Course Summary

Course: ANTH203  Title: Introduction to Forensic Anthropology  
Length of Course: 8  Prerequisites: N/A  Credit Hours: 3

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.

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

Outline

Week 1: Introduction to forensic anthropology

Course Objectives
1, 8

Reading(s)
Week 1 Lesson
Byers:
Chapter 1, p. 1-15

Steadman:
Section I, p. 1-7
Chapter 23, p.289-302

Assignment(s)
Introduction forum
Week 1 Forum
Quiz 1

Week 2: Basics of human osteology and odontology

Course Objectives
1, 2, 8

Reading(s)
Week 2 Lesson
Byers:
Chapter 2, p. 27-51
Chapter 18, p. 364-7

Steadman:
Chapter 1, p.8-28

Assignment(s)
Week 2 Forum
1st Short Case Study due
Quiz 2

Week 3: Recovery scene methods, Establishing forensic significance

Course Objectives
Reading(s)

Week 3 Lesson

Byers:
Chapter 3, p.52-73
Chapter 4, p. 75-92

Steadman:
Chapter 11, p. 133-140
Section III, p. 103-112

Assignment(s)

Week 3 Forum
Quiz 3

Week 4: Attribution of ancestry and sex

Course Objectives
2, 4, 5

Reading(s)

Week 4 Lesson

Byers:
Chapter 7
Chapter 8

Steadman:
Chapter 6, p. 68-79

Assignment(s)

Week 4 Forum
*2nd Short Case Study due
Quiz 4

Week 5: Estimation of age, Calculating stature

Course Objectives
2, 4, 5

Reading(s)

Week 5 Lesson

Byers:
Chapter 9
Chapter 10

Steadman:
Chapter 4, p. 47-51
Assignment(s)

Week 5 Forum

Quiz 5

Week 6: Antemortem skeletal conditions

Course Objectives

4, 5

Reading(s)

Week 6 Lesson

Byers:
Chapter 11
Chapter 15

Assignment(s)

Week 6 Forum
Submit draft of Assignment, in order to be able to participate in peer review

Quiz 6

Week 7: Postmortem changes to skeletal remains

Course Objectives

4, 5

Reading(s)

Week 7 Lesson

Byers:
Chapter 5
Chapter 16

Steadman:
Section IV, p. 155-164
Chapter 10, p. 122-132
Chapter 12, p. 141-154
Chapter 13, p. 165-178

Assignment(s)

Week 7 Forum
*Peer review worksheet due

Quiz 7

Week 8: Ethical issues in forensic anthropology

Course Objectives

6, 8
Reading(s)

Week 8 Lesson

Byers:
Chapter 19

Steadman:
Section II, p. 63-67
Section VI, p. 271-279
Chapter 22, p. 280-8
Chapter 24, p. 303-320

Assignment(s)

Week 8 Forum
*Final Case Study Project due
Quiz 8

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Evaluation

Quizzes:
This course includes Quizzes, located under the Tests & Quizzes tab in the classroom. Quizzes are designed to facilitate engagement with the course textbook.

Forums:
Participation in classroom dialogue on threaded Forums is required. Forums are scheduled weekly and found in the Forums tab in the classroom. Initial Forum posts are due Thursdays, peer responses are due Sundays. Specific instructions and the grading rubric are located on each Forum.

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

Grading:

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<tr>
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Quiz 7 3.75 %
Quiz 8 3.75 %
Short Case Studies 25.00 %
Short Case Study 1: Forensic Anthropology and Popular Media 12.50 %
Short Case Study 2: Forensic Anthropology in Broader Context 12.50 %
Final Case Study Project 20.00 %
Final Case Study Project 18.00 %
Final Case Study Project - Peer Review Worksheet 2.00 %

Materials

**Book Title:** Hard Evidence: Case Studies in Forensic Anthropology-E-book available in the APUS Online Library

**Author:** Dawnie Wolfe Steadman

**Publication Info:** Taylor & Francis

**ISBN:** 9780136050735

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**Book Title:** Introduction to Forensic Anthropology-E-book available in the APUS Online Library

**Author:** Steven N. Byers

**Publication Info:** Taylor & Francis

**ISBN:** 9780205790128

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**Book Title:** To find the library e-book(s) req'd for your course, please visit http://apus.libguides.com/er.php to locate the eReserve by course #. You must be logged in to eCampus first to access the links.

**Author:** N/A

**Publication Info:** N/A

**ISBN:** N/A


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.

University Policies

Student Handbook

• Drop/Withdrawal policy
• Extension Requests
• Academic Probation
• Appeals
• Disability Accommodations

The mission of American Public University System is to provide high quality higher education with emphasis on educating the nation’s military and public service communities by offering respected, relevant, accessible,
affordable, and student-focused online programs that prepare students for service and leadership in a diverse, global society.

**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.