

ANTH 156 Bioarchaeology

**Spring 2019, Section 1 (26948)
San José State University
Department of Anthropology/ College of Social Sciences**

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Office Hours:	Thursday 14:00-15:00 or by appointment
Class Days/Time:	Tuesday and Thursday 12:00-13:15
Classroom:	WSQ 004

Faculty Web Page and MYSJSU Messaging

Copies of the course materials such as the syllabus, major assignment handouts, and grades can be found on my faculty web page at <http://www.sjsu.edu/people/viviana.sanchezchopitea> and/or on the [Canvas Learning Management System course login website](http://sjsu.instructure.com) at <http://sjsu.instructure.com>. You are responsible for regularly checking with the messaging system through [MySJSU](http://my.sjsu.edu) at <http://my.sjsu.edu> (or other communication system as indicated by the instructor) to learn of any updates.

Course Description

Bioarchaeology is the study of human skeletal remains from archaeological sites to aid in reconstructing the biology and culture of past populations. This course is an overview of bioarchaeological theory, methods, and applications with an emphasis on the most common methods and their complications. This class will focus on current theoretical and methodological issues in bioarchaeology. There will be an emphasis on the potential of skeletal analysis for uncovering disease and trauma, subsistence patterns as well as biological relatedness, physical activity and the diverse reactions to stressors. In addition, archaeological context and the act of burial based on the funerary practices of a society will be explored. Hands-on labs will be integrated into the regular class sessions.

Course Learning Outcome (CLO)

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

- Think critically about issues regarding skeletal material in the archaeological record;
- Recognize a testable hypothesis;
- Recognize the difficulties in reconstructing past lifestyles;
- Understanding methodologies used in interpreting skeletal remains;
- Understand complexities of separating causes and correlations;
- Understand the biology and culture of human diversity as seen in skeletal materials;
- Explore the role of the society in the act of burial.

Required Texts/Readings

- **Textbook**

Weiss, E. 2009. *Bioarchaeological Science*. Nova Science Publishers. ISBN: 978-60876-109-8

- **Other readings:**

Supplementary course readings or handouts in PDF format will be available on the course Canvas page. These include selective chapters from:

Larsen, C. S. 2015 *Bioarchaeology: Interpreting behavior from the human skeleton*. Cambridge University Press.

Buikstra, J. E. and Beck L. A. 2006 *Bioarchaeology: the contextual analysis of human remains*. Academic Press, Elsevier.

Pearson, M. P. 1999 *The archaeology of death and burial*. Texas A&M University Press.

Recommendations

“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 three hours per unit per week) for instruction, preparation/studying, or course related activities, including but not limited to internships, labs, and clinical practica. Other course structures will have equivalent workload expectations as described in the syllabus.” [University Syllabus Policy S16-9](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S16-9.pdf) (<http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S16-9.pdf>)

NOTE: “Students should attend all meetings of their classes, not only because they are responsible for material discussed therein, but because active participation is frequently essential to insure maximum benefit for all members of the class. Attendance per se shall not be used as a criterion for grading.” [University Attendance and Participation Policy F15-12](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/F15-12.pdf) (<http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/F15-12.pdf>)

Course Assignments and Grading Policy

Students will be graded on the following assignments:

- **Two Exams:** Midterm and Final

Conceptual understanding and application of knowledge is the principal objective of the course and will be targeted by assessment. Objective questions are included to assess core content. Exams are a combination multiple-choice and short answer questions. The Final exam is scheduled according to the official University list (provided here on the Course Schedule Table [University policy S17-1](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S17-1.pdf) (<http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S17-1.pdf>). Timely arrival is required for all the exams (each exam = 100pts).

Failure to take any exam will result in a failing grade regardless of other completed work.

- **In-class activities**

There will be a number of class interactive exercises and discussions in individual or group form throughout the semester. Some exercises will include additional reading material providing a glimpse at the current issues and controversies surrounding the discipline. This material will be provided in Canvas for analysis and discussion. All written activities are due the same day during class and **cannot be made up** (50pts).

- **Lab activities**

There will be a number of individual lab exercises throughout the semester. All lab work is due on the day scheduled at the beginning of class (50pts).

- **Group Project:**

Contribution to a group project will be assessed as part of your general grade. A report detailing all your findings will be required as well as a short presentation to the class at the end of the semester. Grading for the presentation will take into account time, clarity, ingenuity, and effectiveness. The total value for this complete assignment is 100pts. Details will be given at the beginning of the semester.

- **Attendance**

Roll will be taken sporadically. Attendance is strongly encouraged and expected. Your success in the class depends on your presence during lecture and class activities. I do not provide the PowerPoints of the lectures hence you are responsible for obtaining class notes. Missing lectures may result in failing the class.

A grade of **Incomplete** will not be given to avoid an F in the class.

Assignments and Grade Break-down

Exam # 1 (Midterm)	100	25%
Exam # 2 (Final)	100	25%
In-class exercises	50	12.5%
Lab exercises	50	12.5%
Group project	100	25%
Total	400	100%

Below are basic guidelines for grading. Letter grades will be assigned based on score percentages, as follows:

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

IMPORTANT: Read the syllabus, familiarize yourself with Canvas, and keep up with the reading (must be up to date and ready to discuss the material in class). Your presence in class is very important, if you miss a day you are responsible to get the notes from a classmate. If you have any questions or issues do not hesitate to contact me or see me during office hours. Do not wait too long to communicate if you are having problems in class or with the class material. Your success in the class depends on your understanding of the material and completing the assignments on time. I strongly encourage you to reach me through email or in person for any questions you may have that are not already addressed in the syllabus or Canvas.

I do not drop students for non-attendance; you are responsible for your registration status.

Classroom Protocol

- **Student participation and attendance is essential** for academic success. Students are expected to attend class. Students are encouraged to attend class regularly since material presented and discussed in the classroom may be additional to the information presented in the assigned textbook.
- **Arriving late and leaving early is not acceptable** unless there is an exceptional circumstance or has been previously arranged with the instructor.
- Laptops are only permitted for note taking and for specific in-class exercises, and only under the specific approval of the instructor. Any other electronic devices need to be off during class. Activities such as texting, surfing the web, chatting, or emailing during class are disruptive and constitute disrespectful behavior towards the instructor and other students. Please be courteous and respectful, I will ask you to leave the class if you are not involved in class activities.
- **All assignments are due the date marked in the class schedule** unless the date has been officially changed by the instructor or you have received previous approval of the instructor upon presentation of a valid excuse (see above). **Unexcused late written assignments** will be subject to a grade penalty and not accepted after one week from the original due date. **All assignments are due before the last day of class.**
- **In-class activities/assignments/exercises cannot be made up.**
- **Make-up exams** will be given only if 1) you know in advance that you are unable to attend due to an important and verifiable reason and have arranged in advance with the instructor an alternative date prior to its scheduled date, 2) if any reason arises beyond

your control you need to notify the instructor before class by email and provide a verifiable reason (note from physician/nurse, etc.) for the absence. Only students with a valid documented excuse will be able to take a make-up test. Make-up exams will only be scheduled within one week from the original exam date. Make-up exams will take place at the Testing Office and it is the student's responsibility to make the arrangements in a timely manner through <http://testing.sjsu.edu/makeupstudents/>. Keep in mind that they need advance notice of at least 48 hours as well as the instructor's copy of the exam. Please read their instructions before the day of the exam and keep in mind you have only a week allowance.

- **The Final Exam cannot be made-up. You must take the Final Exam at the scheduled time or earlier with the approval of the instructor.** [University policy S17-1](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S17-1.pdf) (<http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S17-1.pdf>)
- **Students may not leave the room during an examination.** This will be an indication to the instructor that the student has completed the exam and it will be collected without further opportunity to continue.
- **All lectures and course materials, including exams, assignments, quizzes, handouts, and exercises, are copyrighted and may not be distributed without written permission from the instructor.**
- Students are encouraged to ask questions before, during, and after class and to take full advantage of scheduled office hours or to make appointments.

University Policies

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/>

Consent for Recording of Class and Public Sharing of Instructor Material

All students must obtain the instructor's permission if they wish to record lectures or distribute materials from the class. [University Policy S12-7](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S12-7.pdf) <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S12-7.pdf>

Resources

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>

ANTH 156: Bioarchaeology Spring 2019, Tentative Course Schedule

Schedule is subject to change with fair notice made available from the instructor by email and class announcements.

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
1	Jan24	Introduction to the course: Bioarchaeology.
2	Jan 29, 31	Module 1: History of the discipline. The practice of bioarchaeology in the Americas. Reading: Ch 1
3	Feb 5, 7	Module 2 The body: Bone formation, the skeleton, sexing and aging Reading: Ch 2
4	Feb 12, 14	Reconstructing activity patterns Reading: Ch 3
5	Feb 19, 21	Health and disease among past populations (Paleopathology) Reading: Ch 4
6	Feb 26, 28	Diet Reading: Ch 7
7	Mar 5, 7	Trauma among past populations Reading: Ch 5
8	Mar 12, 14	Review EXAM # 1 Midterm
9	Mar 19, 21	Module 3 The body in society: Contextual record Reading: Additional material
10	Mar 26, 28	Cultural modifications Reading: Ch 6
11	April 2, 4	Spring recess
12	April 9, 11	Mortuary analysis: theoretical underpinnings, applications Reading: additional material
13	April 16, 18	Mortuary analysis Reading: additional material

14	April 23, 25	Cultural modifications, cannibalism, cranial modification Reading: Ch 6 Module 4: The practice of bioarchaeology today. Scientific advances: isotopic analysis, DNA, genetic distance, migrations. Forensics. Reading: additional material
15	April 30, May 2	The practice of bioarchaeology today. Scientific advances: isotopic analysis, DNA, genetic distance, migrations. Forensics. The future of bioarchaeology, bioarchaeology and the Law. Reading: Ch 9
16	May 7, 9	Group Presentations REVIEW
Final Exam	May 20	9:45 – 12:00 (Monday)