



ANTH 4351/CRIJ 4351 FORENSIC ANTHROPOLOGY

Class Location: HH 318 LAB

Class time: Mon & Wed 11:30am-12:45 am

INSTRUCTOR AND CONTACT INFORMATION

Instructor: Christine Jones, PhD

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

Office: HH 204C

Contact me via Canvas message or email: Bioarchjones@tamuct.edu

OFFICE HOURS

Mon & Wed 1pm-2:30pm

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.

Warrior Shield:

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

Warrior Shield 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 Warrior Shield through their myCT email account.

Connect to Warrior Shield by [911Cellular](#)

[<https://portal.publicsafetycloud.net/Account/Login>] to change where you receive your alerts or to opt out. By staying enrolled in Warrior Shield, 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

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

MATERIALS NEEDED:

Student LAB COAT. A reusable type of these will be on sale in our bookstore soon for approximately 10 dollars. You can get your own wherever you would like of any material, but it needs to be able to close completely in front. You can get them on Amazon quite inexpensively (<10 dollars). If you are having trouble getting a lab coat please let me know ASAP.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. **Lab Safety: Students must complete the “Lab Safety Module” on Canvas, including the Lab Safety Quiz. Safety equipment locations will be demonstrated in class. After taking the module, students must turn in a hard copy of the Safety Agreement no later than the second day of class, Wed. Aug 28.** Failure to complete the module or turn in the safety agreement will result in the student not being able to enter the lab.
2. 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.
3. 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. Students must be present to get credit for these assignments (see makeup policy).

4. 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 students wish to study for practicals using the same skeletal models we have available during lab time they can do so in a classroom (TBD) during Dr. Jones office hours or they can use the skeleton model on reserve in our library!
5. 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.
6. 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 3rd 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.
7. 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. **FINAL REPORTS ARE SUBMITTED IN HARD COPY TO THE INSTRUCTOR IN CLASS ON THE DUE DATE. EMAILED REPORTS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.**

Coursework	Points
Exams (2@ 100)	200
Assignments (4 @ 35)	140
Bone practicals (6 @ 50)	300
Fieldwork project	200
Final report	160
Total:	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 takes about 1 week for the instructor to grade student work. Be assured that she is grading classwork as fast as she 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

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

Week 1: Syllabus & Bone Biology

M Aug 26: Read FA ch 1, HB ch 1 & 3

W Aug 28: Read FA ch 2, HB 4 & 6

Week 2: The skull & Sex determination (skull)

M Sep 2: LABOR DAY, no classes

W Sep 4: **LAB 1 (skull)**, Read HB ch 7, Read FA ch 8

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

Week 3: Ancestry & Cranial metrics

M Sep 9: **PRACTICAL 1 (terms)**, Read FA ch 9 and ch 10 up to pg 251

W Sep 11: Read HB ch 8

Week 4: Odontology & Juvenile Age determination

M Sep 16: Read HB 9, 10, 11

W Sep 18: **PRACTICAL 2 (skull & teeth)**,

Week 5: Forensic Context & Shoulder/Thorax

M Sep 23: Read FA ch 4

W Sep 25: **PRACTICAL 3 (shoulder/thorax)**

Week 6: Pelvic Girdle & Age/Sex determination

M Sep 30: **LAB 2 (pelvis)**, Read FA finish ch 10, HB ch 14

W Oct 2: Read FA ch 12, HB Ch 19 on Age & Sex

Week 7: Antemortem Pathology

M Oct 7: Finish previously assigned chapters

W Oct 9: Midterm study guide

Week 8: Midterm week

M Oct 14: **PRACTICAL 4 (pelvis)**, Study session

W Oct 16: **MIDTERM**

Week 9: Taphonomy & Appendages/Stature

M Oct 21: Read FA ch 5, HB ch 5, 12, 13

W Oct 23: Read FA ch 11, HB ch 15 & 16

Week 10: Victim ID & Fieldwork Prep

M Oct 28: **LAB 3 (fieldwork prep)**, Read FA ch 6, HB ch 2.

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

Week 11: FIELDWORK PLANNED

M Nov 4: **FIELDWORK DAY**, Read FA ch 13

W Nov 6: **FIELDWORK DAY**, Read FA ch 15

WEEK 12: Trauma Basics & Fieldwork

M Nov 11: Happy Veteran's day (No class)

W Nov 13: **FIELDWORK DAY**, Read HB ch 17.

Week 13: Trauma and more

M Nov 18: **LAB 4 (fieldwork lab)**, Read FA ch 3, 7

W Nov 20: HB ch 18, PDF reading to be handed out in class

Week 14: Catch up week, Happy Thanksgiving!

M Nov 26: Scientific Writing Guidelines to Prep for final Report

W Nov 28: **READING/STUDY DAY** to work on final reports. No office hours.

Week 15: Trauma cont'd

M Dec 2: **PRACTICAL 6 (whole skeleton). AND FINAL REPORT DUE** 9:30am
(after this time begins late penalty)

W Dec 4: Read Final Study guide

Week 16: This is the end ☹️

M Dec 9: Study Session

W Dec 11: **FINAL EXAM**

****NO MAKEUPS ARE GIVEN FOR PRACTICALS, LABS, 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. Students 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 a student is not comfortable handling skeletal remains (either reproduction or actual) or if the idea of digging up a simulated murder victim/burial is difficult for any reason, students should see the instructor as soon as possible to help determine if this course is a right fit.

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.

Students should stow food and drink away safely in their 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 students to leave the classroom, which may affect their grade and participation in the course. There is no risk to students in terms of eating/drinking after handling these skeletons, but it's strongly recommended that they wash their hands before eating or drinking!

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

Attendance & Makeup: Attendance is a requirement of this course to succeed 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 students are not dedicated to coming to this class when it meets, they should 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 labs, practicals, and fieldwork days. If a student foresee having to miss these days, especially due to a regular event such as work, it is better to drop the course. Makeups for these assignment types are time consuming to set up and administer and cannot be replaced easily with alternative assignments. Do not request this type of makeup.

Students may request a makeup for the midterm exam if the student misses the midterm due to illness or injury for example. To successfully makeup the midterm a student MUST 1. Contact the instructor prior to the missed midterm (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 the absence. If a student does not meet all three requirements they 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 RESOURCES, PROCEDURES, AND GUIDELINES

All University resources, procedures, and guidelines are available online through the A&M-Central Texas Canvas Learning Management System [<https://tamuct.instructure.com/>] in the modules section.

Copyright Notice.

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