



## **ANTH 4351/CRIJ 4351 FORENSIC ANTHROPOLOGY**

**Class Location: FH 312**

**Class time: Mon & Wed 9:30am-10:45 am**

### **INSTRUCTOR AND CONTACT INFORMATION**

Instructor: Christine Jones, PhD

Faculty blog: <http://anthrowarrior.blogspot.com>

Office: FH 217K

Contact me: [Bioarchjones@tamuct.edu](mailto:Bioarchjones@tamuct.edu)

### **OFFICE HOURS**

Mon & Wed 1:45-3:45, Thurs 12-2pm

### **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course is a broad overview of forensic anthropology, the application of the science of physical anthropology to the legal process. Students will learn the techniques used by forensic anthropologists to identify human remains, both skeletal and decomposed. Topics include the determination of age, sex, ancestry, stature, and unique features of a decedent from the skeleton and how these are used to help establish a positive identification. An overview of trauma and other pathological conditions of the skeleton show how forensic anthropologists can provide information to help determine the cause and manner of death. Classes will be a combination of lecture and laboratory exercises.

### **Mode of instruction and course access**

This course meets face-to-face. Check Canvas daily for any course announcements or schedule changes.

### **Student-instructor interaction**

During the week (Mon-Fri) I usually check emails often and respond within 24 hours. I may not respond to weekend emails until Monday or Tuesday. Email is a better way to reach me than Canvas message. If you plan to come to my office hours, please mention it or send me a quick email so I can make sure to have enough time to schedule and see all students.

### **911 Cellular**

Emergency Warning System for Texas A&M University – Central Texas

911Cellular is an emergency notification service that gives Texas A&M University-Central Texas the ability to communicate health and safety emergency information quickly via email, text message, and social media. All students are automatically enrolled in 911 Cellular through their myCT email account.

Connect at [911Cellular](https://portal.publicsafetycloud.net/Texas-AM-Central/alert-management) [https://portal.publicsafetycloud.net/Texas-AM-Central/alert-management] to change where you receive your alerts or to opt out. By staying enrolled in 911Cellular, university officials can quickly pass on safety-related information, regardless of your location.



## LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Students will

- Learn basic human osteology
- Identify the various methods used in determining sex, age, and ancestry from human skeletal remains
- Identify the methods used in determining trauma and/or pathological conditions of the human skeleton
- Explain the steps necessary to establish a positive identification from human skeletal remains
- Outline the role of the forensic anthropologist in the field including proper fieldwork techniques and methods and learn how to work in a cooperative manner with law enforcement officials
- Conduct themselves ethically and with respect for human rights

## REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS

<b>Book Title</b>	<b>Year</b>	<b>Author</b>	<b>ISBN</b>	<b>Ed.</b>	<b>Publisher</b>
<b>Forensic Anthropology</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>Christensen</b>	<b>9780124186712</b>	<b>1st</b>	<b>Academic</b>
<b>Human Bone Manual</b>	<b>2005</b>	<b>White</b>	<b>9780120884674</b>		<b>Academic</b>

## COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. Reading assignments: Readings from the textbooks are listed in the course calendar below. It is best to read the chapters just before the class under which they are listed.
2. In class assignments: There are 4 total hands-on “lab” participation assignments. 2 of these are based on lectures or readings of new material and 2 of these are related to our fieldwork project. Materials for these assignments (handouts, etc) will be provided on the class day they are assigned. You must be present to get credit for these assignments (see makeup policy).
3. Bone Practicals: There are 6 bone practicals (dates on schedule) spread over the entire course. These are designed to test your knowledge of osteology in particular, divided by section of the body. Each practical consists of a series of stations where you will identify or label casts of bones. Study guides for each section will be provided. Depending on the size of the class we may take practicals with half of the class in group A and half in group B (to be assigned on the day of the practical) where one group will take the practical first and the other will wait. \*\*If you wish to study for practicals using the same skeletal models we have available during lab time you can do so in a classroom (will be set up for you) during Dr. Jones office hours.
4. Exams: There will be a midterm and a final exam. Exams will be multiple choice. There may be diagrams or images on the exams. Exams will cover textbook readings, films,

lab assignment material, and lecture material and are not cumulative unless stated otherwise. Material covered on the bone quizzes (osteology only) will NOT be on the midterm or final exam.

5. Fieldwork Project: Three class days have been reserved for an outdoor workshop in human remains recovery during our normal class time. We will definitely use 2 days and the 3<sup>rd</sup> day is reserved for weather or problems. The workshop will involve a simulated burial site on campus and students will learn how to locate and properly excavate a burial. Three days have been reserved in the schedule but the actual recovery days will be finalized a week or so beforehand (since weather is a factor). **Please MARK YOUR SCHEDULES NOW.** Prior to the project we will review fieldwork methods in the classroom and further info will be provided.
  
6. Final Report: The final report is the culmination of our fieldwork project. This report is to be modeled after a technical report and will summarize data collected during our investigation. While the class will work together gathering data the analysis, conclusions, and text of the submitted final report should be the product of each individual student working alone. For example, use of identical phrasing, also known as copy & pasting, in submitted final reports by one or more students may result in a zero for the paper (see academic dishonesty statement below). More details on the final report including a rubric will be provided on Canvas.

Coursework	Points
Exams (2@ 100)	200
Assignments (4 @ 35)	140
Bone quizzes (6 @ 50)	300
Fieldwork project	200
Final report	160
<b>Total:</b>	1000

Points	%	Grade
900 – 1000	90 – 100%	A
800 – 899	80 – 89%	B
700 – 799	70 – 79%	C
600 – 699	60 – 69%	D
0 – 599	0 – 59%	F

**Grade posting:** All grades will be posted online; it usually takes about 1 week for me to grade your work. Be assured that I am grading your work as fast as I possibly can.

### **COURSE SCHEDULE (Lecture topics listed by week)**

FA=Forensic Anthropology main text, HB=Human bone manual

Practicals cover human bones only, specific info provided on study guides

Labs are in-class lab assignments

**\*\*\*\*NO MAKEUPS ARE GIVEN FOR PRACTICALS OR FIELDWORK DAYS FOR ANY REASON \*\*\*\***

Week 1: Syllabus & Bone Biology  
 M Aug 28: Read FA ch 1, HB ch 1  
 W Aug 30: Read FA ch 2, HB 4 & 6

Week 2: The skull & Sex determination (skull)  
 M Sep 4: LABOR DAY, no classes  
 W Sep 6: **PRACTICAL 1 (terms)**, Read HB ch 7

Week 3: Ancestry & Cranial metrics

M Sep 11: **LAB 1 (skull)**, Read FA ch 8

W Sep 13: Read FA ch 9

Week 4: Odontology & Juvenile Age determination

M Sep 18: Read HB ch 8

W Sep 20: **PRACTICAL 2 (skull & teeth)**, Read FA ch 10 up to pg 251

Week 5: Forensic Context, Ethics & Shoulder/Thorax

M Sep 25: Read HB 3, 9, 10, 11

W Sep 27: Read FA ch 4

Week 6: Pelvic Girdle & Age/Sex determination

M Oct 2: **PRACTICAL 3 (shoulder/thorax)**

W Oct 4: **LAB 2 (pelvis)**, Read FA finish ch 10

Week 7: Antemortem Pathology

M Oct 9: Read FA ch 12 & HB ch 14 (YES WE HAVE CLASS)

W Oct 11: **PRACTICAL 4 (pelvis)**, Read HB Ch 19 on Age & Sex

Week 8: Midterm

M Oct 16: Study Session

W Oct 18: **MIDTERM**

Week 9: Taphonomy & Appendages/Stature

M Oct 23: Read FA ch 5, HB ch 5, 12, 13

W Oct 25: Read FA ch 11, HB ch 15 & 16

Week 10: Victim ID & Fieldwork Prep

M Oct 30: **PRACTICAL 5** (Arms & Legs), Read FA ch 14. Halloween costumes= 5 pts extra credit on practical

W Nov 1: **LAB 3 (fieldwork prep)**, Read FA ch 6, HB ch 2

Week 11: FIELDWORK PLANNED

M Nov 6: **FIELDWORK DAY**

W Nov 8: **FIELDWORK DAY**

WEEK 12: Trauma Basics & Fieldwork

M Nov 13: **FIELDWORK DAY (reserved for weather)**

W Nov 15: **LAB 4 (fieldwork lab)**, Read FA ch 13 & 15, HB ch 17.

Week 13: Trauma and more, Happy Thanksgiving!

M Nov 20: Scientific Writing Guidelines to Prep for final Report (no readings)

W Nov 22: READING/STUDY DAY

\*\*\*\*NO MAKEUPS ARE GIVEN FOR PRACTICALS OR FIELDWORK DAYS FOR ANY REASON \*\*\*\*

Week 14: Catch up week

M Nov 27: Read FA ch 3, 7 & HB ch 18

W Nov 29: **PRACTICAL 6 (whole skeleton)**

Week 15: Trauma & Mass Death cont'd

M Dec 4: **FINAL REPORT DUE** 9:30am (after this time begins late penalty)

W Dec 6: PDF reading to be handed out in class

Week 16: This is the end ☠

M Dec 11: Study Session

W Dec 13: **FINAL**

\*\*\*\*NO MAKEUPS ARE GIVEN FOR PRACTICALS OR FIELDWORK DAYS FOR ANY REASON \*\*\*\*

## COURSE PROCEDURES AND POLICIES

**Handling human skeletal remains in this course:** Throughout this entire course we will be learning using reproduction (plastic) skeletons as well as actual human skeletal remains. You will be required to handle these materials as part of the course (during practicals and in class lab assignments). We will be excavating simulated burials. If you are not comfortable handling skeletal remains (either reproduction or actual) or if the idea of digging up a simulated murder victim/burial is difficult for you for any reason, please see the instructor as soon as possible to help determine if this course is right for you.

We will review a number of rules regarding the handling of skeletal remains to ensure they are not damaged during the class, but first and foremost of these involve food and drink. No food or drink (in any container type) is allowed on the same tables as our skeletons, for their safety! This includes candy and gum. You may stow your food and drink away safely in your bag or we can reserve a table/chair for food and drinks. Failure to observe these rules regarding food and drink can result in the instructor asking you to leave the classroom, which may affect your grade and participation in the course. There is no risk to you in terms of eating/drinking after handling these skeletons, but it's strongly recommended that you wash your hands before eating or drinking because eww.

### Diversity in the Classroom

Respect for cultural and human biological diversity are core concepts within the Social Sciences. In this course, each voice in the classroom has something of value to contribute to class discussion. Please respect the different experiences, beliefs and values expressed by your fellow students and instructor, and refrain from derogatory comments about other individuals, cultures, groups, or viewpoints. In this course we welcome individuals of all ages, backgrounds, citizenships, disabilities, education, ethnicities, family statuses, genders, gender identities, geographical locations, languages, military experience, political views,

ances, religions, sexual orientations, socioeconomic statuses, and work experiences.

**Attendance & Makeup:** Attendance is a requirement of this course to succeed (I'm not taking attendance) because this course involves a lot of hands on work completed during class including taking notes from lectures, practicals, in-class laboratory assignments, the fieldwork days, and each of the exams. If you are not dedicated to coming to this class when it meets, please consider taking another course.

**\*\*\*\*NO MAKEUPS ARE GIVEN FOR PRACTICALS OR FIELDWORK DAYS FOR ANY REASON \*\*\*\***

Absolutely No Makeups for any reason will be provided for practicals and fieldwork days. If you foresee having to miss these days, it is better to drop the course, as combined they are worth 50% of your final grade. Makeups for both of these assignment types are time consuming to set up and administer and cannot be replaced easily with alternative assignments. I am taking time away from my teaching quality and effectiveness to do so and therefore no makeups will be offered for these assignment types AT ALL. Do not request this type of makeup.

Students may request a makeup for the midterm exam and in-class assignments if the student misses the midterm or assignment due to illness or injury for example. To successfully makeup these assignments you MUST 1. Contact the instructor prior to the missed midterm or in-class assignment (or within 24 hours of having missed the assignment in the case of emergencies) for purposes of making it up; 2. Schedule with the instructor ASAP to take a makeup no later than 2 weeks after the original excused absence; and 3. Provide documentation (ex: doctor's note, police report) verifying the reason for your excuse. If you don't follow through on all three of these requirements you may be denied the request to makeup the work. Students who miss an exam with no excused absence will receive a zero on the exam. Makeups for final exams are usually denied because it is not possible to schedule a makeup final before final grades are due. For this reason, makeup final exams are given rarely and with a 20 point deduction (evidence pertaining to a serious emergency will be considered for such a makeup).

### **Late Work**

I accept late final reports, but with point deductions as follows: 15 points for 1 day late, 30 points for 2 days late, 50 points for 3 days late. After 3 days the paper will not be accepted.

### **Modification of the Syllabus**

This syllabus may be revised in minor ways at the discretion of the instructor. The student is responsible for noting any changes in the syllabus. More than likely, a change in the syllabus will pertain to events in the Course Schedule.

## UNIVERSITY POLICIES

### Academic Integrity

Texas A&M University -Central Texas values the integrity of the academic enterprise and strives for the highest standards of academic conduct. A&M-Central Texas expects its students, faculty, and staff to support the adherence to high standards of personal and scholarly conduct to preserve the honor and integrity of the creative community. Academic integrity is defined as a commitment to honesty, trust, fairness, respect, and responsibility. Any deviation by students from this expectation may result in a failing grade for the assignment and potentially a failing grade for the course. Academic misconduct is any act that improperly affects a true and honest evaluation of a student's academic performance and includes, but is not limited to, cheating on an examination or other academic work, plagiarism and improper citation of sources, using another student's work, collusion, and the abuse of resource materials. All academic misconduct concerns will be reported to the university's Office of Student Conduct. Ignorance of the university's standards and expectations is never an excuse to act with a lack of integrity. When in doubt on collaboration, citation, or any issue, please contact your instructor before taking a course of action.

### Drop Policy

If you discover that you need to drop this class, you must complete a [Drop Request Form](https://www.tamuct.edu/registrar/docs/Drop_Request_Form.pdf) [https://www.tamuct.edu/registrar/docs/Drop\_Request\_Form.pdf]. Professors cannot drop students; this is always the responsibility of the student. The Registrar's Office will provide a deadline on the University Calendar for which the form must be completed, signed and returned. Once you return the signed form to the Registrar's Office, you must go into Warrior Web and confirm that you are no longer enrolled. If you still show as enrolled, FOLLOW-UP with the Registrar's Office immediately. You are to attend class until the procedure is complete to avoid penalty for absence. Should you miss the drop deadline or fail to follow the procedure, you will receive an F in the course, which may affect your financial aid and/or VA educational benefits.

### Academic Accommodations.

At Texas A&M University-Central Texas, we value an inclusive learning environment where every student has an equal chance to succeed and has the right to a barrier free education. The Department of Access and Inclusion is responsible for ensuring that students with a disability receive equal access to the University's programs, services and activities. If you believe you have a disability requiring reasonable accommodations please contact the Department of Access and Inclusion at (254) 501-5831. Any information you provide is private and confidential and will be treated as such. For more information please visit our [Access & Inclusion](https://www.tamuct.edu/student-affairs/access-inclusion.html) webpage [https://www.tamuct.edu/student-affairs/access-inclusion.html]. Texas A&M University-Central Texas supports students who are pregnant and/or parenting. In accordance with requirements of Title IX and guidance from US Department of Education's Office of Civil Rights, the Dean of Student Affairs' Office can assist students who are pregnant and/or parenting in seeking accommodations related to pregnancy and/or parenting. For more information, please visit <https://www.tamuct.departments/index.php>. Students may also contact the institution's Title IX Coordinator. If you would like to read more about these [requirements and guidelines online](http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/docs/pregnancy.pdf), please visit the website [http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/docs/pregnancy.pdf].



## **Tutoring.**

Tutoring is available to all A&M-Central Texas students, both on-campus and online. On-campus subjects tutored include Accounting, Advanced Math, Biology, Finance, Statistics, Mathematics, and Study Skills. Tutors are available at the Tutoring Center in Warrior Hall, Suite 111.

If you have a question regarding tutor schedules, need to schedule a tutoring session, are interested in becoming a tutor, or any other question, contact Academic Support Programs at 254-519-5796, or by emailing Larry Davis at [lmDavis@tamuct.edu](mailto:lmDavis@tamuct.edu). Chat live with a tutor 24/7 for almost any subject on your computer! Tutor.com is an online tutoring platform that enables A&M-Central Texas students to log-in and receive FREE online tutoring and writing support. This tool provides tutoring in over forty subject areas. Access Tutor.com through Canvas.

## **The University Writing Center.**

Located in 416 Warrior Hall, the University Writing Center (UWC) at Texas A&M University-Central Texas is a free workspace open to all TAMUCT students from 10am-5pm Monday-Thursday with satellite hours in the University Library on Mondays from 6:00-9:00pm. Students may arrange a one-on-one session with a trained and experienced writing tutor by visiting the UWC during normal operating hours (both half-hour and hour sessions are available) or by making an appointment via [WCOOnline](https://tamuct.mywconline.com/) [<https://tamuct.mywconline.com/>]. In addition, you can email Dr. Bruce Bowles Jr. at [bruce.bowles@tamuct.edu](mailto:bruce.bowles@tamuct.edu) to schedule an online tutoring session. Tutors are prepared to help writers of all levels and abilities at any stage of the writing process. While tutors will not write, edit, or grade papers, they will assist students in developing more effective composing practices. By providing a practice audience for students' ideas and writing, our tutors highlight the ways in which they read and interpret students' texts, offering guidance and support throughout the various stages of the writing process. In addition, students may work independently in the UWC by checking out a laptop that runs the Microsoft Office suite and connects to WIFI, or by consulting our resources on writing, including all of the relevant style guides. Whether you need help brainstorming ideas, organizing an essay, proofreading, understanding proper citation practices, or just want a quiet place to work, the University Writing Center is here to help! If you have any questions about the University Writing Center, please do not hesitate to contact Dr. Bruce Bowles Jr. at [bruce.bowles@tamuct.edu](mailto:bruce.bowles@tamuct.edu).

## **University Library.**

The University Library provides many services in support of research across campus and at a distance. We offer over 200 electronic databases containing approximately 250,000 eBooks and 82,000 journals, in addition to the 72,000 items in our print collection, which can be mailed to students who live more than 50 miles from campus. Research guides for each subject taught at A&M-Central Texas are available through our website to help students navigate these resources. On-campus, the library offers technology including cameras, laptops, microphones, webcams, and digital sound recorders. Research assistance from a librarian is also available twenty-four hours a day through our online chat service, and at the reference desk when the library is open. Research sessions can be scheduled for more comprehensive assistance, and may take place on Skype or in-person at the library. Assistance may cover many topics, including how to find articles in peer-reviewed journals, how to cite resources, and how to piece together research for written assignments. Our 27,000-square-foot facility on the A&M-



Central Texas main campus includes student lounges, private study rooms, group work spaces, computer labs, family areas suitable for all ages, and many other features. Services such as interlibrary loan, TexShare, binding, and laminating are available. The library frequently offers workshops, tours, readings, and other events. For more information, please visit our [Library website](https://tamuct.libguides.com/) [https://tamuct.libguides.com/].

### **A Note about Sexual Violence at A&M-Central Texas**

Sexual violence is a serious safety, social justice, and public health issue. The university offers support for anyone struggling with these issues. University faculty are mandated reporters, so if someone discloses that they were sexually assaulted (or a victim of Domestic/Dating Violence or Stalking) while a student at A&M-Central Texas, faculty members are required to inform the Title IX Office. If you want to discuss any of these issues confidentially, you can do so through Counseling Services (254-501-5956) located on the second floor of Warrior Hall. Sexual violence can occur on our campus because predators often feel emboldened, and victims often feel silenced or shamed. It is incumbent on ALL of us to find ways to actively create environments that tell predators we don't agree with their behaviors and tell survivors we will support them. YOUR ACTIONS MATTER. DON'T BE A BYSTANDER; BE AN AGENT OF CHANGE. For additional information on campus policy and resources visit the [Title IX webpage](https://www.tamuct.edu/departments/compliance/titleix.php) [https://www.tamuct.edu/departments/compliance/titleix.php].

### **Copyright Notice.**

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