



## ANTH 4351/CRIJ 4351 FORENSIC ANTHROPOLOGY

Class Location: HH 318 LAB

Class time: *This is a web-enhanced course!*

*We will meet face-to-face on some Mon. and Wed. at 11:30am-12:45pm*

### INSTRUCTOR AND CONTACT INFORMATION

**Instructor:** Christine Jones, PhD

**Office:** HH 204C

- **Contact me** via Canvas message or email: [Bioarchjones@tamuct.edu](mailto:Bioarchjones@tamuct.edu)
- **Office hours: By webex or phone appointment. Email me to set up a virtual meeting!**

### 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 have questions or concerns about the class and need to talk about them, please email me to request a webex or phone appointment.

### Mode of instruction and course access

**This is a web enhanced course which meets 51% face-to-face and 49% online.** For online work, this course uses the A&M-Central Texas Canvas Learning Management System [<https://tamuct.instructure.com/>]. You must check Canvas announcements every day to keep updated on potential changes to class meeting dates due to weather.

**Face to face meetings will occur at 11:30am in HH 318 LAB on the following dates:**

- 7 Webex lectures: M8/24, M9/28, M10/12, **W10/21**, M10/26, M11/2, M 11/4
- 9 On-campus activities: **W8/26**, M8/31, **W9/2**, **W9/7**, M9/14, **W9/16**, M9/21, **W10/14**, M11/9

NO FACE TO FACE MEETINGS AFTER VETERAN'S DAY

### 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.

## Technology Requirements

- This course will use the A&M-Central Texas Instructure Canvas learning management system. We strongly recommend the latest versions of Chrome or Firefox browsers. Canvas no longer supports any version of Internet Explorer.
- Logon to A&M-Central Texas Canvas [<https://tamuct.instructure.com/>] or access Canvas through the TAMUCT Online link in myCT [<https://tamuct.onecampus.com/>]. You will log in through our Microsoft portal.
- Username: Your MyCT email address. Password: Your MyCT password
  - **Canvas Support.** Use the Canvas Help link, located at the bottom of the left-hand menu, for issues with Canvas. You can select “Chat with Canvas Support,” submit a support request through “Report a Problem,” or call the Canvas support line: 1-844-757-0953.
- **For Other Technology Support.** For log-in problems, students should contact Help Desk Central. 24 hours a day, 7 days a week: Email: [helpdesk@tamu.edu](mailto:helpdesk@tamu.edu), Phone: (254) 519-5466 [Web Chat](http://hdc.tamu.edu): [<http://hdc.tamu.edu>] *Please let the support technician know you are an A&M-Central Texas student.*

## 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) [<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.

## COVID-19 SAFETY MEASURES

To promote public safety and protect students, faculty, and staff during the coronavirus pandemic, Texas A&M University-Central Texas has adopted policies and practices to minimize virus transmission. All members of the university community are expected to adhere to these measures to ensure their own safety and the safety of others. Students must observe the following practices while participating in face-to-face courses, course-related activities (office hours, help sessions, transitioning to and between classes, study spaces, academic services, etc.) and co-curricular programs:

- Self-monitoring—Students should follow CDC recommendations for self-monitoring. Students who have a fever or exhibit symptoms of COVID-19 should participate in class remotely and should not participate in face-to-face instruction. Students required to quarantine must participate in courses and course-related activities remotely and must not attend face-to-face course activities. Students should notify their instructors of the quarantine

requirement. Students under quarantine are expected to participate in courses and complete graded work unless they have symptoms that are too severe to participate in course activities.

- **Face Coverings— Face coverings must be worn inside of buildings and within 50 feet of building entrances on the A&M-Central Texas Campus. This includes lobbies, restrooms, hallways, elevators, classrooms, laboratories, conference rooms, break rooms, non-private office spaces, and other shared spaces. Face coverings are also required in outdoor spaces where physical distancing is not maintained.** The university will evaluate exceptions to this requirement on a case by case basis. Students can request an exception through the Office of Access and Inclusion in Student Affairs.
  - o If a student refuses to wear a face covering, the instructor should ask the student to leave and join the class remotely. If the student does not leave the class, the faculty member should report that student to the Office of Student Conduct. Additionally, the faculty member may choose to teach that day's class remotely for all students.
- Physical Distancing—Physical distancing must be maintained between students, instructors, and others in the course and course-related activities.
- Classroom Ingress/Egress—Students must follow marked pathways for entering and exiting classrooms and other teaching spaces. Leave classrooms promptly after course activities have concluded. Do not congregate in hallways and maintain 6-foot physical distancing when waiting to enter classrooms and other instructional spaces.
- The university will notify students in the event that the COVID-19 situation necessitates changes to the course schedule or modality.

### **LEARNING OBJECTIVES:**

Students will learn:

- 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

Your books are also available through the university library on course reserves

1. Christensen et al. 2019. ***Forensic Anthropology: Current methods and practice*** (2<sup>nd</sup> edition) Academic Press ISBN: 9780128157343
2. Christensen et al. 2018. ***A Laboratory Manual for Forensic Anthropology*** Academic Press ISBN 9780128122013
  - This lab manual is required. It is an integral part of this course.

## MATERIALS NEEDED:

- Disposable/reusable LAB COAT. These will be on sale in our bookstore for approximately 10 dollars but are also available online.
  - A lab coat is required when in the lab.
    - It must be disposable/reusable, not cloth.
    - We will be storing these safely in the lab for lab use only.
    - It must be able to close in the front.

## COURSE REQUIREMENTS

*\*If these requirements seem complicated, remember that this is a hybrid course with the equal use of face-to-face and online activities and assignments. **If you are ever unsure of what is expected of you due to unclear directions, please, please, contact me ASAP via email [bioarchjones@tamuct.edu](mailto:bioarchjones@tamuct.edu). It's better to contact me early than to wait until just before an assignment/activity, simply because I will be focused on running the activity and may not see your email in time.***

1. **Lab Safety: Students must complete the "Lab Safety Module" on Canvas, including the Lab Safety Quiz. Safety equipment locations will be demonstrated in lab. After taking the module, students must submit a signed and scanned copy of the Safety Agreement by email or canvas message to the instructor no later than the second day of class, Wed. Aug 26.** 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. Webex lectures: There will be 6 webex lectures held in our lab classroom on campus. They will be regular lectures also streamed live via webex at our usual class time. I will take attendance for these lectures and 5 attendance points will be awarded per lecture.
  - **You can attend either in person or online via webex as long as you respond (voice or chat) when I call attendance. There is NO PENALTY for attending lectures virtually!**
4. Activities: There are 9 participation-based assignments in this course, called activities. 4 are held on in our lab and 5 are held outside on campus. Reporting locations for outdoor activities will be posted on Canvas and reviewed by the instructor. The instructor will monitor the weather and will post an announcement on Canvas if weather will affect class activities
  - Outdoor safety: An updated class Forensic Anthropology Safety Guide including safety requirements and appropriate attire will be available on

Canvas for students and will be reviewed during class time. If an activity is conducted outdoors appropriate attire is required.

- Grading of activities: There are 9 activities total and each is worth 30 points for a total of 270 points. Each 30-point activity is made up of two parts
    - Participation: 15 points. To earn full participation points, the student must arrive on time, they must stay for the entire class period, and they must participate in the lab. Attendance will be taken.
    - Assignment: 15 points. To earn full points, students must complete the assignment. These are usually in the form of a handout; however, they may involve a take-home assignment or workbook page.
  - **WHAT IF I CAN'T GO TO AN ACTIVITY?** If you can't attend an activity, you must complete one of the labs listed in "*A Laboratory Manual for Forensic Anthropology*". These are listed by number in the course schedule, and Canvas links will be provided in the weekly modules for students to submit their assignment as a word document. Submitted assignments will be graded according to how closely students followed the guidelines and referenced course content in their assignment.
    - **Students who can't go to activities are not penalized, as long as they complete the online assignment for that week. There are many reasons why students may not be able to attend. Please refrain from commenting on the attendance of your classmates.**
5. Online lab assignments. There are 20 online labs worth 16 points each corresponding to the numbered assignments listed in "*A Laboratory Manual for Forensic Anthropology*." **Assignments are due Sundays @11:59pm on the week they are assigned.** Canvas links will be provided in the weekly modules for students to submit their assignment as a word document.
6. Final Lab report: Students will complete one final lab report corresponding to Lab 15.6 in "*A Laboratory Manual for Forensic Anthropology*." A draft of the inventory section of the report is due **Nov 29 @ 11:59pm, and the entire report is due Dec 6 by 11:59pm.** A canvas link will be provided for students to submit their report online as a word document. Further guidelines will be provided on Canvas and will be reviewed during class time.
7. Exams: There will be two exams, each worth 100 points, both administered online. Exams are a combination of multiple choice and short answer questions. Exams are open between 4 and 6 days, so students should plan to take the exam during the specified time windows below. For this reason, there are no makeups for missed exams.
- Exam #1 is open Tuesday Oct. 6@ 8am through Sunday Oct. 11 @11:59pm
  - Exam #2 is open Monday Dec. 7@ 8am through Friday Dec. 11 @11:59pm

Coursework	Points
Lecture attendance (6x5pts)	35
Activities (9x 30pts)	270
Assignments (20 x 16pts)	320
Final lab report	175
Exams (2 x 100pts)	200
<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 takes about 1-2 weeks for the instructor to grade written work. Be assured that she is grading classwork as fast as she possibly can. Feedback on writing assignments will be provided within the Canvas grading system.

## COURSE SCHEDULE

**Subject to revision, if necessary, during the semester.** Activities may need to be rescheduled if there is bad weather. IF IN DOUBT CHECK CANVAS OR EMAIL THE INSTRUCTOR!! Exams are always administered online via Canvas (located in each module).

**\*\*\*\*\* All Activities are OUTDOORS & ON CAMPUS unless stated otherwise. For all outdoor activities you must wear outdoor appropriate attire such as closed-toed shoes (see safety guide). For outdoor activities you will be provided with a reporting location in the modules and via announcement. It is your responsibility to familiarize yourself with the reporting location before the activity date. \*\*\*\***

**READINGS:** FA=Forensic Anth, main text. LAB= Lab Manual for Forensic Anth. Assignments are due Sundays @11:59pm on the week they are assigned.

### Week 1: Syllabus and the Skeleton (Week of AUG 24)

*Readings: Syllabus, FA 1 and 2, LAB ch. 1 and 2*

Mon: **Webex Lecture 1**

Wed: **Activity 1: Skeletal inventory (in the lab)**

- Online: If you didn't attend Activity 1, complete LAB 2.4
- Online: LAB 2.1 and 2.3

### Week 2: Examination Methods (Week of AUG 31)

*Readings: FA Ch. 3, LAB ch. 3, LAB ch. 6 "line search"*

Mon: **Activity 2: Skeletal measurements (in the lab)**

- Online: If you didn't attend Activity 2, complete LAB 3.1 and 3.3

Wed: **Activity 3: Line search**

- Online: If you didn't attend Activity 3, complete LAB 6.4
- Online: LAB 2.6

**Week 3: Medicolegal significance** (Week of SEP 7)

Readings: FA Ch. 4, LAB ch. 4, LAB ch. 6 "base-line mapping"

Mon: No Class. HAPPY LABOR DAY! WE WILL MEET ON WEDNESDAY!!!!!!

**Wed: Activity 4: Base-line mapping**

- Online: If you didn't attend Activity 4, complete LAB 4.6
- Online: Lab 4.1 and 4.5

**Week 4: Forensic Archaeology & Scene Processing** (Week of SEP 14)

Readings: FA ch 6, LAB ch. 6

→ Check your Canvas announcements in case of weather delays

**Mon: Activity 5: Soil probing and grid**

- Online: If you didn't attend Activity 5, Complete first 3 questions of "test yourself" in FA Ch 6 pg. 213

**Wed: Activity 6: Excavation part 1**

- Online: If you didn't attend Activity 5, Complete next 2 questions of "test yourself" in FA Ch 6 pg. 213

**Week 5: Processing and Preparing remains** (Week of SEP 21)

→ Check your Canvas announcements in case of weather delays

Readings: FA Ch 7, LAB ch. 7

**Mon: Activity 7: Excavation part 2**

- Online: If you didn't attend Activity 5, Complete last 2 questions of "test yourself" in FA Ch 6 pg. 213

Wed: Backup weather day

- Online: LAB 7.2

**Week 6: Taphonomy** (Week of SEP 28)

Readings: FA Ch. 5, LAB Ch. 5

**Mon: Webex lecture 2**

Wed: Backup weather day

- Online: LAB 5.5 and 5.6

**Week 7: Midterm Exam week** (Week of OCT 5)

Readings: Midterm will cover chapters 1 through 7 in the textbook and lab manual

**\*\*\*\*Online Midterm is open Tuesday Oct. 6@ 8am through Sunday Oct. 11 @11:59pm\*\*\*\***

**Week 8: Sex estimation** (Week of OCT 12)

Readings: FA Ch. 8 and LAB Ch. 8

**Mon: Webex lecture 3****Wed: Activity 8: Sex estimation (in the lab)**

- Online: If you didn't attend Activity 8, complete LAB 8.3
- Online: LAB 8.5 and 8.7 (8.7 with instructor video)

**Week 9: Ancestry** (Week of OCT 19)*Readings: FA Ch. 9 and 11, LAB Ch. 9 and 11***Wed: Webex lecture 4**

- Online: LAB 9.1, 9.2 and 9.6 (9.6 with instructor video)

**Week 10: Age estimation** (Week of OCT 26)*Readings: FA ch.10, LAB ch. 10, Read LAB 15.6***Mon: Webex lecture 5**

- Online: LAB 10.3, 10.4, 10.5, and 10.6

**Week 11: Skeletal Variation and Trauma I** (Week of NOV 2)*Readings: FA Ch. 12 and 13, LAB Ch. 12 and 13***Mon: Webex lecture 6****Wed: Webex lecture 7**Online: Complete readings**Week 12: Trauma II** (Week of NOV 9)*Readings: FA Ch. 12 and 13, LAB Ch. 12 and 13***Mon. Activity 9: Trauma interpretations (in the lab)**

- If you didn't attend Activity 9 complete LAB 13.3

Wed: HAPPY VETERAN'S DAYOnline: Lab 13.5**\*\*All remaining work for this course is conducted online only after Veteran's day\*\*****Week 13: Personal ID** (Week of NOV 16)*Readings: FA Ch. 14, Lab Ch. 14, Read LAB 15.6 if you haven't already*Online: Lab 14.1**Week 14: Lab 15.6 Final report Inventory draft** (Week of NOV 23)*Readings: Lab 15.6*

HAPPY THANKSGIVING

Online: **Submit 15.6 draft of inventory only by Nov 29 @ 11:59pm (see module for further guidelines)****Week 15: Lab 15.6 Final report due** (Week of NOV 30)*Readings: Work on final report*Online: **Submit 15.6 final report using Canvas link by Dec 6 @ 11:59pm. No late reports accepted (see late policy).****Week 16: Final exam week** (Week of DEC 7)**\*\*\*\*Online Exam #2 is open Monday Dec. 7@ 8am through Friday Dec. 11 @11:59pm\*\*\*\***



## **COURSE PROCEDURES AND POLICIES**

### **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.

### **Late Work**

- No late assignments will be accepted past Dec 11 at 11:59 pm.
- All assignments including the final lab report must be completed and/or submitted in Canvas. No other forms of submission will be accepted.
- There are no makeups for attendance points for missed webex lectures (attendance is taken regardless of how you attend—either online or in person). Webex lectures will not be recorded, they are streamed when they occur.
- Canvas deadlines on assignments and quizzes are suggested deadlines, excepting exams and the final lab report. No points will be deducted for submitting an assignment late, but students may not receive feedback on late work.
- **Late submissions are not accepted for exams or the final report.**

### **Academic dishonesty**

Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Any student caught plagiarizing will receive a 0 (zero) for that assignment and may be referred to the university for further discipline. A second incident of plagiarism or other form of academic dishonesty will result in a failing grade for the course and a referral to the university for further discipline.

## **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.*

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