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# ANTY 314.01: Principles of Forensic Anthropology

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# ANTHROPOLOGY 314

## PRINCIPLES OF FORENSIC ANTHROPOLOGY

**Dr. Randall Skelton** 226 Social Sciences Building  
**Office Hours: MWF 10:00-11:00, TR: 8:00-9:00**  
**Phone: 243-4245, Email: randall.skelton@umontana.edu**

### GOALS AND PURPOSE

Students who successfully pass this class will acquire knowledge of the following:

- Basic forensic science, crime scene processing, and rules for handling evidence
- Forensic archaeology, including finding and recovering buried evidence
- State and federal burial regulations
- Criteria for evaluating the forensic relevance of discovered remains
- The nature, structure, composition, evolution, and function of bones and the skeleton
- The bones of the skeleton and some of their more important features
- Distinguishing human from non-human bones
- Methods for estimating age, sex, race, height, pathology, and trauma from the skeleton
- The role of forensic anthropologists in mass disasters, documenting human rights violations, recovery of war dead, and as expert witnesses in court
- How to write recovery reports, osteological inventories, and forensic reports

### ADMINISTRIVIA

**Required Texts:** The Burns text and assignments facpak will be absolutely vital for doing your assignments. The Steadman text is less critical.

- Burns, Karen Ramey, 2012. *Forensic Anthropology Training Manual*. 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition. Prentice Hall. (ISBN 0205022596)
- Skelton, R. R., 2012. ANTH 314, Principles of Forensic Anthropology Assignments.. Available as a course pack at the bookstore or on Moodle (the Moodle version has better pictures).
- Steadman, Dawnie Wolfe, 2009. *Hard Evidence: Case Studies in Forensic Anthro*. 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition Prentice Hall. (ISBN 0136050735)

**Lecture notes:** Lecture notes for this class and other the course pack will be posted on the University's Moodle online class system. Enrolled students should receive an email from the administrators of Moodle telling them how to access the system. This email will come to your official University email address. If you do not know how to access Moodle or your official University email please contact the Help Desk in SS 120.

**Attendance Policy:** Attendance is not required, but is highly recommended. If you don't attend and do poorly, don't complain to me.

**Academic Integrity:** Students will be held to the provisions of the Student Conduct Code with regards to cheating, plagiarism, abusive language, and other issues. Violations will not be tolerated. Students may work together on homework assignment, but each student must turn in an assignment prepared and written by themselves. If submitted assignments are copies (identical or not) the credit for that assignment will be divided equally among all the copies.

**Disabilities:** Students with disabilities are encouraged to meet with me to discuss any accommodations they require. Accommodation services and facilities will be provided by DSS.

**Grading:** Three non-cumulative midterm exams and a cumulative final exam will be offered. 50% of your grade will be based on the best three scores out of these 4 exams. The remaining 50% of your grade will be based on four written assignments: a recovery report, a skeletal inventory report, a skeletal analysis report, and an identity report that presents your overall conclusion based on all the evidence you examined.

# ANTY 314: Prin Forensic Anth – Provisional Lecture & Reading Schedule

It will be helpful to you to bring your Burns textbook to class on the days marked with a \*.

## PART 1: FORENSIC ARCHAEOLOGY

<u>DATE</u>	<u>DAY</u>	<u>LECTURE</u>	<u>READINGS: B = Burns, S = Steadman</u>
8/26	M	1. What is Forensic Anthropology?	B: xv-6; S: 1-28
8/28	W	2. The Criminal Case Start to Finish	B: 6-8, 180-184
8/30	F	3. The Forensic Sciences	B: 184-188
9/2	M	*** Labor Day Holiday ***	
9/4	W	4. The Crime Scene	
9/6	F	5. Finding Buried Evidence	B: 239-247, 263-267; S: 103-132.
9/9	M	6. Site Context	S: 255-270
9/11	W	7. Grave Excavation and Context	B: 247-254, 262; S:91-102.
9/13	F	8. Chain of Custody and Bone Conservation	B: 189-195
<b>Written Assignment 1 (Recovery Report) Due</b>			
9/16	M	9. Taphonomy and Time Since Death	B: 255 -261; S:155-178,
9/18	W	10. Forensic recovery video	
9/20	F	11. Critique of Assignment 1	
9/23	M	<b>!!! MIDTERM 1 !!!</b>	

## PART 2: OSTEOLOGY

*9/25	W	12. Skeletal Inventory & Anatomical Terms	B: 16-24, 189-197,
*9/27	F	13. Osteology of the Skull	B: 25-51, 55
*9/30	M	14. Osteology of the Postcranial Skeleton	B: 56-152
*10/2	W	15. Teeth	B: 153-163,
10/4	F	16. Bone Chemistry	S: 197-226
10/7	M	17. Bone as an Organ System	S: 3-6
<b>Written Assignment 2 (Skeletal Inventory Report) Due</b>			
10/9	W	18. Bone as a Tissue	B: 9-16
10/11	F	19. Bone Remodeling	
10/14	M	20. Evolution and Functions of the Skeleton	
10/16	W	21. Critique of Assignment 2	
10/18	F	22. Human Uniqueness	
10/21	M	23. Is it Really Bone and is it Human?	
10/23	W	<b>!!! MIDTERM 2 !!!</b>	

## PART 3: SKELETAL ANALYSIS

*10/25	F	24. Estimating Sex	B: 197-198, 52-54, 112-115
*10/28	M	25. Estimating Race	B: 164, 222-227, 238
*10/30	W	26. Estimating Age: The Early Years	B: 197, 165-168,
*11/1	F	27. Estimating Age: The Later Years	B: 51, 71-72, 82-84, 116-121, 169-172,
*11/4	M	28. Estimating Height, Weight, & Occupation	B: 198-202
*11/6	W	29-30. Trauma & Pathology	B: 202-214, 173-179,
11/8	F	31. Measuring bones	B: 228-235
<b>Written Assignment 3 (Forensic Report) Due</b>			
11/11	M	<b>!!! Veterans Day Holiday</b>	
*11/13	W	32. Discriminant Functions	B: 236-237
11/15	F	33. Race Revisited	
11/18	M	34. Critique of Assignment 3	
11/20	W	35. Positive Identifications	B: 215-221
11/22	F	36. Being an Expert Witness and Ethics	B: 268-275
11/25	M	37. Mass Disasters, War, and Human Rights	B: 276-298
<b>Written Assignment 4 (Identity Report) Due</b>			
11/27-11/29		*** Thanksgiving Vacation ***	
12/2	M	38. Historical Forensic Science	
12/4	W	39. Critique of Assignment 4	
12/6	F	<b>!!! MIDTERM 3 !!!</b>	
12/12	R	<b>FINAL EXAM: 8:00 (not 8:10) to 10:00am</b>	