

**San José State University
Social Sciences/Anthropology
ANTH156, Bioarchaeology, Section 1, Fall 2010**

Instructor: Dr. Elizabeth Weiss
Office Location: Clark 404R
Telephone: (408) 924-5546
Email: Elizabeth.Weiss@sjsu.edu
Office Hours: TuTh 1:30PM – 2:45PM; We 12:00PM – 2:30PM
Class Days/Time: TuTh 10:30AM – 11:45AM
Classroom: WSQ004

Faculty Web Page and MYSJSU Messaging

Copies of the course materials such as the syllabus, major assignment handouts, etc. may be found on my faculty web page at <http://www.sjsu.edu/people/Elizabeth.Weiss>

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 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 analyses for the uncovering disease and trauma, subsistence patterns as well as biological relatedness, physical activity and the diverse reactions to stressors. Hands-on labs will be integrated into the regular class sessions.

Course Goals and Student Learning Objectives

Anth 156 has several specific learning objectives. By the completion of this course, students should 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.

Required Texts/Readings

Textbook

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

Weiss, E. 2008. Reburying the Past. Nova publishers. ISBN: 978-1-60456-701-4

Classroom Protocol

I highly recommend students attend class as often as possible.

Students are responsible for being aware of assignment due dates and the final exam schedule.

Students who miss classes should keep up with course readings and obtain notes from a classmate.

Students should read the assigned readings before they come to class. Also, students should feel free to ask questions when something in the lecture or book is not clear.

If you have any concerns about your class performance or comprehension, come by my office during office hours or schedule an appointment. I am always willing to help students and I care about whether students are grasping the material and enjoying the class.

CLASS BEHAVIOR

Newspaper reading is not allowed in class.

CELL PHONES, ETC.: No electronics (which include Ipods, Mp3 Players, Sidekicks, Cell phones, Laptops, etc.) will be allowed out in class. Before class begins, you must turn off all electronics and put them out of sight. **If I see any electronics being used, you will be kicked out of class!**

Rare exceptions may be made if the student has signed up with the Disability Resource Center (DRC), comes to see me regarding the issue, and has specific recommendation from the DRC for laptop use rather than a note-taker or other accommodation.

Any discussion regarding student accommodations must be done in my office during office hours or at a scheduled appointment time.

If you are asked to leave the classroom for any behavioral reason, you cannot make up the assignments missed during that class.

Any behavior that is deemed disruptive to the instructor or other students may result in the disrupting student to be referred to the Judicial Affairs Officer of the University.

Dropping and Adding

Students are responsible for understanding the policies and procedures about add/drop, grade forgiveness, etc. Refer to the current semester's [Catalog Policies](http://info.sjsu.edu/static/catalog/policies.html) section at <http://info.sjsu.edu/static/catalog/policies.html>. Add/drop deadlines can be found on the [current academic calendar](http://www.sjsu.edu/academic_programs/calendars/academic_calendar/) web page located at http://www.sjsu.edu/academic_programs/calendars/academic_calendar/. The [Late Drop Policy](http://www.sjsu.edu/aars/policies/latedrops/policy/) is available at <http://www.sjsu.edu/aars/policies/latedrops/policy/>. Students should be aware of the current deadlines and penalties for dropping classes.

Information about the latest changes and news is available at the [Advising Hub](http://www.sjsu.edu/advising/) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/advising/>.

Assignments and Grading Policy

There will be 4 lab assignments, a midterm and a final. The midterm and final include the understanding of the reading assignments and lecture topics. The final will be **comprehensive** and will be given at the **scheduled exam time**. Additionally, there will be in-class and take home assignments to assist in the exams and encourage class discussion and participation.

Grading

Lab Assignments (10% each)	40%
Midterm	25%
Final	35%
TOTAL	100%

Grading is as followed:

A	B	C	D	F
97% - 100% = A+	87-89% = B+	77-79% = C+	67-69% = D+	59% and Below = F
91-96% = A	81-86% = B	71-76% = C	61-66% = D	
90% = A-	80% = B-	70% = C-	60% = D-	

Make-up Work

If you know in advance that you should be unable to attend an exam, it is your responsibility to contact me immediately by either e-mailing or telephoning me, leaving a message for me at the main department office, or coming by during my office hours.

Only students with a valid documented excuse will be able to take a make-up exam or hand in a late assignment. Late assignments will not be accepted otherwise.

LATE ASSIGNMENTS

- Assignments are due at the beginning of class.
- No late assignments without a documented valid excuse will be accepted.
 - Documents need to be official and verifiable, such as hospital receipts, police records, etc.
 - Events that occur the night before the paper is due will not be accepted as an excuse since your paper should be done or nearly done by that time.
- No emailed assignments, assignments slid under my office door, or put in my office box will be accepted without prior permission.
- Occurrences that involve family members or friends will be considered only with documentation and collaborative evidence of relationships and the necessity of your attendance.
- EACH EXCUSE WILL BE EVALUATED ON A CASE-BY-CASE BASIS AND ALL DECISIONS ARE FINAL.

University Policies

Academic integrity

Your commitment as a student to learning is evidenced by your enrollment at San Jose State University. The [University's Academic Integrity policy](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/S07-2.htm), located at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/S07-2.htm>, 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](http://www.sa.sjsu.edu/judicial_affairs/index.html) is available at http://www.sa.sjsu.edu/judicial_affairs/index.html.

Instances of academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Cheating on exams or plagiarism (presenting the work of another as your own, or the use of another person's ideas without giving proper credit) will result in a failing grade and sanctions by the University. For this class, all assignments are to be completed by the individual student unless otherwise specified. If you would like to include your assignment or any material you have submitted, or plan to submit for another class, please note that SJSU's Academic Policy S07-2 requires approval of instructors.

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 requires that students with disabilities requesting accommodations must register with the [Disability Resource Center](http://www.drc.sjsu.edu/) (DRC) at <http://www.drc.sjsu.edu/> to establish a record of their disability.

ANTH156 / Bioarchaeology, Fall 2010, Course Schedule

List the agenda for the semester including when and where the final exam will be held. Indicate the schedule is subject to change with fair notice and how the notice will be made available.

Table 1 Course Schedule

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
1	8/25 8/26	Introduction History of Bioarchaeology; BS Chapter 1
2	8/31 9/2	Bone biology; BS Chapter 2 Reconstructing Activities, Cross-sections; BS Chapter 3: 9 – 21
3	9/7 9/9	Reconstructing Activities, Muscle markers; BS Chapter 3: 21 – 26 Reconstructing Activities, Osteoarthritis, BS Chapter 3: 26 – 30
4	9/14 9/16	Reconstructing Activities, Stress Fractures, BS Chapter 3: 30 – 36 Lab on Activity Patterns
5	9/21 9/23	Health & Disease, General Indicators of Stress, BS Chapter 4: 37 – 44 Health & Disease, Specific Indicators of Stress, BS Chapter 4: 44 – 49
6	9/28 9/30	Health & Disease, Dental Disease, BS Chapter 4: 49 – 52 Health & Disease, Infectious Disease, BS Chapter 4: 52 – 59
7	10/5 10/7	Health & Disease, Congenital Disease, BS Chapter 4: 60 – 66 Lab on Diseases
8	10/12 10/14	Midterm Review Midterm
9	10/19 10/21	Trauma, Accidental vs. Violence, BS Chapter 5: 67 – 74 Trauma, Surgery, BS Chapter 5: 74 – 77
10	10/26 10/28	Lab on Trauma Cultural Modification, Aesthetics BS Chapter 6: 79 -83
11	11/2 11/4	Cultural Modification, Cannibalism BS Chapter 6: 83 – 86 Diet, Occlusal Wear, BS Chapter 7: 87 – 91
12	11/9 11/11	Diet, Isotopes, BS Chapter 7: 91 – 95 No Class
13	11/16 11/18	Diet and Crania, BS Chapter 7: 95 – 99 Biological Relatedness, Skeletal traits, BS Chapter 8: 101 – 107
14	11/23 11/25	Biological Relatedness, aDNA, BS Chapter 8: 107 – 110 No Class

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
15	11/30 12/2	Lab on Relatedness Reburial Laws, RP Chapters 4 – 6
16	12/7 12/9	Reburial: Science and Religion, RP Chapter 7 – 10 Final Review
Final Exam	Thursday, December 16	WSQ 004 at 9:45-12:00

BS: Bioarchaeological Science text

RP: Reburying the Past text