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ANTY 413.01: Forensic and Mortuary Archaeology

Kirsten Green

University of Montana, Missoula

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ANTY 413

Forensic & Mortuary Archaeology

Spring 2018

Course Details:

Dr. Kirsten Green

Email: kirsten.green@umontana.edu

Office: SS 217

Office Hours: Wed. 10:00-2:00pm, or by appointment

Class Meetings: Tuesday & Thursday @ 9:30 – 10:50am



Course Texts & Readings:

Required *Forensic Recovery of Human Remains: Archaeological Approaches*, 2nd ed. 2012. Dupras, Schultz, Wheeler, and Williams (editors). CRC Press

Handbook of Forensic Archaeology and Anthropology. 2009. Blau and Ubelaker (editors). Left Coast Press

Optional Koff, C. *The Bone Woman: A Forensic Anthropologist's Search for the truth in the Mass Graves of Rwanda, Bosnia, Croatia, and Kosovo*. 2007. Random House, LLC.

Additional reading for this course are available on the Moodle class page.

Course Description:

This course introduces the student to the practical approaches for locating, documenting, and recovering human skeletal remains from modern medicolegal and archaeological contexts. Different types of prehistoric and historic mortuary treatments will be discussed in the context of their biocultural meanings. The important legal considerations that apply to modern forensic cases and interpreting the forces and activities that created the recovery scene will be addressed.

Course Objectives:

- Understand the interplay between biology and culture that guides our ever-changing perceptions of death
- Have a general understanding of bioarchaeology, forensic anthropology, and mortuary studies
- Be able to apply anthropological theories of mortuary treatment to interpreting skeletal remains from the archaeological context
- Understand the forces that act on the skeleton postmortem
- Be prepared to assist trained archaeologists and forensic anthropologists in the recovery, documentation, and analysis of human remains

Field Exercises

This class requires one out of class field experience that will take place on Saturday April 28th at Fort Missoula. Failure to attend this event will result in failure of the class. This is the exercise that your final report will be based off of. Each student will be assigned a group led by a graduate student. You will locate a covert burial using a line survey, excavate, document, record, and photograph the burial. This work does require carrying a pack with your dig kit and documentation paperwork. Good shoes and appropriate clothing are necessary. More details will be discussed in class prior to the event.

Project Report

I will not accept emailed project reports. Reports must be turned in, in person, to me either on or before the due date. An outline for the project report will be posted on Moodle along with instructions for its completion. Each student will turn in a report even though the exercise is a group exercise.

Graduate Component

Graduate students will be assigned a case to work on over the course of the semester. Each group/case will then present their findings to the class in a powerpoint presentation (see schedule for available dates). A written case report will also be turned in (1 per case). These cases will come from the crime lab and your case report will include a complete biological profile for the individual. Case work will be done outside of class with your assigned partners in SS 250.

Graduate students will also be asked to lead the covert burial investigations at the end of the semester.

Grades

Grades will be based on the following:

Class Participation and Attendance – 23pts. You will be asked to sign into class each day and participation will be based off discussion of the articles. There are a total of 25 class periods for the semester.

In class exercises – 30pts. There is 10 points assigned for each exercise.

Burial Excavation – 50pts. This is based off participation that day as well as preparedness, and willingness to try each aspect of excavation and documentation.

Final Report – 100pts.

Graduate Component/Presentation – 50pts. This is for graduate students only and will be based off the case report and corresponding presentation in class.

There is no extra credit for this class. Late assignments will not be accepted. If you know you will be missing class on the day of an in-class exercise please schedule an appointment with me in advance so we can set up an accommodation if possible. If you miss an in-class exercise with no advanced notice, you will not be able to make up the exercise after it has taken place.

Academic Conduct

With regard to academic dishonesty, this class has a zero-tolerance policy and will promptly deal with any acts of academic dishonesty (cheating, plagiarism, or unauthorized help on assignments, etc.) according to university policy. For further information on what falls into these categories see: http://life.umt.edu/vpsa/student_conduct.php. If you have questions or concerns, please feel free to contact your professor.

Students with Dissabilities

Students with disabilities may request reasonable modifications by contacting me. The University of Montana assures equal access to instruction for students with disabilities in collaboration with instructors and Disability Services for Students, which is located in Lommasson Center 154. The University does not permit fundamental alterations of academic standards or retroactive modifications.

Course Schedule & Readings

FRHR – readings from Forensic Recovery of Human Remains

HFAA – readings from Handbook of Forensic Archaeology and Anthropology

Moodle – readings found on Moodle

Date	Topic	Readings
1/23	Introduction to Forensic and Mortuary (1) - Syllabus	FRHR Ch. 1 & 2

1/25	Forensic & Mortuary Archaeology (2)	HFAA Ch. 7, Moodle - Charles, 2005 Tool list
1/30	Theory 1 – up to 1971 (3)	Moodle – Kroeber, 1927 Binford, 1971 Tersigni-Tarrant & Shirley, 2013
2/1	Theory 2 – after 1971 (4)	Moodle – Tainter, 1978; Dirkmaat & Adovasio, 1997; Baker & Agarwal, 2017
2/6	Bone ID & Interpreting Mortuary Contexts (5)	Moodle – Sledzik & Micozzi, 1997; O’Shea, 1984 (ch. 3 only)
2/8	Interpreting Burials (6)	FRHR – Ch. 4 HFAA – Ch. 12
2/13	Laws - Legal Issues – Ethics (7)	Moodle – Ousley et.al 2005; Rasmussen et.al 2014
2/15	Decomposition (8)	HFAA – Ch. 23
2/20	Guest Lecture – Forensic Chemistry with Chris Palmer	Moodle - Bell, 2009
2/22	Scene Investigation (9)	Moodle – Komar & Buikstra, 2007
2/27	Surface Scatters (10)	FRHR – Ch. 5 Moodle – Morse et.al, 1984
3/1	Guest Lecture – Aldo Fusaro, Deputy ME	Moodle – Szelecz et. al, 2018
3/6	Locating Covert Burials (11)	FRHR – Ch. 8 Moodle – Buck, 2003; Owsley, 1995
3/8	Guest Lecture – DNA with Meradeth	HFAA – Ch. 26
3/13	Excavation & Documentation (12)	
3/15	Guest Lecture – Guy Baker, FBI	
3/20	Guest Lecture - TBA	
3/22	Interpreting Mortuary Behavior (13)	Moodle – Jantz & Ousley, 2013; Cavalli-Sforza et.al 1988
3/27 – 3/29	SPRING BREAK	
4/3	Guest Lecture Ethan Ryan - Mapping, GIS, LIDAR	FRHR – Ch. 7
4/5	Scatter Mapping Exercise	
4/10	Burial Mapping Exercise	
4/12	CLASS CANCELED – SAA’s	
4/17	Report Writing	

4/19	CV Creation	
4/24	Grad Pres. #1	
4/26	Grad Pres. #2	
4/28 - Saturday	Excavation at Fort Missoula: 8:30am – 5:00pm	
5/1	No Class – work on reports	
5/3	No Class – work on reports	
5/8	FINALS – final report due, in person, by 10am!!!	