

San José State University
Anthropology, Spring, 2019
ANTH 157 (20008), Introduction to Forensic Anthropology Section 01,

Course and Contact Information

Instructor:	Jonathan Karpf
Office Location:	Clark 404J
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Email:	jkarpf@calfac.org
Office Hours:	Mondays, 2-3pm, and by appointment
Class Days/Time:	MW: 12-1:15pm
Classroom:	WSQ 04
Prerequisites:	Ideally you have taken both Anth 12 and Anth 155

FACULTY WEB PAGE & MYSJSU MESSAGING

I do not use canvas nor have a faculty web page; I consider myself to be my students' Learning Management System (LMS). That said, I make myself very accessible to my students. If you are unable to attend my formal office hours, simply let me know when you're free to meet. You can also text me or email me at my contact info above. You are responsible for regularly checking with the messaging system through [MySJSU](#) at: <http://my.sjsu.edu> to learn of any updates from your instructor.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The human skeletal system as an anatomical and physiological structure and a biomechanical system. Additionally, we will cover the molecular biological methodologies that are currently being used in forensic science. Lab experience in identification of osteological material, the underlying elements of bone physiology, the recognition of diseases that affect bone, as well as sexing, aging, and stature estimates using osteological material. This course is designed for those interested in Biological Anthropology, Archaeology, and Forensic Science. There will also be 3-5 guest speakers from different aspects of forensic science.

COURSE GOALS

1. A basic understanding of human osteology and its use in forensic anthropology.
2. A basic understanding of the molecular biological techniques used in the forensic sciences.
3. An understanding of how anthropology fits into the forensic sciences.
4. The development of critical thinking skills when reading scientific or purported scientific material.

Course Learning Outcomes (CLO)

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

1. Explain the medico-legal context into which forensic anthropology falls.

2. Describe the different disciplines involved in death investigations, such as the fields of biological anthropology, forensic pathology, archaeology, forensic odontology, molecular biology, 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.

REQUIRED TEXTS/READINGS

Textbook

Steven N. Byers, *Introduction to Forensic Anthropology* (5th edition), Routledge (2017) ISBN: 978-1-138-18884-6. This textbook is required and is available for sale or rent at the Spartan Bookstore. There are also some used copies available.

RECOMMENDED READINGS

For those who have not taken Anth 155: Osteology, you should pick up a copy of: White, T.D., *The Bone Manual*, Elsevier (2005) ISBN 978-1-208-8467-4, as this will be very essential.

OTHER READINGS (Purely for pleasure)

- Bass, B. and Jefferson, J., *Death's Acre*, G.P. Putnam & Sons, NY (2003)
Elkins, Aaron, *Unnatural Selection*, Berkeley Prime Crime, NY (2006)
Evans, C., *The Casebook of Forensic Detection*, John Wiley, NY (1996)
Golf, M.L., *A Fly for the Prosecution*, Harvard Press, Cambridge (2000)
Houts, M., *Where Death Delights*, Coward-McCann, NY (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, NY (1994)
Rhine, S., *Bone Voyage*, New Mexico Press, Albuquerque (1998)
Roach, Mary, *Stiff*, W.W. Norton & Company, NY (2003)
Sachs, Jessica, *Corpse*, Perseus Publishing, Cambridge (2001)
Ubelaker, D. and Acammell, H., *Bones*, Harper-Collins, NY (1992)

There are also a few DVDs available which may assist you in the identification of skeletal material. Also, the Anatomical Chart website: <http://www.anatomical.com> lists some of these materials. Additionally, there are also anatomy apps available which you might check out.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS, ASSIGNMENTS, & DETERMINATION OF GRADES

The final grade will be based on a possible **450 points**. Because this is largely a hands on course, there will be four quizzes (one written and three practicum) worth an average of 50 points each, based primarily on identifying skeletal material, a single midterms worth 100 points, and a final exam – partly scantron and partly a practicum - worth 150 points. You will **not** need blue books or scantron forms for the four quizzes, but your midterm and final exam will partly consist of 5 option multiple choice questions, for which you will need T&E 0200 scantron forms. Please purchase **2** T&E 0200 forms at the beginning of the semester, and do not fold, spindle or mutilate them. While not unusually difficult, the course does require careful attention to lectures, class discussions, and the textbook. You will be exposed to a fair amount of specialized vocabulary, and the nature of descriptive anatomy does require a fair bit of

memorization; both of these activities require time and effort. You are expected to be actively engaged in class, take notes, and to do the reading on time, so that you can follow the development of ideas and information, and so that you can ask questions and make comments in class discussions. You will also be able to raise questions in class and bring questions to my office hours in a timely fashion (that is, **not** only at the last minute). Tape recording of class sessions is strongly **encouraged**, and you are welcome to place recorders on my desk. There will be multiple opportunities for feedback on all of your assignments, and you are encouraged to inquire about your current grade throughout the class, as I keep a running total after every assignment.

To summarize, your final semester grade in this course will be based on the following:

• Quizzes: 4 X 50 pts. =	200 (44.4%)
• Midterm exam: 1 X 100 pts. =	100 (22.2%)
• Final exam: 1 X 150 pts. =	150 (33.3%)
TOTAL POINTS:	450 (100%)

There are a total of **450 possible points**. **Grading** will be based on percent mastery, with 88-100% = A, 78-87% = B, 65-77% = C, 50-64% = D, and lower than 50% = F. However, should the performance of the class fall below these arbitrary grade cutoffs, then students will be ranked according to the total points accrued and the course grade will be assigned according to a normal distribution (i.e., a curve), with the average performance given a middle "C" and the grade ranges determined by the standard deviation. Therefore, only A's and B's will be awarded if no class member receives less than 78% of the total points, and students will not be competing with each other. However, even if no one receives 88% of the total possible points, the highest ~8-15% will still receive A's. Plus grades are given to those within 1% point of a major grade change, while minus grades are only given to students bumped up to a higher grade based on improvement on the final exam.

There will be optional review sessions before both major exams. Students are encouraged to form study groups to prepare for exams, and to discuss topics of interest in greater depth.

Extra credit will only consist of a few questions on some of the quizzes and exams, and finding typos on the exams; otherwise there is no other extra credit in this class.

EXAMS:

The quizzes will be announced in class and are on the schedule, and there will be four. The first two will have practicum components while the last two will be written.

The midterm will cover session 2 through session 21, and is on **Monday, 4/29/19**.

The final exam will be minimally cumulative, with an emphasis on the last 4 sessions and related reading, and will be held on **Friday May. 17 from 9:45am-12 pm**. **Note: there will be no electronic devices (i.e., cell phones, pagers, palm pilots or other handhelds) or dictionaries allowed during exams**; I will, however, be more than happy to answer questions during the exams, including basic English translations, especially (but not exclusively) for non-native speakers of English

MAKE-UP POLICY:

Make-up exams will **not** be given unless 1) a **phone** message or a text is left at 408-398-9449 OR an email is sent to me at jkarpf@calfac.org before the scheduled time of the exam, 2) the reason for missing the exam is **important, beyond your control** and 3) is **verifiable by a reliable source**. In the case of illness, an official note from a physician or nurse practitioner is required. There will only be **one** make-up exam given, and it will be different than the original exam. If you are going to hand written work in late, you must also notify the

instructor before the due date of the written assignment. There will be a penalty for written work handed in late if the reason is not important, beyond your control and verifiable by a reliable source.

ATTENDANCE:

After the first few weeks, roll will not be called. Dropping the course is **your** responsibility, and I will not do it for you should you vanish during the semester. Pay attention to the drop deadline in the online Schedule of Classes. You are responsible for understanding the policies and procedures about add/drops, academic renewal, withdrawal, etc. found at [Add & Drop Deadlines](#) The **DROP** deadline without a W is **Tuesday, 2/5/19**, and the **ADD** deadline is **Tuesday, 2/12/19**.

Attendance is both necessary and expected, and it is exceedingly unlikely that you will get anything out of the class - including a passing grade - should you miss many classes. Class will begin on time and tardiness should be avoided, although you are strongly encouraged to attend class even if quite late: if unavoidable, come in quietly and take a seat towards the rear; don't just blow off class if you're late. I also have no problem with you recording class sessions, but you'll probably want to sit up front for good auditory reception.

University Policy S16-9 (<http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S16-9.pdf>) requires the following language to be included in the syllabus: "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 POLICIES

As members of the academic community, students accept both the rights and responsibilities incumbent upon all members of the institution. Students are encouraged to familiarize themselves with SJSU's policies and practices pertaining to the procedures to follow if and when questions or concerns about a class arises. See University Policy S'16-9, at: [Student Rights & Responsibilities](#) More detailed information on a variety of related topics is available in the SJSU catalog, at: [SJSU Catalog](#). Please also review: [Syllabus Info](#)

In general, it is recommended that students begin by seeking clarification or discussing concerns with their instructor. If such conversation is not possible, or if it does not serve to address the issue, it is recommended that the student contact the Department Chair as a next step.

CLASSROOM PROTOCOL

- Participation is a vital element in a social science environment and attendance is foundational to academic success; this is even more the case in a field such as osteology which requires hands-on learning. Students are expected to attend all classes. Although no formal role will be taken, but informal attendance records will be monitored.
- Students are encouraged to ask questions before, during, and after class and to take full advantage of scheduled office hours or to make appointments.
- As a courtesy and in respect for fellow students and instructor please turn off your cell phones and other electronics. All students - and your instructor - will turn off cell phones or put them on vibrate mode as soon as they enter class, and will put them away. You may use your cell phone or iPad/notebook cameras at the end of class to take photos of diagrams on the white board, but no photos will be permitted of the osteological material. Computers may be used only for note taking—please refrain from emailing, chatting, or looking at websites while in class. Text messaging during class is disruptive and not only disrespectful, but insulting. It also

prevents you from concentrating on the lecture. If you must attend to a phone message or call, such as from a child, then please leave the room.

- We will be dealing with osteological material from real human beings; as such, students are expected to be respectful when dealing with this material.

IMPORTANT CAVEATS AND NOTES:

Classroom behavior: Expectations about classroom behavior; see:

[Student Conduct Codes](#) on Student Rights and Responsibilities (click on the 1st and 4th PDF links on this webpage).

Finally, in the 44 years that I have been teaching at the university level, I have cancelled class a total of 2 times. Therefore, if you come to class and see a door sign indicating that class is canceled, you should assume it is a hoax and wait outside the class for a minimum of 15 minutes before leaving. This 15-minute rule is a general rule for all classes, as professors - like students - can also sometimes run late.

CONSENT FOR RECORDING OF CLASS AND PUBLIC SHARING OF INSTRUCTOR MATERIALS

University Policy S12-7 at [Policy on recording class](#) requires students to obtain instructor's permission to record the course, and the following items to be included in the syllabus:

- Common courtesy and professional behavior dictate that you notify someone when you are recording him/her. You must obtain the instructor's permission to make audio or video recordings in this class. Such permission allows the recordings to be used for your private, study purposes only. The recordings are the intellectual property of the instructor; you have not been given any rights to reproduce or distribute the material.

- Course material developed by the instructor is the intellectual property of the instructor and cannot be shared publicly without his/her approval. You may not publicly share or upload instructor generated material for this course such as exam questions, lecture notes, or homework solutions without instructor consent.

NOTE: I permit all students to voice-record - but not video - my lectures. You are also strongly encouraged to use your camera phones to snap photos of any board work or slides, but you may not upload or otherwise distribute anything recorded.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

CHEATING :

We all share the obligation to maintain an environment which practices academic integrity. Violators of the Academic Integrity Policy will be subject to failing this course and being reported to the Office of Student Conduct & Ethical Development for disciplinary action which could result in suspension or expulsion from San José State University. Your commitment as a student to learning is evidenced by your enrollment at San Jose State University. The University Academic Integrity Policy F15-7 at [Academic Integrity Policy](#)

At SJSU, cheating is the act of obtaining or attempting to obtain credit for academic work through the use of any dishonest, deceptive, or fraudulent means. Cheating at SJSU includes but is not limited to: Copying in part or in whole, from another's test or other evaluation instrument; submitting work previously graded in another course unless this has been approved by the course instructor or by departmental policy; submitting work simultaneously presented in two courses, unless this has been approved by both course instructors or by departmental policy; altering or interfering with grading or grading instructions; sitting for an examination by a surrogate, or as a surrogate; any other act committed by a student in the course

of his or her academic work which defrauds or misrepresents, including aiding or abetting in any of the actions defined above.

PLAGIARISM:

At SJSU plagiarism is the act of representing the work of another as one's own (without giving appropriate credit) regardless of how that work was obtained, and submitting it to fulfill academic requirements. Plagiarism at SJSU includes but is not limited to: The act of incorporating the ideas, words, sentences, paragraphs, or parts thereof, or the specific substances of another's work, without giving appropriate credit, and representing the product as one's own work; and representing another's artistic/scholarly works such as musical compositions, computer programs, photographs, painting, drawing, sculptures, or similar works as one's own. (emphasis mine)

UNIVERSITY POLICY ON CHEATING AND PLAGIARISM

Your commitment as a student to learning is evidenced by your enrollment at San Jose State University. The University's Academic Integrity policy, located at: Academic Integrity Policy requires you to be honest in all your academic course work. Faculty members are required to report all infractions to the office of Student Conduct and Ethical Development. The Student Conduct and Ethical Development website is available at the URL above under "Cheating". Please familiarize yourself with the Policy on Academic Integrity included above and in the online course schedule.

YOUR INSTRUCTOR'S POLICY ON CHEATING AND PLAGIARISM

In this class there are severe penalties for cheating (on exams) and for plagiarism (i.e., copying directly or close to directly someone else's words and representing them as your own). Plagiarism is cheating. There will be a zero tolerance for cheating in any form, with an immediate "F" in the course and an academic dishonesty report made to the Dean of Undergraduate Studies. Receiving two such reports is grounds for suspension or expulsion from the university.

CAMPUS POLICY IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE AMERICAN DISABILITIES ACT

If you need course adaptations or accommodations because of a disability, or if you need to make special arrangements in case the building must be evacuated, please make an appointment with me as soon as possible, or see me during office hours. Presidential Directive 97-03 at [Course Accommodations](#) requires that students with disabilities requesting accommodations must register with the Accessible Education Center (AEC) at: Accessible Education Center to establish a record of their disability.

ACCOMMODATION TO STUDENTS' RELIGIOUS HOLIDAYS

San Jose State University shall provide accommodation on any graded class work or activities for students wishing to observe religious holidays when such observances require students to be absent from class. It is the responsibility of the student to inform the instructor, in writing, about such holidays before the add deadline at start of each semester. If such holidays occur before the add deadline, the student must notify the instructor, in writing, at least three days before the date that he/she will be absent. It is the responsibility of the instructor to make every reasonable effort to honor the student request without penalty, and of the student to make up the work missed. See: [Religious Holidays Policy](#)

STUDENT TECHNOLOGY RESOURCES

Computer labs for student use are available in the Academic Success Center located on the 1st floor of Clark Hall and on the 2nd floor of the Student Union. Additional computer labs may be available in your department/college. Computers are also available in the Martin Luther King Library.

LEARNING ASSISTANCE RESOURCE CENTER

The Learning Assistance Resource Center (LARC) is located in Room 600 in the Student Services Center. It is designed to assist students in the development of their full academic potential and to motivate them to become self-directed learners. The center provides support services, such as skills assessment, individual or group tutorials, subject advising, learning assistance, summer academic preparation and basic skills development. The LARC web site can be found at: [Peer Connections](#)

SJSU WRITING CENTER

The SJSU Writing Center is located in Room 126 in Clark Hall. All Writing Specialists have gone through a rigorous hiring process, and they are well trained to assist all students at all levels within all disciplines to become better writers. In addition to one-on-one tutoring services, the Writing Center also offers workshops every semester on a variety of writing topics. To make an appointment or to refer to the numerous online resources offered through the Writing Center, visit the Writing Center website at: [Writing Center/](#)

PEER MENTOR CENTER

The Peer Mentor Center is located on the 1st floor of Clark Hall in the Academic Success Center. The Peer Mentor Center is staffed with Peer Mentors who excel in helping students manage university life, tackling problems that range from academic challenges to interpersonal struggles. On the road to graduation, Peer Mentors are navigators, offering “roadside assistance” to peers who feel a bit lost or simply need help mapping out the locations of campus resources. Peer Mentor services are free and available on a drop –in basis, no reservation required.

SJSU COUNSELING SERVICES

The SJSU Counseling & Psychological Services (CAPS) is located in the Student Wellness Center, Room 300B. Professional psychologists, social workers, and counselors are available to provide consultations on issues of student mental health, campus climate, or psychological and academic issues on an individual, couple, or group basis. To schedule an appointment or learn more information, please visit the Counseling Services website at: [CAPS](#)

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
1	M: 1/28 W: 1/30	1) Introduction: Course logistics and situating Forensic Anthropology within Anthropology 2) History of Forensic Anthropology: pp. 1-14 Beginning of semester survey (5 pts.)
2	M: 2/4 W: 2/6	3) Methods in Forensic Anthropology (Osteological): pp. 14-29 [NOTE: Tuesday 2/5 is last day to DROP w/out a W!] 4) Bone Physiology: pp. 53-59
3	M: 2/11 W: 2/13	5) Basic Osteology; Orientation and cranial features: pp. 30-41 [NOTE: Tuesday 2/12 is last day to add a class or change grade options!] 6) Basic Osteology; Sternum, Vertebrae, Clavicle & Ribs: pp. 41-46
4	M: 2/18 W: 2/20	5) In-Class Quiz #1 on sessions 1-5 (50 pts.) Written and Practicum 6) Basic Osteology; Scapula and upper limbs: pp. 44-51
5	M: 2/25 W: 2/27	7) Basic Osteology; Pelvis and lower limbs: pp. 48-57 8) Human dentition: pp. 59-62
6	M: 3/4 W: 3/6	9) In-Class Quiz #2 on sessions 6-8 (50 pts.) Practicum 10) Medicolegal concerns; Human vs. non-human, Adult vs. juvenile, Contemporary vs. Non-Contemporary: Ch. 3
7	M: 3/11 W: 3/13	11) Recovery scene methodologies: Ch. 4 12) Estimating postmortem intervals: Ch. 5
8	M: 3/18 W: 3/20	13) Initial treatment and intake: Ch. 6 14) Attribution of ancestry: Ch. 7
9	M: 3/25 W: 3/27	15) In-Class Quiz #3 on sessions 9-13 (50 pts.) Written 16) Attribution of sex: Ch. 8 NO CLASS next week! 4/1-4/5/19 is Spring Break! Please be careful put there.

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
10	M: 4/8 W: 4/10	17) Estimation of age: Ch.9 18) Calculation of stature; Ch. 10
11	M: 4/15 W: 4/17	19) In-Class Quiz #4 on sessions 14-18 (50 pts.) Written . 20) Trauma in general: Chs. 11-14
12	M: 4/22 W: 4/24	21) Antemortem and postmortem conditions: Chs. 15-16 21) Aspects of individualization & obtaining an identification: Chs. 17-18
13	M: 4/29 W: 5/1	22) Midterm (In-class; T&E 0200) 23): Expert witness testimony and professional ethics: Ch. 19
14	M: 5/6 W: 5/8	24) Serology and Molecular techniques Poll class re: timing of Final Exam review session on T: 5/14 25) Forensic anthropology in a human rights context
15	M: 5/13	26) Identifying the victims of state-sponsored terrorism End of semester survey (5 pts.)
Review Session	T: 5/14	Review session for Final Exam: "Dead Day" T: 5/14 TBA 12-2:30?
Final Exam	F: 5/17	WSQ 04 at 9:45 pm to 12 pm (NOTE the time difference!)