

# ANTH203

**STUDENT WARNING:** This course syllabus is from a previous semester archive and serves only as a preparatory reference. Please use this syllabus as a reference only until the professor opens the classroom and you have access to the updated course syllabus. Please do NOT purchase any books or start any work based on this syllabus; this syllabus may NOT be the one that your individual instructor uses for a course that has not yet started. If you need to verify course textbooks, please refer to the online course description through your student portal. This syllabus is proprietary material of APUS.

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## Course Summary

**Course :** ANTH203 **Title :** Introduction to Forensic Anthropology

**Length of Course :** 8

**Prerequisites :** N/A **Credit Hours :** 3

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## Description

**Course Description:** Forensic anthropology is the application of physical anthropology in a medico-legal context; forensic anthropologists use the tools of archaeology and physical anthropology to discover, recover and identify human remains. Students will be exposed to the interdisciplinary, scientific basis of forensic anthropology, along with legal and ethical issues forensic anthropologists face. The course is designed to give students a broad overview of the field by introducing them to the process of human remains identification; the archaeological and laboratory methods incorporated in human remains recovery; and, a review of the work forensic anthropologists work do with law enforcement, forensic pathologists and odontologists in recovering and collecting victims of foul play as well as those of mass fatalities, such as the 9/11 terrorist attack on the World Trade Center.

### Course Scope:

This 8-week course will allow students who are interested in the fields of criminal Justice and anthropology to develop their knowledge of theoretical and practical issues in forensic anthropology. The course examines human anatomy and osteology, lab techniques, and ethical issues in forensic anthropology. Throughout the course, interactive media will assist students develop a basic understanding of human osteology. Students will also use case studies to apply weekly concepts to their understanding of a hypothetical case. The course will be divided into learning blocks where students will concentrate on each of these areas. Students will explore these areas both independently and with their cohort through weekly discussions, low-stakes quizzes, and applied Assignments. Students will also have the opportunity to further investigate a particular forensic anthropology case by completing a research project as their final course project.

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## Objectives

CO1: Recognize the role of forensic anthropology in criminal justice

CO2: Demonstrate basic knowledge of anatomy and osteology

CO3: Compare and contrast human versus non-human remains

CO4: Demonstrate a basic understanding of human osteology by learning to identify markers of sex, age, pathology and ancestry

CO5: Explain lab techniques such as PCR and gel analysis

CO6: Demonstrate an understanding of the ethical issues that are faced when working with human remains

CO7: Identify procedural issues in recovering human remains  
CO8: List career options for forensic anthropologists

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## Outline

### **Week 1: Introduction to forensic anthropology**

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Course Objectives

1, 8

Course materials

Syllabus

Week 1 Learning Materials

Week 1 Readings & Resources

Assignment(s)

Week 1 Discussion

### **Week 2: Basics of human osteology and odontology**

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Course Objectives

1, 2, 8

Course materials

Week 2 Learning Materials

Week 2 Readings & Resources

Assignment(s)

1st Short Case Study

### **Week 3: Recovery scene methods, Establishing forensic significance**

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Course Objectives

1, 3, 7

Course materials

Week 3 Learning Materials

Week 3 Readings & Resources

Assignment(s)

Week 3 Discussion

### **Week 4: Attribution of ancestry and sex**

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Course Objectives

2, 4, 5

Course materials

Week 4 Learning Materials

Week 4 Readings & Resources

Assignment(s)

2nd Short Case Study

### **Week 5: Estimation of age, Calculating stature**

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Course Objectives

2, 4, 5

Course materials

Week 5 Learning Materials

Week 5 Readings & Resources

Assignment(s)

Week 5 Discussion

Annotated Bibliography Assignment

### **Week 6: Antemortem skeletal conditions**

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Course Objectives

4, 5

Course materials

Week 6 Learning Materials

Week 6 Readings & Resources

Assignment(s)

Week 6 Discussion

### **Week 7: Postmortem changes to skeletal remains**

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Course Objectives

4, 5

Course materials

Week 7 Learning Materials

Week 7 Readings & Resources

Assignment(s)

Week 7 Discussion

## Week 8: Ethical issues in forensic anthropology

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Course Objectives

6, 8

Course materials

Week 8 Learning Materials

Week 8 Readings & Resources

Assignment(s)

Week 8 Discussion

Final Case Study Project

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## Evaluation

### Discussions

Participation in classroom dialogue on threaded Discussions is required some weeks of class. Initial Discussion posts are due Thursdays, peer responses are due Sundays. Instructions and specific grading rubrics are found under the Discussions tab in our classroom.

### Assignments

This course includes Assignments. Instructions and specific grading rubrics are found under the Assignments tab in our classroom.

### Extra Credit:

Extra credit is not offered in this course.

### Grading:

| Name | Grade % |
|------|---------|
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## Materials

**Book Title:** Hard Evidence: Case Studies in Forensic Anthropology-E-book available in the APUS Online Library; hard copy not available from the APUS Bookstore, please try other sources.

**Author:** Dawnie Wolfe Steadman

**Publication Info:** Taylor & Francis

**ISBN:** 9780136050735

**Book Title:** Introduction to Forensic Anthropology-E-book available in the APUS Online Library; hard copy not available from the APUS Bookstore, please try other sources.

**Author:** Steven N. Byers

**Publication Info:** Taylor & Francis

**ISBN:** 9780205790128

**Book Title:** Various resources from the APUS Library & the Open Web are used. Please visit <http://apus.libguides.com/er.php> to locate the course eReserve.\*

**Author:**

**Publication Info:**

**ISBN:** ERESERVE NOTE

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APA formatted reference for our books:

Byers, S.N. (2011). [\*Introduction to Forensic Anthropology, 4th Edition\*](#). Boston, MA: Pearson.

Steadman, D.W. (2009). *Hard Evidence: Case Studies in Forensic Anthropology*, 2nd Edition.

Upper Saddle River, NJ: Pearson.

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## Course Guidelines

### Citation and Reference Style

- Students will follow APA format as the sole citation and reference style used in written assignments submitted.
- Please note that no formal citation style is graded on Forums in the School of Arts & Humanities.

### Tutoring

- [Tutor.com](#) offers online homework help and learning resources by connecting students to certified tutors for one-on-one help. AMU and APU students are eligible for 10 free hours of tutoring provided by APUS. Tutors are available 24/7 unless otherwise noted. Tutor.com also has a SkillCenter Resource Library offering educational resources, worksheets, videos, websites and career help. Accessing these resources does not count against tutoring hours and is also available 24/7. Please visit the APUS Library and search for 'Tutor' to create an account.

### Late Assignments

#### **School of Arts & Humanities Late Policy**

Students are expected to submit classroom assignments by the posted due date and to complete the course according to the published class schedule. As adults, students, and working professionals, I understand you must manage competing demands on your time. Should you need additional time to complete an assignment, please contact me before the due date so we can discuss the situation and determine an acceptable resolution.

Work posted or submitted after the assignment due date will be reduced by 10% of the potential total score possible for each day late up to a total of five days, including forum posts/replies, quizzes, and assignments. ***Beginning on the sixth day late through the end of the course, late work, including forum posts/replies, quizzes, and assignments, will be accepted with a grade reduction of 50% of the potential total score earned.***

### Turn It In

Assignments are automatically submitted to Turnitin.com within the course. Turnitin.com will analyze an assignment submission and report a similarity score. Your assignment submission is automatically processed through the assignments area of the course when you submit your work.

### Academic Dishonesty

- Academic Dishonesty incorporates more than plagiarism, which is using the work of others without citation. Academic dishonesty includes any use of content purchased or retrieved from web services such as CourseHero.com or Scribd. Additionally, allowing your work to be placed on such web services is academic dishonesty, as it is enabling the dishonesty of others. The copy and pasting of content from any web page, without citation as a direct quote, is academic dishonesty. When in doubt, do not copy/paste, and always cite.
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## University Policies

### [Student Handbook](#)

- [Drop/Withdrawal policy](#)
- [Extension Requests](#)
- [Academic Probation](#)
- [Appeals](#)
- [Disability Accommodations](#)

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