

**San José State University**  
**Anthropology**  
**ANTH157 (#20013), Introduction to Forensic Anthropology,**  
**Section 01, Spring, 2017**

<b>Instructor:</b>	Lorna C. Pierce, PhD
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<b>Office Hours:</b>	Wednesday 1400-1500 or by appointment
<b>Class Days/Time:</b>	Wednesday 1500-1745
<b>Classroom:</b>	Washington Square Hall 4

### **Course Description**

This introduction to the recovery and interpretation of human skeletal remains within the context of scientific death investigation will emphasize the multidisciplinary approach which draws upon the fields of physical anthropology, forensic pathology, archaeology, forensic odontology, criminalistics, and other forensic disciplines. An introductory laboratory class in human osteology will include the recognition of human vs. non-human material, the assessment of age, sex, race, and the recognition of gross trauma and pathological lesions. This segment will be interdigitated with the lecture sessions.

### **Course Goals**

1. A basic understanding of human osteology and its use in forensic anthropology
2. An understanding of how anthropology fits into the forensic sciences
3. Development of a questioning nature when reading scientific or purported scientific material.

### **Course Content Learning Outcomes**

Upon successful completion of the course, students will be able to:

1. Explain the medicolegal context into which forensic anthropology falls
2. Describe the different disciplines involved in death investigation, such as the fields of physical anthropology, forensic pathology, archaeology, forensic odontology, criminalistics and other forensic disciplines
3. Identify and side all major bones of the body
4. Provide a simple biological profile from complete skeletal remains

CLO Competency	Assessment	Competency measures
Explain the medicolegal context into which forensic anthropology lies	Examination questions	Correct exam answers. 80% or higher reflects competency
Describe the different disciplines involved in death investigation	Examination questions	Correct exam answers. 80% or higher reflects competency
Identify and side all major bones of the body.	Hands on examination of human skeletal remains	Correct identification. 90% or higher reflects competency
Provide a simple biological profile from complete skeletal remains.	Hands on examination of human skeletal remains.	Correct identification. 90% or higher reflects competency

## Required Text and Readings

### Text:

Bass, W. M., Human Osteology; A Laboratory and Field Manual, 5th Edition. Missouri Archaeological Society, Columbia, 2005.

**Other required readings are listed in the weekly schedule.**

### PURELY FOR PLEASURE

- Bass, B., and Jefferson, J., Death's Acre. G. P. Putnam's Sons, New York, 2003.  
 Elkins, Aaron, Unnatural Selection. Berkely Prime Crime, New York, 2006.  
 Evans, C., The Casebook of Forensic Detection. John Wiley, New York, 1996.  
 Goff, M. L., A Fly for the Prosecution. Harvard Press, Cambridge, 2000.  
 Houts, M., Where Death Delights. Coward-McCann, New York, 1967.  
 Iserson, K., Death to Dust: What Happens to Dead Bodies? Galen Press, Tucson, 1994.  
 Joyce, C. and Stover, E., Witnesses From the Grave. Little, Brown, and Co. Boston, 1991.  
 Manhein, M., The Bone Lady. Louisiana State University Press, Baton Rouge, 1999.  
 Maples, W. and Browning, M., Dead Men Do Tell Tales. Doubleday, New York, 1994.  
 Rhine, S., Bone Voyage. New Mexico Press, Albuquerque, 1998.  
 Roach, Mary, Stiff. W. W. Norton & Company. New York, 2003.  
 Sachs, Jessica, Corpse. Perseus Publishing, Cambridge, 2001.  
 Ubelaker, D. and Scammell, H., Bones. Harper-Collins, New York, 1992.

There are several DVDs available which may assist you in the identification of skeletal material. The Anatomical Chart web site <http://www.anatomical.com> lists some of these materials. There are also apps available.

## Course Requirements and Assignments

Success in this course is based on the expectation that students will spend, for each unit of credit, a minimum of 45 hours over the length of the course (normally 3 hours per unit per week with 1 of the hours used for lecture) for instruction or preparation/studying or course related activities including but not limited to internships, labs, clinical practica. Other course structures will have equivalent workload expectations as described in the syllabus.

A research paper is required in this class. The topic may be any aspect of forensic anthropology or a related subject; it may be a brief history of a technique, a biography and professional lineage of a pioneer in the field, or an exploration into a topic of current interest. Some students prefer to complete a research project. Please discuss the topic with me ahead of time. This assignment may be presented as an oral presentation (approximately 10 minutes) or as a 5 to 10 page printed paper. If you choose to write a paper, it **must utilize** the format explained in Journal of Forensic Sciences. A minimum of ten different citations from such professional journals as Journal of Forensic Sciences, American Journal of Physical Anthropology, etc., shall be used. Material from comparable professional texts such as Morse *et al*, Ubelaker (1984, 1989) may be used. Do not use Wikipedia. Late papers are subject to severe grade reductions. Plagiarism or the utilization of papers from Internet providers will result in an F in the class.

## Grading Policy

Grading:

Laboratory Exercises:	10%
Laboratory Exam	10%
Osteology quizzes:	20%
Research paper:	20%
Midterm exam:	20%
Final exam:	20%

90 and above	A
80-89	B
70-79	C
60-69	D
59 and below	F

[University Policy S06-4](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S06-4.pdf) (<http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S06-4.pdf>) states that “There shall be an appropriate final examination or evaluation at the scheduled time in every course, unless the course is on the official List of Courses in which a final is optional.”

## Classroom Protocol

Neither attendance nor class participation during lecture periods will be used as a criterion for grading. Historically, class participation during the laboratory portions has had a direct correlation with grades on the osteology quizzes.

If you miss a quiz or a required laboratory exercise due to illness or a family emergency, please notify the instructor ahead of time. If you simply fail to show up you may not make it up.

Thanks to the Forensic Science Program, the Journal of Forensic Sciences is available on the computer in the laboratory.

Due to the sensitive nature of some of the material presented in this course, **no photography** will be allowed; this includes the use of camera phones, etc. during the class. **No recording of any kind is allowed.** Human skeletal material will be used in this course; respect for these materials will be maintained at all times. Unprofessional handling of the specimens will result in disciplinary action.

**Be Polite. All phones must be turned off.**

The following schedule is only a guideline and may be changed depending on the availability of the guest speakers.

**Additional reading assignments may be given.**

## **ANTH 157 / Introduction to Forensic Anthropology, Spring 2017, Wednesday 1500-1745**

**Table 1 Course Schedule**

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
Week 1	2/01	Introduction to Forensic Anthropology: Dead Men Do Talk
Week 2	2/8	History of Forensic Anthropology Bass: 307-316, 327-336.
Week 3	2/15	Role of Medical Examiner/Coroner, Basic Human Osteology Bass: 1-33, 192-213, 218-257.
Week 4	2/22	Santa Clara County Medical Examiner-Coroner's Office: Guest Speaker: Christina Pantoja, Investigator
Week 5	3/01	Search and Recovery of Buried Bodies Webster, A. D., "Excavation of a Vietnam-Era Aircraft Crash Site: Use of Cross-Cultural Understanding and Dual Forensic Recovery Methods", <u>Journal of Forensic Sciences</u> , Vol. 43, 1999, No. 2: 277-283. DesMarais, A. M., "Detection of Cadaveric Remains by Thermal Imaging Cameras." <u>Journal of Forensic Identification</u> 64 (5), 2014. 489-510. Facial Reconstruction
Week 6	3/08	Quiz 1, PMI Bass: 145-153, 159-164, 166-172.
Week	3/15	Forensic Evidence Dogs: Guest Speaker: Adela Morris, Institute for

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
7		Canine Forensics
Week 8	3/22	Midterm Exam. Lab Exercise 1
Week 9	3/29	Spring Break
Week 10	4/5	Forensic Odontology Forensic Entomology, Web of Clues Bass: 271-305 Haglund, W. et al., "Canid Scavenging/Disarticulation Sequence of Human Remains in the Pacific Northwest", <u>Journal of Forensic Sciences</u> , Vol. 34, No. 3, November 1989, pp. 587-606.
Week 11	4/12	Quiz 2, Lab Exercise 2
Week 12	4/19	Crime Lab Procedures: Guest Speaker: Jeremiah Garrido Santa Clara County Crime Lab
Week 13	4/26	Oral Reports Research Paper Due
Week 14	5/03	Quiz 3, Trauma and Pathological Lesions
Week 15	5/10	Review for Final Exam, Laboratory Exam
Final Exam	5/24	1215-1430 Final Exam. The final exam will cover all topics discussed or assigned during the quarter. The exam will be in the lab, room 2.

## Departmental Goals

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Learn about the goals of the anthropology department and how it can benefit your education.

Goals <http://www.sjsu.edu/anthropology/departmentinfo/goals/index.html>

## University Policies

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Per University Policy S16-9, university-wide policy information relevant to all courses, such as academic integrity, accommodations, etc. will be available on Office of Graduate and Undergraduate Programs' [Syllabus Information web page](http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo/) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo/>

## Resources

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The university provides resources that can help you succeed academically. Just look here.

[Academic Success Center](http://www.sjsu.edu/at/asc/) <http://www.sjsu.edu/at/asc/>

[Peer Connections website](http://peerconnections.sjsu.edu) <http://peerconnections.sjsu.edu>

[Writing Center website](http://www.sjsu.edu/writingcenter) <http://www.sjsu.edu/writingcenter>

[Counseling Services website](http://www.sjsu.edu/counseling) <http://www.sjsu.edu/counseling>