

# School of Arts & Science SOCIAL SCIENCES DEPARTMENT ANTH 250

Forensic Anthropology Winter 2015

## **COURSE OUTLINE**

The course description is online @ http://camosun.ca/learn/calendar/current/web/anth.html

#### 1. Instructor Information

(a)	Instructor:	Brenda Clark, M.A.	
(b)	Office Hours:	Monday 11:30-12:30 or by appointment	
(c)	Location:	Young 212A	
(d)	Phone:	250-370-3375	
(e)	Email:	clark@camosun.bc.ca	
(f)	Website:	D2L	

## 2. Intended Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this course the 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.

# 3. Required Materials

Texts	Byers, Steven (2011). <i>Introduction to Forensic Anthropology: A Textbook</i> . 4 <sup>th</sup> edition. Pearson Education Inc. (packaged with the Marieb Bone Atlas)
Lab manual	Anth 250 Forensic Anthropology Lab Manual
Articles linked from D2L page	DeChant, Tim (Oct. 18, 2012) Stable Isotopes in Forensics. Pringle, Heather (2009). Witness to Genocide.

## 4. Basis of Student Assessment

Lab assignments	<ul> <li>Lab assignments are worth 10% of the final grade.</li> <li>LAB ATTENDANCE IS MANDATORY. COME PREPARED. You need to read the lab before every lab.</li> <li>Each week you will be marked on attendance and lab exercises.</li> <li>You will be allowed to make up a missed lab with a reasonable excuse. Reasonable excuses do not include: vacations, long weekends, work schedules, or poor time management on your part.</li> </ul>
Exams	Lecture Exams: 45%. There are two exams equally weighted. Exam 1 is written during class time and Exam 2 during the formal exam period. Lecture exams cover only material that is dealt with in lectures and assigned readings.  Bellringer Exam: 20%. The lab test is a bell-ringer, which means it is a timed exam at numbered stations where you are asked to identify bones and bone features. Responses are brief and do not require extensive written answers.  Lab Quiz: 5%. This quiz will be held at the beginning of Lab 9 and covers
Case Report	The case report, worth 20% of your final grade, involves analysis of human skeletal remains in a hypothetical case. You will work in a team context and write a report discussing the evidence and your conclusions. You will have one lab period in which to collect data and analyze the case and one lecture period to write the report. NOTE: all team members must be present for the lab period. Do not arrange travel, job interviews, etc for those dates! Due date for the formal report, type written, is indicated on the class schedule. Late reports will not be accepted.  Team work is basic in forensic contexts; forensic anthropology is no exception. Team members are expected to get along and work well together. Each team member is expected to contribute equally to the final project. Note that equally does not mean identically but it does mean that each person's contribution is important to the outcome of the case and that everyone has 'pulled their weight'

Attendance at lectures is essential for a good grade in this course. If you miss a lecture you should consult another student to find out what you missed.

All exams and the case report must be attempted and an <u>overall</u> passing grade achieved in order to pass this course. Exams must be written at the scheduled times unless prior notice has been given to the instructor and approval received to write at a different time. If a student misses an exam due to illness, s/he must present a medical note to write a makeup exam. There will be no exceptions.

# ${\bf 5.\ Class\ Schedule-Monday\ lectures\ in\ Young\ 216;\ weekly\ labs\ in\ Young\ 214}$

Week	Lecture	Lab	
Jan 5-9	Class list and course outline	<u>Lab orientation</u> – bring lab manual and bone atlas	
Jan 12-16	Introduction to Forensic Anthropology Structure and Function of the Human Skeleton Readings: Chapter 1 and Chapter 2 – "Basic Topics in Osteology"	Lab 1 Cranial Skeleton	
Jan 19-23	The BC Coroners Service and Forensic Anthropology Readings: Chapter 1; see focus questions for BCCS on D2L	Lab 2 Axial skeleton, shoulder girdle and pelvic girdle	
Jan 26-30	Changes After Death Readings: Chapter 5	Lab 3 Appendicular skeleton	
Feb 2-6	Establishing the Post Mortem Interval Readings: Chapter 5	Lab 4 Introduction to Osteometric Instruments and their Use and Determining Stature from the Femur	
Feb 9-13	FAMILY DAY, COLLEGE CLOSED	Open Labs – mandatory attendance	
Feb 16-20	Forensic Archaeology and Forensic Context; Postmortem Changes to Bone Readings: Chapter 3, 4 and Chapter 16	Bellringer Exam	
Feb 23-27	Forensic Anthropology and human rights Readings: Ch. 19; "Witness to Genocide" (Heather Pringle)	Lab 5 Pelvic bones: sex and age; Review <u>relevant</u> information in text, Ch. 8, 9 and 10	
Mar 2-6	Lecture Exam 1	Lab 6 Skull: age and sex Review <u>relevant</u> information in text, Ch. 8 and 9	
Mar 9-13	Human Growth and Development; Ancestry Readings: Chapter 9	Lab 7 Sub-adult age estimation	
Mar 16- 20	Antemortem Conditions and Trauma Readings: Chapters 11 and 15	Lab 8 Antemortem Conditions and Trauma	
Mar 23- 27	Establishing Identity Readings: Chapter 7, Anthroposcopic Traits, Ch 17 and 18; Stable Isotopes in Forensics	Lab 9 <b>Quiz on Labs 5-8</b> Doing a Skeletal Inventory and Observing Traits for Ancestry	
Mar 30- April 3	The Expert Witness Planning for case work. Attendance will be taken.	Casework Attendance will be taken.	
April 6- 10	EASTER MONDAY, COLLEGE CLOSED	Write the report.	

# 6. Grading System

## Standard Grading System (GPA)

Percentage	Grade	Description	Grade Point Equivalency
90-100	A+	Exceptional; exceeds highest expectations for the assignment or course	9
85-89 A Outstanding; mee		Outstanding; meets highest standards for the assignment or course	8
80-84 A- Excellent; meets ve		Excellent; meets very high standards for the assignment or course	7
77-79	B+	Very good; meets high standards for the assignment or course	6
73-76 B		Good; meets most standards for the assignment or course	5
70-72 B-		Solid; shows some reasonable command of material	4
65-69 C+		Acceptable; meets basic standards for the assignment or course	3
60-64	С	Acceptable; meets some of the basic standards for the assignment or course	2
50-59	D	Minimum level of achievement for which credit is granted; a course with a "D" grade cannot be used as a prerequisite.	1
0-49 F Minimum level has not been achieved.		0	

## **Temporary Grades**

Temporary grades are assigned for specific circumstances and will convert to a final grade according to the grading scheme being used in the course. See Grading Policy E-1.5 at **camosun.ca** for information on conversion to final grades, and for additional information on student record and transcript notations.

Temporary Grade	Description	
I	<i>Incomplete</i> : A temporary grade assigned when the requirements of a course have not yet been completed due to hardship or extenuating circumstances, such as illness or death in the family.	
In progress: A temporary grade assigned for courses that, due to design may require a fur enrollment in the same course. No more than two IP grades will be assigned for the same course. (For these courses a final grade will be assigned to either the 3 <sup>rd</sup> course attempt of the point of course completion.)  Compulsory Withdrawal: A temporary grade assigned by a Dean when an instructor, after documenting the prescriptive strategies applied and consulting with peers, deems that a student is unsafe to self or others and must be removed from the lab, practicum, worksite, field placement.		

## 7. Recommended Materials or Services to Assist Students to Succeed Throughout the Course

## LEARNING SUPPORT AND SERVICES FOR STUDENTS

There are a variety of services available for students to assist them throughout their learning. This information is available in the College calendar, at Student Services, or the College web site at <a href="mailto:camosun.ca">camosun.ca</a>.

#### STUDENT CONDUCT POLICY

There is a Student Conduct Policy **which includes plagiarism**. It is the student's responsibility to become familiar with the content of this policy. The policy is available in each School Administration Office, at Student Services, and the College web site in the Policy Section.