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ANTY 513.01: Seminar in Bioarchaeology & Skeletal Biology

Meradeth H. Snow

University of Montana, Missoula, meradeth.snow@umontana.edu

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Anthropology 513
Seminar in Bioarchaeology & Skeletal Biology
Spring 2022

Professor

Dr. Meradeth Snow

Email: meradeth.snow@umontana.edu

Office Hours: by appointment on Calendly <https://calendly.com/meradethsnow/15min>

Course Information

Meets: Wednesdays 2-4:50pm in 238 Social Sciences

Zoom is an option, but will require prior approval:

<https://umontana.zoom.us/j/97790619367?pwd=Q2RzT2wvRldpUkdDd25sTk14SzRGUT09>

Textbooks

- **Biological Anthropology of the Human Skeleton** edited by M. Anne Katzenberg and Shelley R. Saunders. Wiley-Liss, Inc. 2018.
 - Third edition only, please!
 - “Anth” in syllabus below
- **Biomolecular Archaeology: An Introduction** by Terry Brown and Keri Brown. Wiley-Blackwell. 2011.
 - “Molec” in syllabus below
- Additional readings will be made available and posted to the course Moodle site. Please note that they are not listed below!

Course Description

This course is an exploration of theoretical and methodological approaches to the analysis of archaeologically derived human skeletal remains. Demography, health and disease, diet and nutrition, growth, activity patterns, and measures of biological distance will be interpreted within a biocultural framework. This course is designed to make students knowledgeable about the broad range of theoretical and methodological approaches to investigating skeletal remains from past populations and using this information to make inferences about our biological and social histories. Students will also be required to demonstrate competency in designing a research proposal or paper including identification of relevant literature and appropriate data collection methods and skeletal samples.

Note About Graduate Courses: they are not the same as your undergraduate coursework! You are expected to learn a good deal on your own and not all information will be distributed in neat lectures with slides. You must prepare for every lecture, spend some time researching on your own, and come ready to discuss the topic and learn from one another about the material being covered. Working together is encouraged! There is no inter-student competition here.

Note About Human Remains: This class contains course materials that include depictions of ancient human remains. Their antiquity does not negate their humanity. Please ensure that you are respectful in referring to and while viewing these individuals. Please also feel free to reach out to your professor if these images are triggering or uncomfortable - I am happy to help direct

you to university counseling services as well as additional resources that help to expand on anthropological interpretation and stewardship of deceased and interred individuals.

Course Structure

As a seminar, this course will be focused on class discussion of theoretical and methodological issues in bioarchaeology and skeletal biology. Lecture will be designed to introduce topics and provide the backdrop for the ensuing discussion. This means that it is your responsibility to come to class prepared to discuss the assigned readings and to pose questions to the professor and your peers.

There will be three components to your course grade:

1. **Class participation and reading** (20%). Each week you will come to class having read the assigned articles and chapters. For those not presenting that week, you will need to submit to your instructor a typed document that:
 - Summarizes the papers and chapters for the meeting.
 - Includes two thoughtful discussion questions for each reading.
2. **Topical Presentations** (45%--distributed equally). You will be asked to take charge of the assigned topic and present/teach your classmates about it for approximately two hours. You should focus on the methods involved in how to study each topic.
 - You will need to select and assign at least two journal articles to your fellow students and should touch on the main issues, as well as current applications, of your topic. These must be submitted to your instructor (for placement on Moodle) at least one week before your presentation.
 - PowerPoint presentations are encouraged but not necessary.
 - Please remember that presentations should be discussion based and everyone must be ready to participate for each topic.
 - Your presentation should also include:
 - Your presentation should be *interactive* and *engaging* for fellow students
 - Describe the main means of studying the topic
 - Why study the topic
 - Rundown of particularly onerous jargon
 - Discussion of relevant background or foundational ideas
 - Where the topic currently sits in terms of research
 - Conflicts or debates
 - Discussion on the articles you selected and had others read
 - A list of resources utilized, to be handed in to your professor upon completion
3. **Research Proposal** (35%). The rest of your grade is based on developing, presenting, and submitting a research proposal for investigating an aspect of skeletal biology that interests you. Due May 4th.
 - The research proposal should include:
 - an introduction (why your hypothesis should be investigated)
 - a review of the relevant literature
 - a description of the method of data collection that would be employed
 - identification and description of an appropriate sample (that actually exists) for testing your hypothesis
 - your hypotheses and how your data will support/refute them

- a complete bibliography
- The paper itself should be around ten pages in length, 12pt Times font, with one-inch margins, double spaced. The ten pages do not include your bibliography, which should be in Chicago author-date format (see <https://vimeo.com/87083554> for more details). Sub-headers to organize your information are highly encouraged. Sources should be entirely peer-reviewed unless for extremely basic background information, in which case websites must be pre-approved. Late papers will not be accepted.
- This may (or may not) be related to the actual project you intend on undertaking for your graduate school research.
- You will also present a short (15 minute) presentation on your proposed project during the last week of class. This should be similar in format to a presentation that you would be expected to give at one of the national meetings.
- Please reach out for help! I am here to guide most of you as your adviser and these can be the foundation for your formal proposals to me.

Code of Academic Misconduct

With regard to academic dishonesty, this class has a zero-tolerance policy and will promptly deal with any acts included therein (cheating, plagiarism, or unauthorized help on assignments, etc.) according to university policy. For further information on what falls into these categories see: <https://staging.umt.edu/student-affairs/community-standards/>. If you have questions or concerns, please feel free to contact your professor.

Students with Disabilities

Students with disabilities may request reasonable modifications by contacting your professor. The University of Montana assures equal access to instruction through collaboration between students with disabilities, instructors, and the Office of Disability Equity (ODE). “Reasonable” means the University permits no fundamental alterations of academic standards or retroactive modifications. For other options see <http://www.umt.edu/disability>.

COVID-19

Your Professor is fully aware of the worldwide pandemic taking place and asks that you be understanding and are flexible enough to handle changes that happen. This course is designed to be moved to remote teaching if necessary, in order to minimize all of our health risks, as well as interruptions to the course. That being said, there are personal concerns regarding your health. Please stay safe, wash your hands, and maintain social distancing. Additionally, please be sure to be mindful of your mental health—we are all struggling right now, so be as kind as possible and recognize that no one is in an idea situation (this goes for your classmates, fellow UM students, and your professors!). Should you or someone in your household become sick, please alert your professor to ensure she is able to advise you regarding completing the semester. Other extenuating circumstances are understandable, and indeed expected.

Mask use: despite wishing it were possible to enforce mask wearing in class, the university has said we can't. However, your professor will remain masked for your safety throughout the course, and highly recommends you do the same.

Please email or set up an appointment to talk in order to ensure that your needs are being met. I am here for you to aid you in succeeding in this course, even if there is a lot going on in the world around us all!

Basic Needs Statement

Any student who faces challenges securing food or housing and believes that this could affect their performance in this course is urged to contact any or all of the following campus resources. If you are comfortable, please feel free to email your Professor as well; I will do my best to help connect you with additional resources.

Food Pantry Program: UM offers a food pantry that students can access for emergency food. The pantry is located in UC 119. Pantry staff operate several satellite food cupboards on campus (including one at Missoula College). For more information about this program, visit the pantry's website (<https://www.umt.edu/asum/agencies/food-pantry/default.php>).

ASUM Renter Center: The Renter Center has compiled a list of resources for UM students at risk of homelessness here: <http://www.umt.edu/asum/agencies/renter-center/default.php> and here: <https://medium.com/griz-renter-blog>. Students can schedule an appointment with Renter Center staff to discuss their situation and receive information, support, and referrals.

Week	Date	Topic	Textbook Readings*	Presenter
1	1/19	Introduction & Topic Assignments		Meradeth
2	1/26	What is bioarcheology & why study?	Anth chp. 1 Molec chp. 1	Meradeth
3	2/2	Taphonomy	Anth chp. 3 Molec chp. 8	Meradeth
4	2/9	Sex & Age estimations	Anth chp. 4 & 5 Molec chp. 10	Claire & Dan
5	2/16	Paleodemography	Anth chp. 18	Claire & Dan
6	2/23	Paleopathology	Anth chp. 13 & 10	Hannah & Danielle
7	3/2	Infectious Disease	Anth chp. 12 Molec chp. 15	Melissa & Kaylee
8	3/9	Dental morphology & pathology	Anth chp. 7 & 8 & 9	Ava & Allison
9	3/16	Activity Patterns	Anth chp. 6	Hannah & Danielle
10	3/23	Spring Break		
11	3/30	SAA Conference—No Class	Work on your proposals!	
12	4/6	Stable Isotopes	Anth chp. 14 & 15 Molec chp. 6	Ava & Allison
13	4/13	Proteins, Lipids, & Carbs	Molec chp. 3 & 4 & 5	Adam & Patricio
14	4/20	Kinship Relationships	Molec chp. 11	Adam & Patricio
15	4/27	Metric & nonmetric data	Anth chp. 17	Melissa & Kaylee
16	5/4	Student Presentations	Proposals Due!	All students

Changes may be made to this schedule of events, but will be announced widely—keep an eye on your email! *Please note that additional readings will be posted to Moodle.