

## Introduction to Forensic Anthropology and the Forensic Sciences

Instructor: Derinna Kopp

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Office hours: Before or after class and by appointment.

**Required Text:** Myriam Nafté. *Flesh and Bone: An Introduction to Forensic Anthropology*, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition. Durham, NC: Carolina Academic Press, 2009.

**Course Description:** This course is an introduction to the field of forensic science with special emphasis on forensic anthropology – the application of the theory and methods of biological anthropology and human osteology to cases of legal significance. Anthropology 2220 carries three semester credits at the University of Utah and fulfills the Applied Science requirement.

Forensic anthropology and other forensic disciplines related to human identification and death investigation – including crime scene investigation, forensic pathology, odontology, entomology and other lab-based forensic science fields – will be introduced. Lectures are presented by the instructor and several guest speakers from local law enforcement and forensic service agencies as well as by other seasoned experts in forensic analysis. The course includes a lab-based osteology and forensic anthropology section in which basic human skeletal anatomy and methods for description and identification of human remains are covered.

**Students should be aware of the potentially disturbing nature of some of the material covered in this course.** This introduction to forensic science focuses heavily on issues related to medical and legal concerns arising with death. Students should be prepared to respectfully view explicit photographs in lectures and the textbook and handle real human skeletal remains in the lab. Students who feel that their ability to successfully complete this course might be jeopardized by adverse reactions to such material are advised to take another class. **No audio or video recording or photography of the lectures, guest lectures, or laboratory time is allowed due to the sensitive nature of the topics covered.**

At the end of the course, students will have a general understanding of forensic anthropology within the broader context of forensic investigation and analysis. They will be familiar with crime scene investigation procedures and analytical techniques used in several fields of forensic science. In addition, students will develop a basic knowledge of the human skeleton and will be able to explain methods for the description and identification of human remains. They will also

gain an appreciation of the breadth of scientific knowledge that is applied to the forensic context.

Throughout this course students will achieve the Department of Anthropology's Learning Outcomes of: Apply anthropological research methods to answer a question or solve a problem and Evaluate and Synthesize scientific hypotheses about human variation using empirical data.

**Coursework:** The course is divided into two sections as indicated in the class schedule. The first section highlights the various other fields of forensic science. The second focuses on human osteology and forensic anthropology.

**This syllabus is subject to change.** Because the first part of the course relies heavily on guest speakers who are working forensic specialists, last minute schedule changes are likely to arise. Students will be notified of such changes as soon as possible. To avoid confusion all changes will be announced in class as soon as possible and students should check the course Canvas page regularly to view announcements regarding any alterations to the schedule.

With the exception of the human osteology/forensic anthropology lab section, lectures and reading assignments form the basis of the material covered in this course. Reading assignments are listed in the Class Schedule attached to this syllabus. Lectures will **not** be posted on Canvas due to the sensitive or proprietary nature of some of the material. **Regular attendance is required to succeed in the course.**

**Grading:** Grades will be based upon performance on one exam, a human osteology quiz, a forensic anthropology lab, and a research paper as follows:

Exam	100pts
Human Osteology Quiz	50pts
Forensic Anthropology Lab	50pts
<u>Research Paper</u>	<u>100pts</u>
Total	300pts

**Exam:** The exam will be handwritten essay questions. **Students will be required to bring a large blue book for the exam.**

**There will be no make-up exams, quizzes, or labs.** Students absent from class to participate in officially sanctioned University activities (e.g., band, debate, student government, intercollegiate athletics), or religious obligations, or with instructor's approval, shall be permitted to make up both assignments and examinations. **All absences of the type listed above need to be communicated with the instructor prior to missing classes.**

## Class Schedule

<b>Date</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Reading</b>
8/23	Introduction to Forensic Anthropology, Criminal Justice System & Forensic Evidence	Ch. 1 & 2
8/30	Crime Scene Investigations	Ch. 1 & Readings
9/6	Law Enforcement Investigations & Mass Fatalities/DMORT	Readings Ch. 8
9/13	Human Decomposition & Forensic Entomology	Ch. 7 & Readings
9/20	Death Investigation & Forensic Pathology	
9/27	Positive ID & Forensic DNA & Forensic Odontology	Readings
10/4	Human Osteology & Forensic Anthropology <b>Research Paper Topic Due at Beginning of Class</b>	Ch. 4, 5, 6 & Handouts
<b>10/11</b>	<b>FALL BREAK - NO CLASS</b>	
<b>10/18</b>	<b>EXAM – Bring a Blue Book</b>	
10/25	Lab Group A – Human Osteology	Ch. 4 & Handouts
1/01	Lab Group B – Human Osteology	Ch. 4 & Handouts
<b>11/8</b>	<b>Lab Group A – Osteology Quiz &amp; Forensic Anthropology</b>	Ch. 5 & 6 & Handouts
<b>11/15</b>	<b>Lab Group B – Osteology Quiz &amp; Forensic Anthropology</b>	Ch. 5 & 6 & Handouts
<b>11/22</b>	<b>NO CLASS – HAPPY THANKSGIVING!!</b>	
<b>11/29</b>	<b>2:00-3:15pm Lab Group A – Forensic Anthropology Lab 3:30-4:45pm Lab Group B – Forensic Anthropology Lab</b>	Ch. 5 & 6 & Handouts
<b>12/6</b>	<b>Research paper due by 5 pm in 102 Stewart</b>	

## Department and University Policies

**ADA Statement:** The Americans with Disabilities Act. The University of Utah seeks to provide equal access to its programs, services, and activities for people with disabilities. If you will need accommodations in this class, reasonable prior notice needs to be given to the Center for Disability Services, 162 Olpin Union Building, (801) 581-5020. CDS will work with you and the instructor to make arrangements for accommodations. All written information in this course can be made available in an alternative format with prior notification to the Center for Disability Services.

**Addressing Sexual Misconduct:** Title IX makes it clear that violence and harassment based on sex and gender (which includes sexual orientation and gender identity/expression) is a Civil Rights offense subject to the same kinds of accountability and the same kinds of support applied to offenses against other protected categories such as race, national origin, color, religion, age, status as a person with a disability, veteran's status or genetic information. If you or someone you know has been harassed or assaulted, you are encouraged to report it to the Title IX Coordinator in the Office of Equal Opportunity and Affirmative Action, 135 Park Building, 801-581-8365, or the Office of the Dean of Students, 270 Union Building, 801-581-7066. For support and confidential consultation, contact the Center for Student Wellness, 426 SSB, 801-581-7776. To report to the police, contact the Department of Public Safety, 801-585-2677(COPS).

**Wellness Statement:** Personal concerns such as stress, anxiety, relationship difficulties, depression, cross-cultural differences, etc., can interfere with a student's ability to succeed and thrive at the University of Utah. For helpful resources contact the Center for Student Wellness ([www.wellness.utah.edu](http://www.wellness.utah.edu); 801-581-7776).

**Student Code: (Policy 6-400)** All students are expected to maintain professional behavior in the classroom setting, according to the Student Code ([regulations.utah.edu/academics/6-400.php](http://regulations.utah.edu/academics/6-400.php)). Students have specific rights in the classroom as detailed in S. II of the Code. The Code also specifies standards of behavior (S. III) and academic conduct (S. V). "Students must adhere to generally accepted standards of academic honesty, including but not limited to refraining from cheating, plagiarizing, research misconduct, misrepresenting one's work, and/or inappropriately collaborating" (S. VB). According to Faculty Rules and Regulations, it is the faculty responsibility to enforce responsible classroom behaviors. Students have the right to appeal such action to the Student Behavior Committee.

**Incomplete Policy:** An "I" will only be given for work not completed because of circumstances beyond the student's control, providing the student is passing the course and needs to complete 20% or less of the work. Valid reasons for an "I" grade include: (a) An illness (documented by a medical statement) that precludes the ability of the student to perform; (b) an accident or situation that prevents the student from physically being present (documentation may be required); (c) Extreme emotional or other mental circumstances that are severe enough to interfere with a student's normal academic performance. If you do receive an "I", do not register for the course again. You must complete the required work in the time agreed by you and the instructor. If the work is not completed within one year, the grade will change to an "E". Faculty will not accept additional work to change the grade after that one-year period. If a student has a problem with the course, please deal with it immediately. It is the student's responsibility to contact instructors and submit necessary forms.

**Note:** The syllabus is not a binding legal contract. It may be modified by the instructor when the student is given reasonable notice of the modification.