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ANTY 413.01 Forensic and Mortuary Archaeology

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ANTHROPOLOGY 413: FORENSIC AND MORTUARY ARCHAEOLOGY

SPRING 2017 T & TH 9:30-10:50 AM SOCIAL SCIENCE 252

Instructor: Dr. Ashley Kendall

Office: Social Science 217

Office Hours: Wednesdays 10am - 12pm or by appointment

Email: ashley.kendell@mso.umt.edu

Course Objectives:

This course will introduce you to the fields of forensic and mortuary archaeology. Over the course of the semester you will learn the following: (1) history of the sub disciplines, (2) methods of interpreting mortuary behavior, (3) applications of biological profile information to the interpretation of the archaeological record, (4) proper excavation and mapping techniques. This course will also provide hands-on opportunities to work with human skeletal materials.

Some Advice:

This course requires considerable effort and study on the part of the student. The key to success is to come to class prepared, and to be on time. Poor attendance will result in a low grade for the course. If you need to contact me, please drop by my office during scheduled office hours or make an appointment. Please use email for brief communications only.

Required Textbooks:

Dupras TL, Schultz JJ, Wheeler SM, and Williams LJ. 2012. *Forensic Recovery of Human Remains: Archaeological Approaches*, second edition. CRC Press.

Blau, Soren, and Douglas H. Ubelaker. 2009. *Handbook of Forensic Archaeology and Anthropology*. Walnut Creek, CA: Left Coast Press, Inc.

Moodle and e-mail.

Course materials will be posted on Moodle (<http://umonline.umt.edu>). Students are responsible for checking the course Moodle page regularly. Class communications will be sent via email and all students are required to have a valid UM email account. It is your responsibility to check your email regularly, and missed assignment/deadlines cannot be attributed to a missed email.

Classroom Rules:

Please **turn off all cell phones (including text messaging)** before class begins. If you are on your cell phone in class you may be asked to leave the classroom for the remainder of the class period.

Grading:

Grades will be based on the following assignments:

Class participation - 15%

Participation points will be dependent on your attendance in class, participation in hands-on laboratory activities, and contributions to class discussions following the weekly presentations.

Laboratory Write-ups (x3) – 15%

Over the course of the semester you will be participating in hands-on laboratory activities that involve skeletal materials and methods based activities. You will be required to turn in a one page, single-spaced summary of each activity at the beginning of the subsequent class period. Lab activities include Osteological Inventory, Determination of MNI, and Burial Mapping. Each Laboratory activity and write-up is worth 25 points.

Midterm Exam – 20%

The midterm exam will take place mid-semester and cover all materials presented prior to this date. The exam will primarily be comprised of critical thinking essay questions.

Archaeological Excavation and Report – 20%

A requirement of this course is your participation in a one-day field exercise that involves the excavation of a covert burial at Fort Missoula. This field exercise is scheduled for Saturday, April 29th. Expect to be in the field from 8am until 5pm completing the exercise. There are absolutely no make-ups for this exercise and your participation accounts for 20% of your final grade in the course. Field notes and a detailed report will be turned in following the exercise. Your enrollment in the course constituted your acknowledgement and agreement to participate in this weekend exercise.

Final Paper – 30%

For your final paper, you can select any topic pertaining to forensic or mortuary archaeology. Paper topics must be discussed with the professor in advance. Papers are to be a minimum of 10 pages, double-spaced (not including bibliography) for undergraduates and 15 pages for graduate students. Assignment details will be discussed further in class.

<i>Grade Breakdown</i>	<i>Points</i>	<i>% of Grade</i>
Class Participation	75	15%
Laboratory Write-ups	75	15%
Midterm Exam	100	20%
Archaeological Excavation and Report	100	20%
Final Paper	150	30%
Total	500	100

The total number of points possible for the course is 500. Grades are assigned on a straight scale (no curve), and using the plus/minus system.

Grades will be assigned as follows:

- A = 94-100%**
- A- = 90-93%**
- B+ = 87-89%**
- B = 84-86%**
- B- = 80-83%**
- C+ = 77-79%**
- C = 74-76%**
- C- = 70-73%**
- D+ = 67-69%**
- D = 64-66%**
- D- = 60-63%**
- F = <60%**

Additional Course Requirements for Graduate Students:

Over the course of the semester, you will be asked to lead one class (topics will be assigned in the first week). During your assigned class period you are expected to present a 30-minute presentation that relates to the topic for that week. It is recommended that students discuss case studies of how that week's topic relates to forensic and/or mortuary archaeology. This assignment will be discussed in greater detail in class. As a discussion leader you must also find one additional reading assignment that must be approved at least one week prior to your class period. Please keep in mind that when leading a class, you must be comfortable enough with the topic to teach it to your fellow students. This involves reading additional materials outside of the assigned readings so that you can sufficiently answer student questions.

**COURSE SCHEDULE
(Subject To Revision)**

DATE	WEEKLY TOPICS	READING ASSIGNMENTS
Week 1		
1/24 – 1/26	Introduction to the subfields of biological anthropology	Dupras et al.: Chaps. 1 & 2 B & U: Chap. 1
Week 2		
1/31 – 2/2	Forensic Archaeology Interpreting Mortuary Behavior	B & U: Chaps. 2 & 7 Article(s) posted on Moodle
Week 3		
2/7 – 2/9	Osteology	Dupras et al.: Chap. 3
Week 4		
2/14 – 2/16	**NO CLASSES THIS WEEK** AAFS Meetings	
Week 5		
2/21 – 2/23	Age and Sex/Gender *Osteology write-up due 2/21	B & U: Chaps. 17, 18 & 19 Article(s) posted on Moodle
Week 6		
2/28 – 3/2	Trauma	B & U: Chaps. 21 & 22 Article(s) posted on Moodle
Week 7		
3/7 – 3/9	Commingling MNI Determination	B & U: Chap. 15 Article(s) posted on Moodle
Week 8		
3/14 – 3/16	Taphonomy and PMI *MNI write-up due 3/14	Dupras et al.: Chap. 4 B & U: Chaps. 14 & 23 Article(s) posted on Moodle

Week 9		
3/21 – 3/23	**NO CLASSES THIS WEEK** Spring Break	
Week 10		
3/28 – 3/30	Detecting Burials *MIDTERM EXAM – 3/30*	Dupras et al.: Chaps. 5 & 6 B & U: Chap. 11
Week 11		
4/4 – 4/6	Excavating Human Remains	Dupras et al.: Chaps. 8 & 10 B & U: Chap. 12
Week 12		
4/11 – 4/13	Mapping	Dupras et al.: Chap. 7 Article(s) posted on Moodle
Week 13		
4/18 – 4/20	Crime Scene Investigation and Evidence Collection	Dupras et al.: Chaps. 9 & 11 *Mapping write-up due 4/18
Week 14		
4/24 – 4/27 **No class Thursday (4/27)**	Ethics and Federal Legislation Field Exercise Saturday 4/29 Meet at Fort Missoula 8am!	B & U: Chaps. 37 & 38
Week 15		
5/2 – 5/4	Mass Disasters and Human Rights *Archaeology report due 5/4	B & U: Chaps. 31, 34, 36 & 42
Week 16		
5/8 – 5/12	FINAL EXAM WEEK No Final Exam Final papers due Monday, May 8th by 5pm	

Academic Dishonesty: Academic misconduct includes cheating on exams, homework assignments, class projects, and deliberate plagiarism of someone else's work. While I expect that you will work together with your classmates on course materials outside of class, all submitted assignments **must be** the written work of each individual student. Students found guilty of academic dishonesty will receive an automatic **F** for the course. For more information, please see me and/or refer to the University of Montana's **Student Conduct Code** at: http://www.umt.edu/vpsa/policies/student_conduct.php.

Disability Support: Students with a documented disability can contact the Disability Services for Students (DSS) at: <http://www.umt.edu/disability>. Please let me if you have any questions or concerns.