

San Jose State University Spring 2009
WSQ 4
1500-1745 W
Instructor: Lorna C. Pierce, Ph.D.

Introduction to Forensic Anthropology
Anthropology 157 Section 1 (Lecture: 20028)

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.

An optional trip to the Santa Clara County Medical Examiner's Office will be scheduled. The date will be finalized to meet with the majority of the class members' schedules.

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. Please discuss the topic with me ahead of time. This assignment may be presented as an oral presentation (approximately 10 minutes) or as a 5-10 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. No more than **three** web sites may be used. Submit two (2) copies of the paper. 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.

Two graded laboratory exercises will be completed during class meetings, the results typed and turned in the following week. There will be a laboratory examination May 7. There will be many un-graded laboratory exercises.

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.

Learning objectives for Introduction to Forensic Anthropology include:

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.

The following schedule is only a guideline. Osteology exercises will be a regular part of each week's classes. The lecture topics may be rescheduled due to the availability of guest speakers and the timing of the field trip.

January 28	Introduction to Forensic Anthropology: Dead Men Do Talk
February 4	History of Forensic Anthropology
February 11	Role of Medical Examiner/Coroner, Basic Human Osteology
February 18	Body Detectives
February 25	Quiz 1, PMI
March 4	Search and Recovery of Buried Bodies
March 11	Midterm Exam, Lab Exercise 1
March 18	Quiz 2, Forensic Evidence Dogs: Guest Speaker: Adela Morris
March 25	Spring Break
April 1	Forensic Entomology, Web of Clues
April 8	Crime Laboratory Procedures: Guest Speaker: Cordelia Willis
April 15	Creatures in Crime, Lab exercise 2
April 22	Forensic Odontology: Guest Speaker: Dr. Leon Pappanastos
April 29	Facial Reconstruction Research Paper Due
May 6	Quiz 3, Trauma and Pathological Lesions
May 8	Optional trip to Medical Examiner's Office
May 13	Review for Final Exam, Laboratory Exam
May 20	1215-1430 Final Exam. The final exam will cover all topics discussed or assigned during the quarter.

Required texts:

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

READING ASSIGNMENTS

February 4: Bass: 307-316, 327-336.

February 11: Bass: 1-33, 192-213, 218-257.

February 18: Bass: 34-63, 83-92, 99-144.

March 4: Webster, A. D., "Excavation of a Vietnam-Era Aircraft Crash Site: Use of Cross-Cultural Understanding and Dual Forensic Recovery Methods", Journal of Forensic Sciences, Vol. 43, 1999, No. 2: 277-283.

April 1: Bass: 145-153, 159-164, 166-172.

Haglund, W. et al., "Canid Scavenging/Disarticulation Sequence of Human Remains in the Pacific Northwest", Journal of Forensic Sciences, Vol. 34, No. 3, November 1989, pp. 587-606.

Sach, J. S., "A Maggot for the Prosecution", Discover, November 1998, 103-108.

April 15: Owsley, D. W., "Identification of the Fragmentary, Burned Remains of Two U. S. Journalists Seven Years After Their Disappearance in Guatemala", Journal of Forensic Sciences, Vol. 38, No. 6, November 1993, pp. 1372-1382.

Stover, E., "The Grave at Vukovar", Smithsonian, Vol. 27, No. 4, March 1997, pp. 40-51.

April 22: Bass: 271-274, 288-305.

There are several CDs 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.

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.

Iseron, 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.

OTHER INFORMATION

If you need course adaptations or accommodations because of a disability, or if you have emergency medical information to share with me, or if you need special arrangements in case the building must be evacuated, please make an appointment with me as soon as possible or see me after class.

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 during the class. 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.

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

OFFICE HOURS: WSQ 2, Wednesday 1400-1500 or by appointment.

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Anthropology Department Learning Objectives

KNOWLEDGE

1. Understanding culture as the distinguishing phenomenon of human life, and the relationship of human biology and evolution.
2. Awareness of human diversity and the ways humans have categorized diversity.
3. Knowledge of the significant findings of archaeology, cultural anthropology, and physical anthropology, and familiarity of the important issues in each sub-discipline.
4. Knowledge of the history of anthropological thought and its place in modern intellectual history
5. Comprehension of migration, colonialism, and economic integration as significant phenomenon shaping global society.

SKILLS

6. Ability to access various forms of anthropological data and literature.
7. Awareness of importance and value of anthropological knowledge in contemporary society, and the ability to apply it to social issues.
8. Knowledge of the research methods of the sub-disciplines of anthropology, and the ability to apply appropriate research methods in at least one sub-discipline.
9. Ability to present and communicate anthropological knowledge and the results of anthropological research to different audiences.

PROFESSIONAL VALUES

10. Knowledge of political and ethical implications of social research