

Introduction to Forensic Anthropology

Prof. Kimberly Consroe

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Dealy 401B

The course is comprised of three primary modules:

- *Crime Scene Investigation and Forensic Archaeology*
- *Biologically Profiling Human Remains*
- *The Ethics of Forensics*

To introduce the field of Forensic Anthropology, this course surveys the history and methods of crime scene investigation and forensic archaeology. Notable persons and current research are explored through the examination of case studies and recent events. You will learn how forensic anthropologists create biological profiles from human skeletal remains (using metric, non-metric, odontological, and genetic material) and the way that forensic evidence is applied and abused in both the courtroom and popular culture. In this course, you will come to understand the direct relationship between archaeology, physical anthropology, and forensics in the quest not only to solve "Who Was It?" but "Who Dunnit?"

Participation:

(10%): Field trip and daily attendance.

Exams:

(3 x 20%): 60% Multiple choice, matching, and short answer.

Module Assignments:

(3 x 10%): 30%

The Fine Print:

Reading: Readings are available on Blackboard. Print all readings (at the beginning of each module) at one time. Create a course reading packet *with your syllabus* and module readings, using a 3-ring binder and bring it to each class.

Writing: Assignments should be submitted on time, with the appropriate citation (see below). Documents should never be submitted via email. Formatting should be as follows:

- Microsoft Word (.docx): Times New Roman font, Size 12, 1.5 spaced, with 1 in. margins on all sides. There should be no spaces between paragraphs (Format>Paragraph> Spacing>Don't add space between paragraphs of same style>).
- Submitted material *requires* editing. Mistakes occur, but documents that show little evidence of having been edited for clarity, and spelling (this includes citation of authors' names and archaeological terminology), will receive a grade reduction.
- Fordham Writing Center: RH: 718-817-4032 / LC: 212-636-6417 (http://www.fordham.edu/academics/programs_at_fordham_/english/writing_center/)

Citing: Citation is required for all submitted work in this class (Module Assignments): Assignments that lack appropriate in-text citation will not be accepted, as they will be considered plagiarized (see below). **CITATION TO BE USED IN THIS COURSE:** Specific points/ideas from text: (Author DATE: Pp.#). As an overall source you are referring to: (Author DATE). One author: (Feder 2001: 24); Two: (Renfrew and Bahn 2000: 59-65); Three+ (Reid et al. 1974);

Bootlegging: Giving yourself enough time to do readings, and assignments, is the best way to avoid plagiarism. All material used should be cited, as outlined in the paragraph above. Your assigned readings are the only sources you should use, and you can find the bibliographical information for each source on p. 4 of this syllabus. If cheating or plagiarism is suspected it will be investigated and handled according to Fordham Policy: It never ends well. (http://www.fordham.edu/academics/handbooks__publicati/undergraduate_academ/undergraduat_e_ai_pol/standards_of_ai_72295.asp).

Exams (60%): Exams I, II, and III, will be administered October 12th, November 20th, and December 14th, respectively. There are no make-ups for the exams, and no one will be allowed to take the exam once the first person in the class is finished. **There are no exceptions.** Exams are comprised of multiple choice, matching, short answer, and short essay questions that are drawn from your readings, and the lecture material.

Module Assignments: (30%): Project specifications (Handouts) will be distributed in class. The projects have specific parameters that need to be followed in order to receive any/full credit. Assignments are not free-form, and require that you read, understand, and carefully follow the instructions you are given. Failure to submit the project on time, without communicating with me, will result in a 0% evaluation grade.

Participation (10%): In class, you should take notes and participate when prompted. **Your participation and behavior can impact your grade as much as your attendance.** If you miss class, you are responsible for any information distributed or discussed. Use your "classmate network" to stay updated. Please contact your dean or advisor, if a crisis or serious illness (that can be documented) causes you to miss more than 2 classes.

Monkey-Business: Cell Phones should be turned off and put away during class. The use of laptops during lecture is not permitted. If use of a laptop is required out of medical necessity, a note from the dean will be accepted, and use will be permitted. Speak with me if you have any questions. I am very grateful for your cooperation, as are many of your classmates.

Modules:

The course is comprised of three modules:

- *Crime Scene Investigation and Forensic Archaeology*
- *Biologically Profiling Human Remains*
- *The Ethics of Forensics*

Each module requires **a)** class attendance, **b)** outside reading (available on Blackboard), **c)** an examination, and **d)** an assignment.

The schedule, topics, and requirements for each module are as follows:

I: Crime Scene Investigation and Forensic Archaeology

- a) August 31st-October 16th
- b) Core: Fletcher, Burns, Dupras, Hochrein, Rodriguez, Web sources
- c) **EXAM I:** Crime Scene Investigation and Forensic Archaeology; October 12th
- d) Taphonomy Discussion: about your assigned reading; 3 pp. report, single-spaced, 1in. margins (October 16th)

II: Biologically Profiling Human Remains

- a) October 19th- November 20th
- b) Core: Mays, Bass, Ubelaker, Byers, Web Sources
- c) **EXAM II:** Biologically Profiling Human Remains; November 20th
- d) Facial Reproduction Paper: 2 pp. research paper, single-spaced, 1in. margins (November 27th).

III: The Ethics of Forensics

- a) November 27th- December 7th
- b) Core: Burns 16, Schmitt, Web Sources
- c) **EXAM III:** The Ethics of Forensics; TBA
- d) Debate: 2 pp. explanation/discussion of the debate surrounding ethical issues discussed in class, single-spaced, 1in. margins (December 7th)

***MAKE UP CLASS TBD

(Preliminary) Course Bibliography:

Bass, William

1995 Human Osteology: A Laboratory and Field Manual. Missouri Archaeological Society: Columbia.

Burns, Karen

Chapter 1: Introduction to Forensic Anthropology; Chapter 12: Introduction to the Forensic Sciences. In Forensic Anthropology Training Manual. Pearson: New York. Pp. 1-8; 181-188.

Dupras, Tosha, John Schultz, Sandra Wheeler, and Lana Williams

2006 Chapter 7: The Application of Forensic Archaeology to Crime Scene Investigations. Forensic Recovery of Human Remains: Archaeological Approaches. CRC Press: Boca Raton. Pp. 103-128.

Maples, William

1994 Chapter 2: Talkative Skulls; Chapter 7: Outpacing the Fiend. In Dead Men do Tell Tales: The Strange and Fascinating Cases of a Forensic Anthropologists. Doubleday: New York. Pp. 20-31; 90-104.

Haglund, William

2002 Chapter 12: Recent Mass Graves: An Introduction. In Advances in Forensic Taphonomy: Method Theory, and Archaeological Perspectives. William D. Haglund and Marcella Sorg (eds.). CRC Press: Boca Raton. Pp. 243-62.

Hochrein, Michael

2002 Chapter 3: An Autopsy of the Grave: Recognizing, Collecting, and Preserving Forensic Geotaphonomic Evidence. In Advances in Forensic Taphonomy: Method Theory, and Archaeological Perspectives. William D. Haglund and Marcella Sorg (eds.). CRC Press: Boca Raton. Pp. 45-70.

Mays, Simon

2002 Chapter 1: The Nature of an Archaeological Human Bone Assemblage. In The Archaeology of Human Bones. Routledge: New York. Pp. 13-32.

Rodriguez, William

1997 Chapter 29: Decomposition of Buried and Submerged Bodies. In Forensic Taphonomy: The Postmortem fate of Human Remains. William Haglund and Marcella Sorg (eds). Pp. 459-468.

Schmitt, Stefan

2002 Chapter 14: Mass Graves and the Collection of Forensic Evidence: Genocide, War Crimes, and Crimes Against Humanity. In Advances in Forensic Taphonomy: Method Theory, and Archaeological Perspectives. William D. Haglund and Marcella Sorg (eds.). CRC Press: Boca Raton. Pp. 277-92.

Ubelaker, Douglas

1989 Chapter 3: Sex, Stature, and Age; Chapter 4: Cultural and Pathological Alterations; Chapter 5: Ancestry Identity and Time since Death. In Human Skeletal Remians: Excavation, Analysis, Interpretation. Taraxacum Press: Washington. Pp.44-95; 96-118; 119-130.

Web Sources (Tentative List-See BB Module Folder):

The Chain of Evidence:

<http://truthinjustice.org/crimelabs/thelabs.htm>

http://www.innocenceproject.org/Content/Investigating_Forensic_Problems_in_the_United_States_Executive_Summary.php

Fred Zain:

<http://truthinjustice.org/experts/lie.htm>

<http://www.examiner.com/forensic-science-in-minneapolis/lessons-from-the-fred-zain-case-integrity-of-forensic-science-starts-the-crime-labs>

Roy Brown:

http://www.trutv.com/library/crime/criminal_mind/forensics/ff311_roy_brown/1_index.html

<http://www.nytimes.com/2006/12/21/nyregion/21brown.html?pagewanted=all&r=0>

<http://truthinjustice.org/roy-brown.htm>

Films:

National Geographic. Inside the Body Trade

PBS. Post Mortem. Frontline.

PBS. The Real CSI. Frontline

Biography of a Corpse

Skeleton Inc

