1-2004

ANTH 465.01: Human Identification

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The intent of this course is to give the student a working knowledge of the basics of casting techniques. A variety of materials will be explored, including (but not limited to) Plaster, Latex, Alginate, Silicone, Plastic, and Foam. Solid casts, hollow casts, as well as single and double poured casts will be illustrated. Staining and protection of casts for display and storage will also be addressed.

Each student will choose a casting project to complete during the term. Two students may choose to work together on a very time consuming project. Anyone with a future in the sciences, museum work, forensics, fossils, human evolution & variation, the arts, and many other fields should have casting experience in their past. (Casting class and experience is a great Vitae entry!)

Facial Reconstruction, a combination of math, science, and art, teaches students how to apply forensic anthropology using the hands-on technique. The course is designed to train students with futures in anthropology and law enforcement, as well as, the arts, museum work, human evolution, movie and entertainment, disaster and historical identification. Students will make a plaster cast of a human skull (of their choice), be given clay, tissue depth charts, and all the assistance necessary to complete a facial reconstruction, along with short lectures on historical and present day applications of facial reconstructions.

Week of: COURSE OUTLINE
Jan. 27 & 29 Introduction & Lab Tour
Feb. 3 & 5 Demonstration Plasters Introduce Skulls
    10 & 12 Video: Casting Tech Choose Skull
    17 & 19 Demo: Release Agents Cast Skull
    24 & 26 Demo: Latex Video
Mar. 2 & 4 Demo: Rubber Mark points & Cut Markers
    9 & 11 Demo: Wax Attach Depth Markers
    16 & 18 Demo: Plastics Begin Clay Bridging & Set Eyes
    23 & 25 Demo: Alginate Sculpt Upper & Lower Eye Lids
    30 & 1 NO CLASS SPRING BREAK
April 6 & 8 Demo: Foam Build Nose
    13 & 15 Demo: Silicone Work on Lips
    20 & 22 Demo: Stain, & Protect Set Ears & Adjust Expression
    27 & 29 Finish Project Finish Face and Add Wig
May 4 & 6 No Final Clean Lab Present Reconstruction