

# COURSE SYLLABUS



**COURSE TITLE:** ANTH-250: Forensic Anthropology

**CLASS SECTION:** 001 A, B, C

**TERM:** W024

**COURSE CREDITS:** 3

**DELIVERY METHOD(S):** Lecture and Lab

Camosun College campuses are located on the traditional territories of the Lək̓ʷəŋən and W̱SÁNEĆ peoples. We acknowledge their welcome and graciousness to the students who seek knowledge here.

Learn more about Camosun's [Territorial Acknowledgement](#).

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## INSTRUCTOR DETAILS

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**NAME:** Katie Waterhouse

**EMAIL:** waterhousek@camosun.ca

**OFFICE:** Y207

**HOURS:** Mon 11-12, Tue 12-1, Thurs 11.30-12.30, 2.30-3.30

*As your course instructor, I endeavour to provide an inclusive learning environment. However, if you experience barriers to learning in this course, do not hesitate to discuss them with me. Camosun College is committed to identifying and removing institutional and social barriers that prevent access and impede success.*

## CALENDAR DESCRIPTION

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An introduction to the forensic application of physical anthropological and archaeological knowledge and techniques to recovery and identification of human remains. Forensic Anthropology will cover physical anthropological and archaeological research methods, skeletal development and anatomical identification.

### PREREQUISITE(S):

One of:

- C in ENGL 151
- C in ENGL 161
- C in ENGL 163
- C in ENGL 164

### CO-REQUISITE(S):

Not Applicable

### EXCLUSION(S):

Not Applicable

## COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES / OBJECTIVES

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Upon completion of this course a student will be able to:

1. Describe human skeletal anatomy and morphological variation in the human skeleton.
2. Discuss the principles of skeletal development and function.
3. Explain the principles of archaeological excavation and recording techniques.

4. Identify the major bones of the human skeleton and differentiate them from animal bones.
5. Perform key visual inspection techniques to determine age and sex of an individual from certain skeletal elements.
6. Perform various measurements to establish cranial shape, stature and sex of an individual from certain skeletal elements.
7. Recognize and describe certain pathological conditions of the skeleton.
8. Analyze a case of commingled skeletal remains according to protocol questions for forensic anthropology: forensic significance, time since death, circumstances surrounding death, how many individuals present, their age, sex, and stature, disease or trauma present on bones.
9. Discuss the role and contributions of anthropology in contemporary medico-legal death investigations.

#### REQUIRED MATERIALS & RECOMMENDED PREPARATION / INFORMATION

Readings and Lab materials provided on D2L

If additional supports are needed a useful, optional text is: Forensic Anthropology Current Methods and Practice, Angi M. Christensen, Nicholas V. Passalacqua and Eric J. Bartelink, Second Edition, 2019

#### COURSE SCHEDULE, TOPICS, AND ASSOCIATED PREPARATION / ACTIVITY / EVALUATION

The following schedule and course components are subject to change with reasonable advance notice, as deemed appropriate by the instructor.

WEEK	ACTIVITY or TOPIC	OTHER NOTES
Week 1 Jan 11, 12	Course Introduction and Introduction to the Skeleton Readings: Haunted by My Teaching Skeleton. Michelle Rodrigues Lab 1: Osteology 1	Homework Activity 1%
Week 2 Jan 18, 19	Forensic Anthropology and Death Investigation Reading: Ch 4 in Forensic Anthropology: Case Studies From Europe Lab 2: Osteology 2	Homework Activity 1%
Week 3 Jan 25, 26	Non-osteological methods of Personal Identification Reading: The Use of Medical Implants to Aid in the Identification Process. Jennifer Vollner Lab 3: Osteology 3	Homework Activity 1%
Week 4 Feb 1, 2	Between Death and Skeletonization Reading: Rest[ES] website Lab 4: Osteology 4	Homework Activity 1%
Week 5 Feb 8, 9	Thurs: Osteology Exam in Y201 Fri: Skeletal Development 1 Reading: Between Male and Female. Molly Bearman	Osteology Exam 14%
Week 6 Feb 15, 16	Exam 1 in E115 Lab 5: Sex Estimation	Exam 1 15/20% Lab Activity 2%
Week 7 Feb 22, 23	Reading Week	
Week 8 Feb 29, Mar 1	Skeletal Development 2 Reading: How ICE's Bogus Science Is Violating Human Rights. Elizabeth Digangi Lab 6: Age Estimation	Lab Activity 3%
Week 9 Mar 7, 8	Forensic Archaeology Reading: Ch 3 The Detection of Human Remains. Edward Killam	Lab Activity 4%

	Lab 7: Osteometrics	
Week 10 Mar 14, 15	Search Plan in Y201 Lab 8: Skeletal Inventory	Search Plan 5% Lab Activity 1%
Week 11 Mar 21, 22	Skeletal Trauma Readings: Section III: E Broken Bones: Anthropological Analysis of Blunt Force Trauma Lab 9: Trauma and Pathology	Lab Activity 1%
Week 12 Mar 28, 29	Skeletal Pathology Reading: Differential Diagnosis in Forensic Entomology: Mites versus Pathologies and Taphonomy. Cesar Sanabria, Luz Cifuentes, Maria Lopez-Cerquera Lab: Good Friday, no lab	
Week 13 Apr 4, 5	Thurs: Lab Methods Quiz in Y201 Lab: Case Report	Osteological Methods Quiz 6% Case Report 10%
Week 14 Apr 11, 12	Mass Disasters and Crimes Against Humanity Readings: Can the Hunt for Skeletons Help Heal a Nation's Wounds? Megan Gannon Lab: Case Report	Case Report 10%
Final Exam Period	Exam 2	Exam 25/30%

Students registered with the Centre for Accessible Learning (CAL) who complete quizzes, tests, and exams with academic accommodations have booking procedures and deadlines with CAL where advanced noticed is required. Deadlines can be reviewed on the [CAL exams page](http://camosun.ca/services/accessible-learning/exams.html). <http://camosun.ca/services/accessible-learning/exams.html>

## EVALUATION OF LEARNING

DESCRIPTION	WEIGHTING
Homework (4 x 1%) and Lab Activities (2 x 1%, 2%, 3%, 4%)	4%, 11%
Osteology Exam	14%
Search Plan	5%
Osteological Methods Quiz	6%
Case Report	10%
Exam 1	15/20%
Weekly quizzes 1                      Optional, if incomplete weight goes to Exam 1	5%
Exam 2	25/30%
Weekly quizzes 2                      Optional, if incomplete weight goes to Exam 2	5%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100%</b>

If you have a concern about a grade you have received for an evaluation, please come and see me as soon as possible. Refer to the [Grade Review and Appeals](http://camosun.ca/about/policies/education-academic/e-1-programming-and-instruction/e-1.14.pdf) policy for more information. <http://camosun.ca/about/policies/education-academic/e-1-programming-and-instruction/e-1.14.pdf>

Weekly homework or lab activities are completed at home (homework) or in lab (lab) and are based on lecture or lab content for that week. They vary in weighting from 1% to 4%, (see course schedule for weight). Each homework activity is due one week after the relevant content is covered and lab activities are due at the end of lab time.

The osteology exam (14%) and the osteological methods quiz (6%) are in-person bell ringer style exams to test knowledge of osteological terms and osteological methods. An average of at least 50% for the two assessments must be attained for group work in the Case Report. If a 50% average is not attained the Case Report must be completed individually.

The Search Plan is specific land-based activity to be completed in groups. This activity builds on a lab based activity and requires assessment of the Camosun campus and the development of a local search plan.

The Case Report is a final course project which can be completed in groups of up to four. Complete inventory and analysis of a skeletal collection must be completed using skills developed during the semester.

Weekly content quizzes (10%) are online, untimed, open book multiple choice quizzes covering content from the lecture and readings for the week. Quizzes run most weeks and are optional. If not completed the weight for each uncompleted quiz is transferred to exam 1 (quizzes prior to exam 1) or exam 2 (quizzes after exam 1).

## COURSE GUIDELINES & EXPECTATIONS

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**Contact:** I can be contacted via D2L, email or in person. Please include course name and section in your emails. I will contact students via course notifications in D2L, D2L messages or email. Please ensure you have set up notifications and/or mail forwarding in D2L to ensure you receive messages in a timely manner. You should be checking messages at least once a day to ensure you get information as needed.

**Attendance:** It is your responsibility to catch up any missed lecture content by connecting with classmates and doing additional readings. I am always willing to address specific questions and issues you face but will not reteach entire classes. Unexcused failure to attend an in-class graded item will result in a grade of 0 for that item. Excused absences may only be granted for emergencies, illness or other unavoidable circumstances and must be requested. Missed items must be made up with the same or equivalent within a negotiated time frame unless agreed otherwise.

As a lab-based class attendance in lab is important and excused lab absences will only be granted for extenuating medical or other emergency reasons. Requests for an excused absence must be timely and well supported. It is your responsibility to catch up on any missed lab material by connecting with classmates and doing your own readings. Attempts will be made to reschedule assessment elements of labs but if not possible, alternative assessment will be determined

**Extensions and late submissions:** Most evaluative elements in this course are open for extended periods of time and extensions will only be granted in extreme extenuating circumstances. Unless impossible, extensions must be requested a minimum of 24 hours before the due date to encourage effective time management and appropriate planning. Extensions may not be granted, however late submissions are accepted. Late submissions will receive a deduction of 5% a day and will not receive any feedback. Evaluative elements more than 1 week late will not be accepted.

**Make ups or Re dos:** Students will not be permitted to submit additional material for make-up evaluations or to re-do evaluative elements to ensure fairness to all students taking the course.

**Academic Integrity:** Students are bound by the Academic Integrity Policy at Camosun College (see below for links) and are expected to follow all guidelines therein. Additionally, I expect students to apply their own

knowledge and understanding to all evaluative elements of this course and you may not use generative AI technologies to generate material or answer questions for you. Furthermore, the use of AI often leads to risks of misrepresentation and plagiarism which fall under the Academic Integrity Policy. Inappropriate use of AI will result in a score of 0 for any relevant evaluation. If you are uncertain you must contact the instructor prior to submission.

**CAL Accommodations:** Students requiring academic accommodations must provide a Letter of Academic Accommodation through the Centre for Accessible Learning (CAL) at the beginning of the semester. Requests for extensions must be made well in advance of the deadline. Exams written at CAL must be made two weeks in advance.

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## SCHOOL OR DEPARTMENTAL INFORMATION

School of Arts and Science Student Information: <https://legacy.camosun.ca/learn/school/arts-science/archives/index.html>

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## STUDENT RESPONSIBILITY

Enrolment at Camosun assumes that the student will become a responsible member of the College community. As such, each student will display a positive work ethic, assist in the preservation of College property, and assume responsibility for their education by researching academic requirements and policies; demonstrating courtesy and respect toward others; and respecting expectations concerning attendance, assignments, deadlines, and appointments.

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## SUPPORTS AND SERVICES FOR STUDENTS

Camosun College offers a number of services to help you succeed in and out of the classroom. For a detailed overview of the supports and services visit <http://camosun.ca/students/>.

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Academic Advising	<a href="http://camosun.ca/advising">http://camosun.ca/advising</a>
Accessible Learning	<a href="http://camosun.ca/accessible-learning">http://camosun.ca/accessible-learning</a>
Counselling	<a href="http://camosun.ca/counselling">http://camosun.ca/counselling</a>
Career Services	<a href="http://camosun.ca/coop">http://camosun.ca/coop</a>
Financial Aid and Awards	<a href="http://camosun.ca/financialaid">http://camosun.ca/financialaid</a>
Help Centres (Math/English/Science)	<a href="http://camosun.ca/help-centres">http://camosun.ca/help-centres</a>
Indigenous Student Support	<a href="http://camosun.ca/indigenous">http://camosun.ca/indigenous</a>
International Student Support	<a href="http://camosun.ca/international/">http://camosun.ca/international/</a>
Learning Skills	<a href="http://camosun.ca/learningskills">http://camosun.ca/learningskills</a>
Library	<a href="http://camosun.ca/services/library/">http://camosun.ca/services/library/</a>
Office of Student Support	<a href="http://camosun.ca/oss">http://camosun.ca/oss</a>
Ombudsperson	<a href="http://camosun.ca/ombuds">http://camosun.ca/ombuds</a>

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Registration	<a href="http://camosun.ca/registration">http://camosun.ca/registration</a>
Technology Support	<a href="http://camosun.ca/its">http://camosun.ca/its</a>
Writing Centre	<a href="http://camosun.ca/writing-centre">http://camosun.ca/writing-centre</a>

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If you have a mental health concern, please contact Counselling to arrange an appointment as soon as possible. Counselling sessions are available at both campuses during business hours. If you need urgent support after-hours, please contact the Vancouver Island Crisis Line at 1-888-494-3888 or call 911.

## COLLEGE-WIDE POLICIES, PROCEDURES, REQUIREMENTS, AND STANDARDS

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### Academic Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

The College is committed to providing appropriate and reasonable academic accommodations to students with disabilities (i.e. physical, depression, learning, etc). If you have a disability, the [Centre for Accessible Learning](#) (CAL) can help you document your needs, and where disability-related barriers to access in your courses exist, create an accommodation plan. By making a plan through CAL, you can ensure you have the appropriate academic accommodations you need without disclosing your diagnosis or condition to course instructors. Please visit the CAL website for contacts and to learn how to get started:

<http://camosun.ca/services/accessible-learning/>

### Academic Integrity

Please visit <http://camosun.ca/about/policies/education-academic/e-1-programming-and-instruction/e-1.13.pdf> for policy regarding academic expectations and details for addressing and resolving matters of academic misconduct.

### Academic Progress

Please visit <http://camosun.ca/about/policies/education-academic/e-1-programming-and-instruction/e-1.1.pdf> for further details on how Camosun College monitors students' academic progress and what steps can be taken if a student is at risk of not meeting the College's academic progress standards.

### Course Withdrawals Policy

Please visit <http://camosun.ca/about/policies/education-academic/e-2-student-services-and-support/e-2.2.pdf> for further details about course withdrawals. For deadline for fees, course drop dates, and tuition refund, please visit <http://camosun.ca/learn/fees/#deadlines>.

### Grading Policy

Please visit <http://camosun.ca/about/policies/education-academic/e-1-programming-and-instruction/e-1.5.pdf> for further details about grading.

### Grade Review and Appeals

Please visit <http://camosun.ca/about/policies/education-academic/e-1-programming-and-instruction/e-1.14.pdf> for policy relating to requests for review and appeal of grades.

### Mandatory Attendance for First Class Meeting of Each Course

Camosun College requires mandatory attendance for the first class meeting of each course. If you do not attend, and do not provide your instructor with a reasonable reason in advance, you will be removed from the

course and the space offered to the next waitlisted student. For more information, please see the “Attendance” section under “Registration Policies and Procedures” (<http://camosun.ca/learn/calendar/current/procedures.html>) and the Grading Policy at <http://camosun.ca/about/policies/education-academic/e-1-programming-and-instruction/e-1.5.pdf>.

### Medical / Compassionate Withdrawals

Students who are incapacitated and unable to complete or succeed in their studies by virtue of serious and demonstrated exceptional circumstances may be eligible for a medical/compassionate withdrawal. Please visit <http://camosun.ca/about/policies/education-academic/e-2-student-services-and-support/e-2.8.pdf> to learn more about the process involved in a medical/compassionate withdrawal.

### Sexual Violence and Misconduct

Camosun is committed to creating a campus culture of safety, respect, and consent. Camosun’s Office of Student Support is responsible for offering support to students impacted by sexual violence. Regardless of when or where the sexual violence or misconduct occurred, students can access support at Camosun. The Office of Student Support will make sure students have a safe and private place to talk and will help them understand what supports are available and their options for next steps. The Office of Student Support respects a student’s right to choose what is right for them. For more information see Camosun’s Sexualized Violence and Misconduct Policy: <http://camosun.ca/about/policies/education-academic/e-2-student-services-and-support/e-2.9.pdf> and [camosun.ca/sexual-violence](http://camosun.ca/sexual-violence). To contact the Office of Student Support: [oss@camosun.ca](mailto:oss@camosun.ca) or by phone: 250-370-3046 or 250-3703841

### Student Misconduct (Non-Academic)

Camosun College is committed to building the academic competency of all students, seeks to empower students to become agents of their own learning, and promotes academic belonging for everyone. Camosun also expects that all students to conduct themselves in a manner that contributes to a positive, supportive, and safe learning environment. Please review Camosun College’s Student Misconduct Policy at <http://camosun.ca/about/policies/education-academic/e-2-student-services-and-support/e-2.5.pdf> to understand the College’s expectations of academic integrity and student behavioural conduct.

**Changes to this syllabus:** Every effort has been made to ensure that information in this syllabus is accurate at the time of publication. The College reserves the right to change courses if it becomes necessary so that course content remains relevant. In such cases, the instructor will give the students clear and timely notice of the changes.