class notes for everyone to complete during lecture, you need to attend class regularly to pass this class and do well.

**CSI Effect and Critical Evaluation Assignment:** In recent years, there has been an increasing interest in forensics as a result of popular science shows and the mass media (movies, television shows, and popular literature). The goal of this paper is to assess if students can critically evaluate the forensic anthropology and death investigation methods that are presented in the popular mass media.

- Provide a cover page with your name and a reference page (these pages do not count towards the total page number). The reference page should contain the

title of the episode, or episodes, or movie that was critiqued and when you watched it.

- First, define the CSI Effect and discuss the positives and negatives that have resulted from this phenomenon.
  - Use the handouts provided in class to address the CSI Effect. You can also use additional sources from the internet, newspapers, magazines, etc.
- Next, students are required to watch one or two television shows (e.g., CSI or Bones), or a movie that focuses on forensic and death investigation methods.
  - Identify the inaccuracies of the methods that you watched.
  - Second, explain the proper application or use of the methods.
- Be prepared to discuss your paper.
- This assignment is worth a maximum of 30 points. The assignment must be a minimum of 3 pages and a maximum of 5 pages not counting the cover and reference pages. Furthermore, a paper of only 3 pages will not be considered for the maximum of 30 points.
- Your paper must include introductory and concluding paragraphs
- You must use proper grammar and spelling (**use 1 inch margins, Times Roman font 12, and double space**). Do not bold the text.
- **Do not stretch the paper by adding spaces between paragraphs and a minimum of 3 pages does not mean 2 ¾ pages!!**
- **This assignment must be turned in during class time by the due date. Failure to provide the assignments by this day will result in a "0" for the assignment!!!!**

**Grading Scheme:** The +/- system will be used in this course. These percentages correspond to the following letter grades:

A = 94 - 100

A- = 90 - 93

B+ = 87- 89

B = 84 - 86

B- = 80 - 83

C+ = 77 - 79

C = 74 - 76

C- = 70 - 73

D+ = 67 – 69

D = 64 – 66

D- = 60-63

F = <60

## Course Schedule

**Note:** This syllabus is tentative and I reserve the right to make modifications if they are needed. Handouts and articles will be either posted on the course website or provided in class. Additional articles may be added to the reading list.

Week	Day	Date	Topic	Reading Assignments	
				Chapter	Page #s
1	M	May 18	Course Introduction History of Forensic Anthropology	1	All
1	Tu	May 19	History of Forensic Anthropology and Introduction to the American Academy of Forensic Sciences	1 12 Websites	All 189-192
1	W	May 20	ME and Coroner Systems; Forensic Autopsy	Article	
1	Th	May 21	Criteria of Admissibility; Chain of Custody and Lab Flow in the Forensic Anthropology Lab	12 15	185-188 261-269
2	M	May 25	<b>Holiday: Memorial Day</b>		
2	Tu	May 26	Anatomical Terminology; Human Osteology	3-10	All
2	W	May 27	Human Osteology; Nonhuman Osteology;	3-10	All
2	Th	May 28	Osteometry <b>Osteology Quiz</b>		
3	M	June 1	<b>Exam I</b>	None	
3	Tu	June 2	Non-Forensic Human Skeletal Remains	Articles	
	W	June 3	Forensic Anthropology Report, Initial treatment and Examination; Biologic Profile; Sexing the skeleton; Stature	13 15	193-207 257-261
3	Th	June 4	Aging the skeleton Determining Ancestry from the skeleton	13	193-225
4	M	June 8	Trauma I	13	208-224
4	Tu	June 9	Trauma II	13	208-224
4	W	June 10	Personal Identification I	13	225-231
4	Th	June 11	Guest Lecture		
5	M	June 15	<b>Exam II</b>		
5	Tu	June 16	Personal Identification II	13	225-231
5	W	June 17	Forensic Taphonomy I: Decomposition	Articles	
5	Th	June 18	Forensic Taphonomy II: Postmortem Modifications <b>Biological Profile Quiz</b>	Articles	
6	M	June 22	Forensic Taphonomy III: Santeria/Palo <b>Critical Evaluation Assignments Due</b>	Articles	
6	Tu	June 23	Cremation I	Articles	
6	W	June 24	Preparation of bodies for funerals Course wrap-up	none	
6	Th	June 25	<b>Exam III</b>	None	

### IMPORTANT DATES & INFORMATION:

- Late registration, Add/Drop: May 18-22
- Withdrawal deadline for this course: June 5

**Course Websites:**

American Association of Forensic Scientists: <http://www.aafs.org/>

American Board of Forensic Anthropology: <http://www.csuchico.edu/anth/ABFA/>

American Association of Physical Anthropologists: <http://www.physanth.org/>

CILHI: <http://www.pacificwrecks.com/mia/jpac/>

[http://www.qmmuseum.lee.army.mil/mortuary/worldwide\\_cilhi\\_mission.htm](http://www.qmmuseum.lee.army.mil/mortuary/worldwide_cilhi_mission.htm)

Orange County Medical Examiner's Office:

<http://www.orangecountyfl.net/dept/hfs/healthservices/ME/faq.htm?CL=2>

FLorida UnIdentified Decedents DataBase: <http://www.fluiddb.com/>

DMORT: <http://www.dmort.org/>

FEMORS: <https://www.femors.org/ssl/>

Forensic Anthropology and Human Rights: <http://garnet.acns.fsu.edu/~sss4407/>

Decomposition: <http://www.deathonline.net/decomposition/decomposition/index.htm>

<http://www.coronerstories.com/2005/06/02/%E2%80%9CHuman-decomposition%E2%80%9D/>

**HELPFUL RECOMMENDATIONS FOR SUCCEEDING IN THIS CLASS**

**If you are taking this class because you feel it is an easy grade, you are mistaken and should drop this course. You should drop this class if you do not plan on attending regularly and work during class hours.** I have provided a number of recommendations for those of you that want to excel in this course.

1. **Attend class regularly**
2. Use the lecture outlines so you can listen while I lecture. You need to fill in the material that I go over in lecture that is not in the outline. Also, you should take notes when I summarize and discuss material that is not on the outline.
3. Don't wait until the last minute to start studying the notes. You need to keep up with the class material to succeed in this class. Just attending class regularly will not help you succeed in this class.
4. Use the class textbook to reinforce the material that I discuss in lecture. Don't waste your time studying topics in the textbook that I did not discuss in class.
5. Please see me to discuss your study habits if you attend class regularly and feel that the time you put into the class does not reflect your grade.

**CLASSROOM DECORUM**

I have a few rules that will help to assure that this course runs smoothly without disruptions. If you have any problems with these rules, or if you **Work During the Scheduled Class Time**, you may want to rethink taking this course. **Also, I will STOP providing lecture outlines if disruptions become a problem during my lectures!!!!!!!!!!!!!!**

1. **Being Late:** I make it a rule to be on time to teach this class and I appreciate it if my students extend this courtesy to me.
2. **Leaving Early:** Leaving early can be just as disruptive as arriving late. If you have scheduled something that overlaps with this course (for example, a job) you should drop this course. Please inform me ahead of time if you absolutely have to leave early.

**3. Cell Phones & Beepers:** I do not appreciate cell phones and beepers going off while I am lecturing. Have the courtesy to turn them off before class begins. **Also, texting is not appropriate during class time.**

**4. Laptops:** Using a laptop to take notes is a privilege and not a right. You are allowed to use a laptop to take course notes. However, you are not allowed to use the laptop for anything else such as internet surfing, chatting, or checking your email during class time.

**5. Tape Recorders:** I do not mind my lectures being taped, but I require students to inform me that they are taping the lecture.

**6. Disruptive Students:** Talking during class, reading newspapers, and being disruptive is very rude and will not be tolerated. Also, students around you can hear, and I can bet that they are annoyed but just too polite to ask the talkative person to be quiet. I would rather you not come to class if all you do is sit there and chat with your neighbors. Students who are disruptive will be singled out, and if persistent will be asked to leave the class.

**7. Cheating & Plagiarism:** I have a zero tolerance policy for cheating on exams. Cheating on an exam is grounds for receiving zero and the possibility of expulsion from the university. Please refer to your Golden Knights hand guide for the universities rules regarding cheating.

**8. Taking Exams:** Prior to distributing exams, I will announce rules for taking the exam. Once the exam has started, students may not leave the classroom for any reason. If you have a cold please bring tissues, and please bring a small bottle of water if you have been coughing. Furthermore, if you have a medical condition that requires you to use the bathroom, please inform me of the condition prior to taking the exam.

**9. Policy for Missed Exams:** Rules for make-up exams.

- If you cannot take an exam at the scheduled time because of a severe illness, injury, family emergency, or participating in an official UCF event (e.g., sport's events, field trips) you must notify me ASAP by telephone, e-mail, in person, or by leaving a message with the department secretary (407-823-2227) **prior to the exam. I will only allow make-ups with an acceptable excuse such as a signed statement from a physician or written proof of a personal or family crisis such as a death certificate. If you do not contact me immediately following your crisis (don't wait until the next class period), I will not allow you to take a make-up even if you have a valid excuse.** I can not, in fairness to students who show up to take an exam, take anyone's word for an excuse; you must present proof!!!!!!!!!!!!
- You must make arrangements with me as soon as possible to take a make-up. **It is not my job to track you down to arrange a time for a make-up exam. All make-up exams will be either given the last week of classes or finals week.**

**Good Luck in the Course!!!**