Human Osteology and Archaeological Forensics

ANTH 4355.001 (Spring 2024)
Mondays and Wednesdays 2:30-3:45 p.m.
FG78

Professor: Dr. Leslie Cecil
Department of Anthropology, Geography, and Sociology
Office: LAN 329
Phone: 468-3980
Email: cecilg@sfasu.edu
Office Hours: Virtual (link in Brightspace) and in person: Monday and Wednesday 11-12:30, Tuesday and Thursday 1-2, or by appointment

Course Description/Objectives
This course is designed to provide an introduction to the human skeleton and how forensic anthropologists solve cases involving human beings in various stages of decomposition. Because of the interest in CSI, Bones, and other television shows and movies that feature forensics, it is important that students be able to differentiate fact from fiction.

Student Learning Outcomes
Upon completion of this course, you will be able to:
1) identify the different bones in the human skeleton.
2) differentiate human from animal bones.
3) understand how the human skeleton reacts to trauma and violence.
4) appreciate the actual field of forensic anthropology.

Credit Hour Justification:
ANT4355 "Osteology and Archaeological Forensics (3 credit hours) meets twice a week (Monday and Wednesday) for a span of 15 weeks and meets for a 2-hour final exam. Students have significant weekly readings, are required to learn the bones of a human and their landmarks, complete quizzes over the bones and their landmarks, will have a 2-hour final exam, and a research project that critically evaluates a forensic case. These
activities average a minimum of 8 hours of work each week to prepare outside of the classroom hours.

Required Texts
1) White, Tim D., and Pieter A. Folkens

2) Craig, Emily

You are expected to have read all of the material assigned for the class period before you come to class. If you do not do the readings, your ability to understand the various parts of the bones and forensics will suffer. Part of your professionalism grade depends on your effort in class discussion.

Course Requirements and Structure
Class meets on Mondays and Wednesdays. Laboratory quizzes will start promptly at 2:30 p.m. If you are late for the quizzes, you will miss some questions as you cannot go back to missed stations. If you come to class at 2:40 p.m. you will not be able to take the quiz. There are no make-up quizzes regardless of the reason for you absence. Therefore, you are expected to attend class and absences will be reflected in your class participation and professionalism grades.

The first two-thirds of this course will consist of identifying human bones. Because this section requires copious amounts of hands-on experience and learning, the course will be divided into lecture days and laboratory days (please see the Class Schedule at the back of the syllabus for the different days/rooms). On lecture days, Dr. Cecil will provide structural information about the human skeleton and on laboratory days we will meet in the Anthropology and Archaeology Laboratory (Ferguson G80) so that you can practice identifying bones. Beginning on September 23rd, the laboratory days will be divided into two parts: the first 25 minutes will be a quiz over the bones from the previous lab and the second 50 minutes will be used to study the bones for the current week (see class calendar). There are no make-up quizzes! The laboratory will also be open during the week (except for Thursdays and Tuesdays from 3-5 pm) if you would like to spend more time with the bones. The second one-third of the course will be about forensic anthropology. The majority of this section will be lecture and the project.

In addition to the bone quizzes, there will be a cumulative final exam and an actual forensic group project. The project will involve doing a forensic examination of a skeleton acquired from the Biology Department in December 2023. More details about the project and what is expected from you is after the reading/class schedule.

Grading:
By completing assignments, you are EARNING points. The total number of points that you earn will be your grade. There are no free points to be given out at will by the professor. There will be no rounding up of grades. The number of points that you earn is the grade that you will have in this class. THERE WILL BE NO BEGGING OR BARTERING FOR POINTS THAT YOU DID NOT EARN.
Bone Quizzes: 140 points (20 points for each of 7 quizzes)
Race and Sex Labs: 40 points (20 points per lab)
Forensic Project: 100 points
Final Exam: 100 points

Grades are posted on D2L so that you can always figure out your grade in the course. Letter grades are as follows: A (100-90%); B (89-80%); C (79-70%); D (69-60%); and F (59% and below).

**Attendance and Excused absences**

**Institution Absences (HOP 04-110)**

An Institutional Absence may be granted to a student who participates as a representative of the University in academic (including research), extra- or cocurricular, or athletic activities. Students will be excused for institutional purposes from otherwise required academic activity only when a valid Institutional Absence is approved by the appropriate administrative unit or official and the documentation of approval is provided to the faculty member at least five (5) days in advance.

Institutional absences will not be approved for keystone events, defined as: a special or unique assignment, test, project, experience, or other academic exercise identified by the Faculty member as critical for successful completion of standards of the class and unable to be missed. These events must be identified on the syllabus at the beginning of the semester and communicated to the students. Events added to the syllabus at a later date will not qualify for Keystone Event status. Keystone Events where the date/time is changed will no longer be considered a Keystone Event. Students should make themselves aware of any Keystone Events identified in the syllabus to ensure there are no conflicts.

For keystone events where the assignment dates vary, it is incumbent upon the students to work with their faculty member to not select a conflicting date.

More information on Institutional Absences, including how to apply, can be found at [https://www.sfasu.edu/deanofstudents/student-resources/institutional-absences](https://www.sfasu.edu/deanofstudents/student-resources/institutional-absences).

**Professionalism:**
You are expected to act professionally at all times and to treat each other, the bones, and me (the professor) with respect. Behaving unprofessionally will adversely affect your grade. You are expected to come to class having read the assigned materials and be prepared to discuss the content.

When you come to class, please turn off and put away your cell phones and other electronics including computers. There will be no text messaging or use of computers during class time. If you use your cell phone or computer during class time, you will lose 25 points. If you need to use a laptop computer, record the lectures, or need assistance with any disability, please see Disabilities Services for the required paperwork and I will be happy to accommodate your needs. Remember, if you are doing something other than paying attention in class you interfere with your classmate’s abilities to learn. Please be courteous to everyone in class.
Acceptable Student Behavior:
Classroom behavior should not interfere with the instructor’s ability to conduct the class or the ability of other students to learn from the instructional program (see the Student Conduct Code, policy D-34.1). Unacceptable or disruptive behavior will not be tolerated. Students who disrupt the learning environment may be asked to leave class and may be subject to judicial, academic or other penalties. This prohibition applies to all instructional forums, including electronic, classroom, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc. The instructor shall have full discretion over what behavior is appropriate/inappropriate in the classroom. Students who do not attend class regularly or who perform poorly on class projects/exams may be referred to the Early Alert Program. This program provides students with recommendations for resources or other assistance that is available to help SFA students succeed.

Students with Disabilities [http://www2.sfasu.edu/disabilityservices/].
To obtain disability related accommodations, alternate formats and/or auxiliary aids, students with disabilities must contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS), Human Services Building, and Room 325, 468-3004/468-1004 (TDD) as early as possible in the semester. Once verified, ODS will notify the course instructor and outline the accommodation and/or auxiliary aids to be provided. Failure to request services in a timely manner may delay your accommodations.

Academic Integrity:
[http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/student_academic_dishonesty.pdf]
The Code of Student Conduct and Academic Integrity outlines the prohibited conduct by any student enrolled in a course at SFA. It is the responsibility of all members of all faculty, staff, and students to adhere to and uphold this policy.

Articles IV, VI, and VII of the new Code of Student Conduct and Academic Integrity outline the violations and procedures concerning academic conduct, including cheating, plagiarism, collusion, and misrepresentation. Cheating includes, but is not limited to: (1) Copying from the test paper (or other assignment) of another student, (2) Possession and/or use during a test of materials that are not authorized by the person giving the test, (3) Using, obtaining, or attempting to obtain by any means the whole or any part of a non-administered test, test key, homework solution, or computer program, or using a test that has been administered in prior classes or semesters without permission of the Faculty member, (4) Substituting for another person, or permitting another person to substitute for one’s self, to take a test, (5) Falsifying research data, laboratory reports, and/or other records or academic work offered for credit, (6) Using any sort of unauthorized resources or technology in completion of educational activities.

Plagiarism is the appropriation of material that is attributable in whole or in part to another source or the use of one’s own previous work in another context without citing that it was used previously, without any indication of the original source, including words, ideas, illustrations, structure, computer code, and other expression or media, and presenting that material as one’s own academic work being offered for credit or in conjunction with a program course or degree requirements.
Collusion is the unauthorized collaboration with another person in preparing academic assignments offered for credit or collaboration with another person to commit a violation of any provision of the rules on academic dishonesty, including disclosing and/or distributing the contents of an exam.

Misrepresentation is providing false grades or résumés; providing false or misleading information in an effort to receive a postponement or an extension on a test, quiz, or other assignment for the purpose of obtaining an academic or financial benefit for oneself or another individual or to injure another student academically or financially.

**Add/Drop Policy:** [http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/add_drop.asp](http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/add_drop.asp)

**Withheld Grades:**
Ordinarily, at the discretion of the instructor of record and with the approval of the academic chair/director, a grade of WH will be assigned only if the student cannot complete the coursework because of unavoidable circumstances. Students must complete the work within one calendar year from the end of the semester in which they receive a WH, or the grade automatically becomes an F. If students register for the same course in future terms the WH will automatically become an F and will be counted as a repeated course to compute the grade point average. For additional information, go to [https://www.sfasu.edu/policies/course-grades-5.5.pdf](https://www.sfasu.edu/policies/course-grades-5.5.pdf).

**Mental Health and Wellness**

SFA values students’ mental health and the role it plays in academic and overall student success. SFA provides a variety of resources to support students’ mental health and wellness. Many of these resources are free, and all of them are confidential.

**On-campus Resources:**

SFA Counseling Service
[www.sfasu.edu/counselingservices](http://www.sfasu.edu/counselingservices)
Health and Wellness Hub (corner of E. College and Raguet)
936.468.2401

SFA Human Services Counseling Clinic
[www.sfasu.edu/humanservices/139.asp](http://www.sfasu.edu/humanservices/139.asp) Human Services, Room
Crisis Resources:
Burke 24-hour crisis line: 1.800.392.8343S
National Suicide Crisis Prevention: 9-8-8
Suicide Prevention Lifeline:
1.800.273.TALK (8255) Crisis
Text Line: Text HELLO to 741-741
**Reading/Class Schedule:**

Readings from *Human Bone Manual* are abbreviated as **HB**

*Teasing Secrets from the Dead* are abbreviated as **TS**

All assignments and exams listed on this timeline are considered Keystone Events.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class Date</th>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Lecture Material</th>
<th>Laboratory Quiz and Material</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jan 22</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>Introduction to Class</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Jan 24     | W   | Planes and Positions  
**HB** Chapter 1 and 6 |                             |
| Jan 29     | M   | Bone Structure and Histology  
**HB** Chapter 4 |                             |
| Jan 31     | W   | The Skull  
**HB** Chapter 7 |                             |
| Feb 5      | M   |                             | The Skull                    |
| Feb 7      | W   | The Skull  
**HB** Chapter 7 |                             |
| Feb 12     | M   |                             | The Skull                    |
| Feb 14     | W   | Dentition  
**HB** Chapter 8 |                             |
| Feb 19     | M   |                             | Quiz: Skull  
Lab: Dentition |
| Feb 21     | W   | Spinal Column and Ribs  
**HB** Chapters 9 and 10 |                             |
| Feb 26     | M   |                             | Quiz: Dentition  
Lab: Spinal Column and Ribs |
| Feb 28     | W   | Shoulder and Arm  
**HB** Chapters 11 and 12 |                             |
| March 4    | M   |                             | Quiz: Spinal Column and Ribs  
Lab: Shoulder and Arm |
| March 6    | W   | Hands and Feet  
**HB** Chapters 13 and 16 |                             |
| March 18   | M   |                             | Quiz: Shoulder and Arm  
Lab: Hands and Feet |
| March 20   | W   | Pelvis  
**HB** Chapter 14 |                             |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class Date</th>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Lecture Material</th>
<th>Laboratory Quiz and Material</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>March 25</td>
<td>M</td>
<td></td>
<td>Quiz: Hands and Feet Lab: Pelvis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 27</td>
<td>W</td>
<td>Legs HB Chapter 15</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 1</td>
<td>M</td>
<td></td>
<td>Quiz: Pelvis Lab: Legs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 3</td>
<td>W</td>
<td>Ethics and Field Procedures HB Chapters 2, 3, and 18 TS Prologue and Chapter 1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 8</td>
<td>M</td>
<td></td>
<td>Quiz: Legs Lab: Race HB Chapter 19 TS Chapter 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 10</td>
<td>W</td>
<td>Pathologies, Modifications, Disease TS Chapters 3-8</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 15</td>
<td>M</td>
<td></td>
<td>Lab: Sexing and Age HB Chapter 19 TS Chapter 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 17</td>
<td>W</td>
<td>Burned Bodies and Waco TS Chapters 3, 7, 8 Watch “Rules of Engagement” Before coming to class.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 22</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>“Guatemala Massacres”</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 24</td>
<td>W</td>
<td>Trauma, Fractures, Bullet, Knives TS Chapters 4-6</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 29</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>Miscellaneous Pathology catch up day</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 1</td>
<td>W</td>
<td>Forensic report presentation</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 10</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>Final Exam 8-10 am</td>
<td>No Make Up Exams Allowed!</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


Department of Anthropology, Geography, and Sociology
Assessment Syllabus Insert  ANT 4355.001

Program Learning Outcomes

The sociology program states the following items as Program Learning Objectives (PLOs) for sociology majors.

**PLO1** The students will be able to identify, compare, and contrast sociological classical and contemporary theories.
**PLO2** The student will be able to identify the principles of good social scientific research design. Such principles include validity, reliability, precision in measurement, and sampling methodology.
**PLO3** The student will possess sociological knowledge as evidenced by the identification of the major concepts involved with social stratification, demography, race and ethnic relations, deviance, and globalization.
**PLO4** The student will be able to apply sociological knowledge and skills to a variety of settings.
**PLO5** The student will recognize the implicit assumptions behind claims of knowledge about the social world, will be able to evaluate and distinguish between strong and weak arguments, and will be able to draw conclusions from a set of premises.
**PLO6** The student will be able to read theoretical arguments and to identify their major strengths and weaknesses.
**PLO7** The student will be able to analyze a data set using statistical techniques and draw conclusions from the results.

This course addresses the following of these objectives:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PLOs</th>
<th>Supported Course Objective</th>
<th>Skill Level</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>SLO # or NA (not applicable)</td>
<td>Basic, Intermediate, Advanced</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PLO1</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>NA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PLO2</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PLO3</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>NA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PLO4</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>NA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PLO5</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PLO6</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>NA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PLO7</td>
<td>1, 3</td>
<td>B</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>