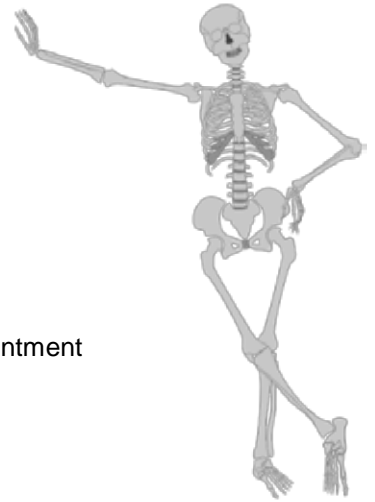


Forensic Anthropology
Anth 294-02, Spring 2009



Instructor: Dr. Tracy Betsinger
Office: 330D Fitzelle
Office Phone: 436-3394
Email: betsintk@oneonta.edu
Office Hours: Tuesday, Thursday 1:30-3:00pm and by appointment

Class Time and Location: Tuesday, Thursday 12:00-1:15pm, Fitzelle 311

Required Texts:

- Byers, Steven N. 2008. Introduction to Forensic Anthropology, 3rd edition. Pearson Press.
- Byers, Steven N. 2008. Forensic Anthropology Laboratory Manual, 2nd edition. Pearson Press.

Course Catalog Listing: This course will provide students the opportunity to learn about the field of Forensic Anthropology through hands-on exercises that replicate the methods commonly used. Students will learn how to assess age, determine sex, identify ancestry, estimate height, and identify traumatic injuries. We will also discuss how individual identifications are made and the role of the forensic anthropologist in law enforcement and in legal settings.

Prerequisites: ANTH 331 or BIOL 205 or by Permission of Instructor.

Course Objectives:

- (1) To estimate time since death, ancestry, sex, age at death, and stature.
- (2) To understand how a forensic context is established.
- (3) To understand recovery scene methods and initial treatment of skeletal remains.
- (4) To identify various forms of trauma.
- (5) To identify postmortem changes to bone.
- (6) To be able to individuate a skeleton.
- (7) To understand the process and importance of courtroom testimony.

Course Requirements:

- (1) **Lab Work (14 assignments)** – There is approximately one lab assignment due per week. You are required to leave your lab book on Thursday. The lab book will be graded and ready for pick-up on Friday or can be collected during the next class period. These assignments will give you hands-on experience with various forensic anthropological methods. They will also serve as the basis for the biweekly quizzes.
- (2) **Quizzes (6)** – The quizzes will be held biweekly and will cover the topics from the previous two weeks. The quizzes may include both lab and written portions, depending on the topics being covered. The written portion may include multiple choice, fill-in-the-blanks, matching, and/or short answer. Lab portions will be a timed-station format.
- (3) **“Bones” Assignment** – This writing assignment involves watching and critically reviewing an episode of the “Bones” television program for accuracy in forensic anthropology. More details on the assignment will be provided later in the semester.
- (4) **Annotated Bibliography** – This assignment will be on a forensic anthropological topic of your choice, with approval of the instructor. You will be required to find numerous books and articles related to your topic and write a mini “review” of the reading. The annotated bibliographies will be compiled at the end of the semester and shared with all class participants, thereby providing everyone with a useful forensic anthropology reference source.
- (5) **Final Exam** – This will be a comprehensive exam, including both a lab portion and a written portion. The format of the exam will be comparable to the biweekly quizzes.
- (6) **Attendance** – Your attendance is mandatory and is worth approximately 2 points per week. Of course, excused absences are permitted, such as illness, funerals, etc. In these cases,

documentation will be required to avoid losing points. If you miss one quiz, it will become the dropped quiz for the semester. If you miss two or more quizzes, you will need proper documentation in order to make it up.

Course Evaluation:

Lab Work – 14 @ 5 points each:	70
Quizzes – 6 @ 25 points each:	150
“Bones” Assignment	20
Annotated Bibliography	40
Final Exam	60
Attendance	30
TOTAL POINTS	370

Course Guidelines:

Grading:

Final grades are based on a standardized scale using the total number of points available for the course: (A: 385-420, A-: 376-384, B+: 372-375, B: 343-371, B-: 334-342, C+: 326-333, C: 301-325, C-: 292-300, D+: 282-291, D: 259-283, D-: 250-258, E: 0-249).

Attendance:

Attendance is mandatory. If you miss a lecture, lecture notes will not be provided. The class begins promptly, as a courtesy to the instructor and your fellow students, please be on time. You are responsible for any material missed due to tardiness. Remember that the course outline is only a guideline and is subject to change at the instructor’s discretion. In addition to attending class, I expect you to spend extra time outside of class to practice. Simply studying diagrams in your textbooks will not be sufficient.

Participation:

In this class, it is essential that you not only attend class, but that you participate as well. Participation includes active listening, preparation for class by reading materials and completing assignments, taking part in group exercises, and contributing to class discussions. While a certain amount of class time will be devoted to lecture, I expect you to participate by asking questions about materials or topics you do not understand. Furthermore, I expect you to respect others’ opinions, so that everyone may feel comfortable participating in class.

Office Hours:

My office hours are a minimum; please feel free to stop by my office, email me, or call my office number if you have questions outside of class time. Please make use of me! These hours are set aside for you to address problems, clear up misunderstandings, or to receive extra help with course material. These hours are not substitutes for lectures. I strongly urge you to make use of this time. If you cannot come during these hours, I will be happy to make an appointment convenient to both of us. Alternate office hours will be announced in class should I have to miss my scheduled hours.

Late Assignments:

All late assignments will receive a 10% reduction of the grade for each day it is late.

Academic Honesty

Plagiarism and cheating WILL NOT BE TOLERATED IN ANY FORMAT. The work you do in this course should be your own. Please see the university’s Code of Student Conduct (<http://www.oneonta.edu/development/judicial/code.asp#conduct>) to familiarize yourself with the university’s rules and policies. Ignorance of the rules will NOT be accepted as an excuse.

Cell Phones and Pagers:

Out of courtesy to the instructor and your fellow students, *please turn off your pagers and cell phones prior to coming to class.*

Course Outline:

READING ASSIGNMENT

WEEK 1

Jan. 15 (R) Introduction to Forensic Anthropology Chapter 1

WEEK 2

20 (T) Establishing Forensic Context Chapter 3
22 (R) *Optional: Chapter 2*
Lab 3

WEEK 3

27 (T) Recovery Scene Methods Chapter 4
29 (R) Lab 4

WEEK 4

Feb. 3 (T) Estimating Time Since Death Chapter 5
5 (R) **Quiz 1** Lab 5

WEEK 5

10 (T) Initial Treatment and Examination Chapter 6
12 (R) Lab 6

WEEK 6

17 (T) Attribution of Ancestry Chapter 7
19 (R) **Quiz 2** Lab 7

WEEK 7: NO CLASSES (Feb. 23-27)

WEEK 8

Mar. 3 (T) Attribution of Sex Chapter 8
5 (R) Lab 8

WEEK 9

10 (T) Estimation of Age at Death Chapter 9
12 (R) **Quiz 3** Lab 9

WEEK 10

17 (T) Stature Estimation Chapter 10

	19 (R)		Lab 10
<i>WEEK 11</i>			
	24 (T)	Bone Trauma "Bones" Assignment Due	Chapter 11 Lab 11
	26 (R)	Projectile Trauma Quiz 4	Chapter 12 Lab 12
<i>WEEK 12</i>			
	31 (T)	Blunt & Other Trauma	Chapters 13, 14 Labs 13, 14
Apr.	2 (R)	NO CLASS	
<i>WEEK 13:</i> NO CLASSES (Apr. 6-13)			
<i>WEEK 14</i>			
	14 (T)	Postmortem Changes to Bone	Chapter 16
	16 (R)	Quiz 5	Lab 16
<i>WEEK 15</i>			
	21 (T)	Aspects of Individualization	Chapter 17
	23 (R)	Annotated Bibliography Due	Lab 17
<i>WEEK 16</i>			
	28 (T)	Courtroom Testimony Quiz 6	Chapter 19
	30 (R)		
<i>WEEK 17</i>			
May	5 (T)	Finishing Up	

**** Final Exam: Thursday, May 7, 2:00-4:30pm****