

San José State University
Anthropology
ANTH157, Introduction to Forensic Anthropology,
Section 01, Spring, 2012

Instructor: Lorna C. Pierce
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Office Hours: Wednesday 1400-1500 or by appointment
Class Days/Time: Wednesday 1500-1745
Classroom: 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.

An optional trip to the Santa Clara County Medical Examiner–Coroner’s Office will be scheduled.

Course Goals and Program Learning Outcomes

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 this course, students will have gained:

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

Required Text

Textbook

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

Other Readings

Other readings are listed in the weekly schedule. They are available in most libraries or can be downloaded from the lab computer.

PURELY FOR PLEASURE

Bass, B., and Jefferson, J., Death's Acre. G. P. Putnam's Sons, New York, 2003.
 Craig, Emily, Teasing Secrets from the Dead. Crown, New York, 2004.
 Elkins, Aaron, Unnatural Selection. Berkley 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.
Mann, Robert, Forensic Detective. Ballantine, New York, 2006
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 CDs and DVDs available that may assist you in the identification of skeletal material. The Anatomical Chart web site <http://www.anatomical.com> lists some of these materials.

Other equipment / material requirements

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. 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.

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.

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. PLEASE TURN OFF ALL CELL PHONES. 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.

Dropping and Adding

Students are responsible for understanding the policies and procedures about add/drops, academic renewal, etc. [Information on add/drops are available at http://info.sjsu.edu/web-dbgen/narr/soc-fall/rec-298.html](http://info.sjsu.edu/web-dbgen/narr/soc-fall/rec-298.html). [Information about late drop is available at http://www.sjsu.edu/sac/advising/latedrops/policy/](http://www.sjsu.edu/sac/advising/latedrops/policy/). Students should be aware of the current deadlines and penalties for adding and dropping classes.

Assignments and Grading Policy

Grading:

Laboratory Exercises	10%
Unannounced quizzes	05%
Laboratory Exam	10%
Osteology quizzes	20%
Research paper:	20%
Midterm exam:	15%
Final exam:	20%

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

University Policies

Academic integrity

Students should know that the University's [Academic Integrity Policy is available at http://www.sa.sjsu.edu/download/judicial_affairs/Academic_Integrity_Policy_S07-2.pdf](http://www.sa.sjsu.edu/download/judicial_affairs/Academic_Integrity_Policy_S07-2.pdf).

Your own commitment to learning, as evidenced by your enrollment at San Jose State University and the University's integrity policy, require 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 website for [Student Conduct and Ethical Development is available at http://www.sa.sjsu.edu/judicial_affairs/index.html](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 in your assignment any material you have submitted, or plan to submit for another class, please note that SJSU's Academic Policy F06-1 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 DRC (Disability Resource Center) to establish a record of their disability.

Student Technology Resources (Optional)

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.

A wide variety of audio-visual equipment is available for student checkout from Media Services located in IRC 112. These items include digital and VHS camcorders, VHS and Beta video players, 16 mm, slide, overhead, DVD, CD, and audiotape players, sound systems, wireless microphones, projection screens and monitors.

ANTH 157 / Introduction to Forensic Anthropology, Spring 12, Wednesday 1500-1745

Table 1 Course Schedule

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
Week 1	1/25	Introduction to Forensic Anthropology: Dead Men Do Talk
Week 2	2/1	History of Forensic Anthropology Read Bass: 307-316, 327-336.
Week 3	2/8	Role of Medical Examiner/Coroner, Basic Human Osteology Download and read Coroner handout Read Bass: 1-33, 192-213, 218-257.
Week 4	2/15	Osteology quiz 1, PMI
Week 5	2/22	Forensic Field Techniques Read Bass: 34-63, 83-92, 99-144.
Week 6	2/29	Search and Recovery of Buried Bodies Read 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.
Week 7	3/7	Midterm Exam, Lab Exercise 1
Week 8	3/14	Osteology quiz 2, Forensic Evidence Dogs: Guest Speaker: Adela Morris
Week 9	3/21	Forensic Entomology, Web of Clues Read Bass: 145-153, 159-164, 166-172. Haglund, W. <u>et al.</u> , "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. Sach, J. S., "A Maggot for the Prosecution", <u>Discover</u> , November 1998, 103-108.
Week 10	3/28	Spring Break
Week 11	4/4	Crime Laboratory Procedures: Guest Speaker: Jeremiah Garrido

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
Week 12	4/11	<p>Creatures in Crime, Lab exercise 2</p> <p>Read Owsley, D. W., "Identification of the Fragmentary, Burned Remains of Two U. S. Journalists Seven Years After Their Disappearance in Guatemala", <u>Journal of Forensic Sciences</u>, Vol. 38, No. 6, November 1993, pp. 1372-1382.</p> <p>Stover, E., "The Grave at Vukovar", <u>Smithsonian</u>, Vol. 27, No. 4, March 1997, pp. 40-51.</p>
Week 13	4/18	<p>Forensic Odontology: Guest Speaker: Dr. Leon Pappanastos</p> <p>Read Bass: 271-274, 288-305.</p> <p>Facial Reconstruction</p>
Week 14	4/25 4/27	<p>Research Paper or Oral Presentation due</p> <p>Optional trip to Medical Examiner's Office</p>
Week 15	5/2	Rest of Oral Presentations, Osteology quiz 3, Trauma and Pathological Lesions
Week 16	5/9	Review for Final Exam, Laboratory Exam
Final Exam	Monday 5/23	<p>1215-1430 Final Examination. The final exam will cover all topics discussed or assigned during the quarter.</p> <p>The exam will be in the lab, room 2.</p>