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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

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*. 3rd Edition. Prentice Hall. (ISBN 0205022596)
- Steadman, Dawnie Wolfe, 2009. *Hard Evidence: Case Studies in Forensic Anthro*. 2nd 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: As experience has shown that students who attend class do markedly better than those who do not, attendance will be taken (at least randomly) and attendance will contribute to students' grades.

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. Another 40% 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. The final 10% of your grade will reflect attendance. The grading mode is "open" meaning that you can take the class for a traditional grade or CR/NCR. If you take a class CR/NCR you cannot count it toward specific major, minor, option, or certificate requirements that require a minimum grade.

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>
8/27	M	1. What is Forensic Anthropology?	B: xv-6; S: 1-28
8/29	W	2. The Criminal Case Start to Finish	B: 6-8, 180-184
8/31	F	3. The Forensic Sciences	B: 184-188
9/3	M	*** Labor Day Holiday ***	
9/5	W	4. The Crime Scene	
9/7	F	5. Finding Buried Evidence	B: 239-247, 263-267; S: 103-132
9/10	M	6. Site Context	S: 255-270
9/12	W	7. Grave Excavation and Context	B: 247-254, 262; S:91-102.
9/14	F	8. Chain of Custody and Bone Conservation	B: 189-195
Written Assignment 1 (Testing Hypotheses About a Theory of the Case) Due			
9/17	M	9. Taphonomy and Time Since Death	B: 255 -261; S:155-178
9/19	W	10. Critique of Assignment 1	
9/21	F	!!! MIDTERM 1 !!!	

PART 2: OSTEOLOGY

9/24	M	11. Skeletal Inventory & Anatomical Terms	B: 16-24, 189-197
*9/26	W	12. Osteology of the Skull	B: 25-51, 55
*9/28	F	13. Osteology of the Postcranial Skeleton	B: 56-152
*10/1	M	14. Teeth	B: 153-163
*10/3	W	15. Bone Chemistry	S: 197-226
10/5	F	16. Bone as an Organ System	S: 3-6
10/8	M	17. Bone as a Tissue	B: 9-16
Written Assignment 2 (Skeletal Inventory) Due			
10/10	W	18. Bone Remodeling	
10/12	F	19. Evolution and Functions of the Skeleton	
10/15	M	20. Critique of Assignment 2	
10/17	W	21. Human Uniqueness	
10/19	F	22. Is it Really Bone and is it Human?	
10/22	M	!!! MIDTERM 2 !!!	

PART 3: SKELETAL ANALYSIS

10/24	W	23. Estimating Sex	B: 197-198, 52-54, 112-115
*10/26	F	24. Estimating Race	B: 164, 222-227, 238
*10/29	M	25. Estimating Age: The Early Years	B: 197, 165-168
*10/31	W	26. Estimating Age: The Later Years	B: 51, 71-72, 82-84, 116-121, 169-172
*11/2	F	27. Estimating Height, Weight, & Occupation	B: 198-202
11/5	M	28. Pathology	B: 173-179
*11/7	W	29. Trauma	B: 202-214
11/9	F	30. Measuring bones	B: 228-235
11/12	M	*** Veterans Day Holiday ***	
11/14	W	31. Discriminant Functions	B: 236-237
Written Assignment 3 (Forensic Report) Due			
11/16	F	32. Race Revisited	
11/19	M	33. Critique of Assignment 3	
11/21-23	W-F	*** Thanksgiving Vacation ***	
11/26	M	34. Positive Identifications	B: 215-221
11/28	W	35. Being an Expert Witness and Ethics	B: 268-275
Written Assignment 4 (Identity Report) Due			
11/30	F	36. Mass Disasters, War, and Human Rights	B: 276-298
12/3	M	37. Critique of Assignment 4	
12/3	W	38. Historical Forensic Science	
12/5	F	!!! MIDTERM 3 !!!	
12/12	W	FINAL EXAM: 6:00am to 10:00am	