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UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, SANTA CRUZ

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**Anthropology 103B: Forensic Anthropology and Bioarchaeology**

Tuesdays, Thursdays 1:00-4:30 pm

Social Sciences 1, Room 451

Instructor: Dr. Susan Kuzminsky  
Email: [skuzmins@ucsc.edu](mailto:skuzmins@ucsc.edu)  
Office: Social Sciences 1, Room 404  
Office Hrs.: Tuesdays, Thursdays 4:30-5:30pm, or by appointment

**Textbook:** *Introduction to Forensic Anthropology* (2016, Fourth Edition). Steven N. Byers, Routledge.

**Helpful, but not required:**

*Human Osteology* (Third Edition) Tim D. White, Michael Black, and Pieter Folkens

*Bioarchaeology: Interpreting Behavior from the Human Skeleton* (Second Edition) Clark S. Larsen

**Course Description:**

In this course students will learn about the fields of forensic anthropology and bioarchaeology. Both disciplines are part of the broad field of biological (physical) anthropology, which is the study of humankind. Through this course, students will learn about similarities and differences of forensic anthropology and bioarchaeology. Using a bio-cultural framework and regional studies, this course examines research that can be conducted at the individual and population level for modern, prehistoric, and historic contexts. Lectures, readings, and assignments help students master the course materials. We will first cover the basics of osteology, followed by how forensic cases are established, analytical techniques (ancestry, sex, and age at death estimations), as well as studies of disease and trauma patterns on human skeletal remains. Woven through the course are studies that feature current research in both disciplines, including the effects of agriculture on humans around the globe, activities, trauma/warfare, and the health effects of colonization and conquest.

**Grading:**

Assignments (4)	20%
Quizzes (3)	20%
Article Critique (1)	20%
Final Project (Case Study)	30%
Attendance & Participation	10%

**Grade Breakdown:**

Percentage Points	Letter Grade
100-97	A+
96-93	A
92-90	A-
89-87	B+
86-83	B
82-80	B-
79-77	C+
76-72	C
71-70	C-
69-63	D
62-60	D-
Below 60	F

**Course Expectations:** To earn a good grade in this course, you are expected to attend class, complete assignments, do all the weekly readings, and take the quizzes. Late assignments are not accepted in this course. Make-up assignments and quizzes are only allowed with formal documentation of an illness or emergency (a doctor's note, for example). In the event of a major emergency (e.g., injury or illness), please contact me before the assignment deadline or quiz.

**eCommons:** In addition to the course textbook, which students need to purchase, the course syllabus, assignment instructions, and any relevant materials for the course are available on the eCommons website. Any updates or changes to the course will also be announced through eCommons, so be sure to check the site regularly.

**Weekly Assignments:** These are designed to apply concepts learned from readings and lectures, teaching methods used in forensic and bioarchaeological assessments and usually done on Thursdays. Assignments are always due on the same week they are assigned, so for example, the Week 1 assignment is due on Week 1.

**Quizzes:** The quizzes will cover lectures, assigned readings, and any lab activities. Quizzes will be in the form of short answer and/or essay.

**Article Critique:** The article critique is designed to introduce students to scholarly literature on the topic of their choosing. Detailed instructions for the article critiques are posted on eCommons.

**Final Case Study:** The last week of class is dedicated to your final project, which is a case study that incorporates the concepts you learned in class to create a

**Academic Integrity:** A reminder that it is your ethical responsibility as a student to follow the UCSC policy on academic dishonesty, plagiarism, and cheating:

[http://undergraduate.ucsc.edu/acd\\_integrity/student.html](http://undergraduate.ucsc.edu/acd_integrity/student.html)

**Classroom rules:** Please arrive to class on time and leave when the class ends. If you must leave lecture early, please sit in the back to avoid disrupting other students. Unless I ask students to do so, there is no talking during lecture. Turn cell phones off while in lecture. You may use laptops or other tablet devices to take notes, but no filming is allowed. Cheating during quizzes is absolutely not tolerated and will lead to serious disciplinary action.

**Note:** This syllabus is subject to change. If changes occur, students will be notified in class or through the eCommons course website. Please note that the lecture schedule below is also subject to change, depending on the amount of material covered each week.

<b>Week 1</b>	<b>Topics Covered</b>	<b>Reading/Assignment</b>
7/26, 7/28	Introduction to the study of forensic anthropology, the human skeleton, bone biology, Introduction to Bioarchaeology	Chapter 1,2, 3 Byers Visit <a href="http://www.eskeletons.org">www.eskeletons.org</a> to review human skeletal elements Lab Assignment (Thursday)
<b>Week 2</b>	<b>Topics Covered</b>	<b>Reading/Assignment</b>
8/2, 8/4	Human vs. non-human Forensic and Archaeological Contexts Sex Estimation (Adults/Subadults) Ancestry Estimation	Chapter 4, 7, 8 Byers <b>Quiz 1 (Tuesday)</b> Article Critique Assignment –Instructions posted
<b>Week 3</b>	<b>Topics Covered</b>	<b>Reading/Assignment</b>
8/9, 8/11	Age Estimation Stature Estimation Case Studies	Chapter 9, 10 Byers <b>Quiz 2 (Tuesday)</b>
<b>Week 4</b>	<b>Topics Covered</b>	<b>Reading/Assignment</b>
8/16, 8/18	Paleopathology (diseases) Trauma Case Studies	Chapter 11, 12, 13 <b>Quiz 3 (Tuesday)</b> <b>Article Critiques Due (Thursday)</b>
<b>Week 5</b>	<b>Topics Covered</b>	<b>Reading/Assignment</b>
8/22, 8/25	Final Case Study	Turn in Case Study Report