



**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 11:00am-12:15pm***

### **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: Email me to schedule a meeting face-to-face or online.**

### **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. Meeting days are listed in the course calendar below. 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.

### **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.

### **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.
3. Koff, C. 2005. ***The Bone Woman***. Random House ISBN: 9780812968859

### **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 use of both 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. Lectures: There will be 8 lectures held in our lab classroom on campus. I will take attendance and 5 attendance points will be awarded for 7 lectures, giving you the option to miss 1 lecture of your choice (I will count 35 points total). If you attend all 8 lectures you will receive 5 points extra credit towards Exam 2. Lectures will be streamed live on webex (not recorded) and students have the option of attending class online or in the classroom on lecture days.
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 MISS AN ACTIVITY?** Please see the late work policy below for missed activities.
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 only 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 5 and 6 days, so students should plan to take the exam during the specified time windows below.
    - Exam #1 is open Tuesday Sep. 28@ 8am through Sunday Oct. 3 @11:59pm
    - Exam #2 is open Monday Dec. 6@ 8am through Friday Dec. 10 @11:59pm

Coursework	Points
Lecture attendance (7x5pts)	35
Activities (9x 30pts)	270
Lab assignments (20 x 16pts)	320
Draft inventory for Final lab report	25
Final lab report	150
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 in the LAB or 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. BW=Bone Woman. Online lab assignments are due Sundays @11:59pm on the week they are assigned.**

### **Week 1: Syllabus and the Skeleton** (Week of AUG 23)

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

Aug 23 M: Lecture 1

Aug 25 W: Activity 1: Skeletal inventory (MEET IN LAB)

Online Lab Assignments: LAB 2.1 and 2.3

### **Week 2: Examination Methods** (Week of AUG 30)

*Readings: FA Ch. 3, LAB ch. 3, LAB ch. 6 "line search", BW ch. 3 and 4*

Aug 30 M: Activity 2: Skeletal measurements (MEET IN LAB)

Sep 1 W: Activity 3: Line search (OUTDOORS)

Online Lab Assignments: LAB 2.6

### **Week 3: Medicolegal significance** (Week of SEP 6)

*Readings: FA Ch. 4, LAB ch. 4, LAB ch. 6 "base-line mapping", BW ch. 5 and 6*

→ Check your Canvas announcements in case of weather delays

Sep 6 M: Lecture 2

Sep 8 W: Activity 4: Base line mapping (OUTDOORS)

Online Lab Assignments: LAB 4.1

### **Week 4: Forensic Archaeology & Scene Processing** (Week of SEP 13)

*Readings: FA ch 6, LAB ch. 6, BW ch. 7 and 8*

→ Check your Canvas announcements in case of weather delays

Sep 13 M: Activity 5: Soil probing and grid (OUTDOORS)

Sep 15 W: Lecture 3

Online Lab Assignments: LAB 4.5

### **Week 5: Processing and Preparing remains** (Week of SEP 20)

→ Check your Canvas announcements in case of weather delays

*Readings: FA Ch 7, LAB ch. 7, BW ch. 9 (Finish part 2)*

Sep 20 M: Activity 6: Excavation part 1(OUTDOORS)

Sep 22 W: Activity 7: Excavation part 2(OUTDOORS)

→ Activities may be moved to Sep 27 if bad weather!

Online Lab Assignments: LAB 7.2 AND Summary of excavation work (see details on Canvas link)

### **Week 6: Exam 1 Week** (Week of SEP 27)

*Exam Info: Exam 1 is administered online and covers chapters 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, and 7 in the textbook and lab manual, and "Bone Woman" Parts 1 and 2*

Sep 27 M: **Weather day**. Save this date to come to campus in case of weather cancellations from the previous week.

**\*\*\*\*Online Exam 1 is open Tuesday Sep. 28@ 8am through Sunday Oct. 3 @11:59pm\*\*\*\***

**Week 7: Taphonomy** (Week of OCT 4)

*Readings: FA Ch. 5, LAB Ch. 5, BW Ch 10 and 11, Check Canvas module for this week's course videos and resources*

**Week 7 will be held ONLINE**

Online Lab Assignments: LAB 5.5 and 5.6

**Week 8: Sex estimation** (Week of OCT 11)

*Readings: FA Ch. 8 and LAB Ch. 8, BW Ch 12 and 13*

Oct 11 M: Lecture 4

Oct 13 W: Activity 8: Sex estimation (MEET IN LAB)

Online Lab Assignments: LAB 8.5 and 8.7 (8.7 with instructor video)

**Week 9: Ancestry** (Week of OCT 18)

*Readings: FA Ch. 9 and 11, LAB Ch. 9 and 11, BW Ch 14 and 15, Check Canvas module for this week's course videos and resources*

**Week 9 will be held ONLINE**

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

**Week 10: Age estimation** (Week of OCT 25)

*Readings: FA ch.10, LAB ch. 10, Read LAB 15.6, BW Ch 16 and 17*

Oct 25 M: Lecture 5

Oct 27 W: Lecture 6

Online Lab Assignments: LAB 10.3, 10.4, LAB 10.5, and 10.6

**Week 11: Skeletal Variation and Trauma I** (Week of NOV 1)

*Readings: FA Ch. 12 and 13, LAB Ch. 12 and 13, BW Ch 18 and 19*

Nov 1 M: Lecture 7

Nov 3 W: Lecture 8

Online: LAB 13.3

**Week 12: Trauma II** (Week of NOV 8)

*Readings: FA Ch. 12 and 13, LAB Ch. 12 and 13, BW Ch 20 and 21*

Nov 8 M. Activity 9: Trauma interpretations (MEET IN LAB)

Online Lab Assignments: LAB 13.5

**\*\*After Week 12, all remaining work for this course is conducted online only \*\*\***

**Week 13: Personal ID** (Week of NOV 15)

*Readings: FA Ch. 14, Lab Ch. 14, Read LAB 15.6 if you haven't already, BW 22, 23 Check Canvas module for this week's course videos and resources*

Online Lab Assignments: LAB 14.1.



**Week 14: Lab 15.6 Final report Inventory draft** (Week of NOV 22)

Readings: Lab 15.6, BW Finish this book!

Check Canvas module for this week's course videos and resources

HAPPY THANKSGIVING

Online Lab Assignments: **Submit 15.6 draft of inventory only by Nov 28 @ 11:59pm (see module for further guidelines)**

**Week 15: Lab 15.6 Final report due** (Week of NOV 29)

Readings: Work on final report

Check Canvas module for this week's course videos and resources

Online Lab Assignments: **Submit 15.6 final report using Canvas link by Dec 5 @ 11:59pm. No late reports accepted (see late policy).**

**Week 16: Exam 2 week** (Week of DEC 6)

Exam Info: Exam 2 is administered online and covers chapters 5 and 8 through 14 in the textbook and lab manual, and the rest of the book "Bone Woman" after Part 2.

**\*\*\*\*Online Exam #2 is open Monday Dec.6 @ 8am through Friday Dec. 10 @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.

**Covid:** If you are under recommendation to self-isolate or quarantine, please contact me as soon as possible. In addition to the University reporting, you are responsible for contacting your instructors and making arrangements.

### Late or Missed Work

- Late submissions are not accepted for online lab assignments, the draft inventory of the final report, or the final report.
- If you miss an **activity or exam 1** due to illness or other unforeseen circumstances you are eligible to request a makeup assignment **within 1 week of the missed assignment**. Please submit your request via email with any relevant documentation (ex: doctor's note) and your instructor will send you instructions for a makeup assignment if the request is granted.
- Makeups will not be granted for exam 2, as there is not enough time to complete a makeup in the final week of class.
- There are no makeups for attendance points for missed lectures. You are able to miss 1 lecture without any point deductions.

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- No course work will be accepted after Dec 10 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.

**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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