Anthropology 103i: Forensic Anthropology

**Summer 2018**

**Instructor:** Cristina Verdugo **Office:**  Online

**Class Time:** TBA **Classroom:**  Online

**Office Hours:** W 9:00-11:00; by appt. **Email:** cverdugo@ucsc.edu

**Course Description and Goals:**

This online course teaches the basic analysis of human remains for the medico-legal profession. It covers the development of the field of forensic anthropology, how the biological profile of an individual is determined from the skeleton, how skeletal trauma are evaluated, estimation of the interval since death, and how far these assessments can be supported. The course also discusses crime scene investigation, the legal role of the physical anthropologist as an expert witness, and the importance of report preparation. While the practical aspects of this field will be the primary focus, attention will also be drawn to the incorporation of anthropological approaches to dealing with death and the handling of human remains.

Primary Goals:

1. To provide a basic understanding for the history and practice of Forensic Anthropology
2. To familiarize ourselves with newer approaches applicable to Forensic Anthropology.
3. To critically consider what it means to work with the dead in especially sensitive circumstances.

**Required Texts:** Practicing Forensic Anthropology by Alison Galloway and Susan Kuzminsky, an open access resource; available on CampusPress

**Course Requirements:**

The course requires that you watch online lectures and power points, participate in a weekly discussion forum, take quizzes and a midterm, as well as submit a final case report. Students should expect 24 hours of work per week (120 hour term-long total). Weekly work distribution includes approximately 6 hours reviewing online lectures and power points, 8 hours of reading/studying, 5 hours preparing and responding to the weekly Canvas discussions, 1-1.5 hours for taking the quizzes and midterm, 4 hours for conducting research and writing the final forensic case report.

Weekly Canvas Submission: Each week a number of comprehension check questions will be posted on Canvas. Students are required to submit a brief discussion/response for each question to the Canvas forum by #### 8:00 PM (once a week). Late posts will only count for 50% credit. Posts later than two weeks will not receive any credit. Students must post their own discussion thread (5-10 sentences/question) and respond/comment (2-4 sentences) on two other discussion threads to receive full credit.

Quizzes: There will be three quizzes comprised of 25 multiple choice questions. Questions will be drawn from the book chapters, lectures, and power points. You have 1 hour to complete each quiz. Only one attempt at each quiz is permitted.

Midterm: The midterm will consist of 20 multiple choice and 3 short answer questions covering modules 1-13. This will encompass the introduction through the development of a biological profile of the individual. You have 1.5 hours to complete the midterm. Only one attempt is permitted.

Forensic Case Report Final: One forensic case report (5-8 pages) will be submitted by each student. Material for these cases will be available on Canvas. Two prompts will be provided, students will select one for their final report. One prompt will be based on a documented case, as would be presented by the medical examiner for evaluation. The second will include a discussion of scene recovery and analysis of skeletal material. Both will be evaluated for writing and comprehension of the legal standing of the document. See “Criteria for Grading Examination Essays” for submission guidelines and grading criteria.

**PLEASE NOTE:** All essays (case reports) should be formatted as a double-spaced, 1 in. margins, 12-point font (Arial, Calibri, or Times New Roman) document. All essays require correctly formatted in-text citations as well as a References Cited page (not included in the final page count) to receive full credit. For formatting guidelines see the AJPA style guides. <https://laverne.libguides.com/citations/ajpa>

**Evaluation Criteria:**

Canvas Submissions: 20%

Quizzes: 20%

Midterm Exam: 25%

Case Report: 35%

The grading scale for the course is as follows:

97-100: A+

94-96: A

90-93: A-

87-89: B+

84-86: B

80-83: B-

77-79: C+

74-76: C

70-73: C-

67-69: D+

64-66: D

60-63: D-

0 – 59: F

PASS/NOT PASS GRADES: All A, B, or C work earns “P,” but C- or D work earns “NP.”

A passing grade is the equivalent of a “C” grade or better. Effective Fall 2015, grades of C-, D+, and D- are available on the Grade Roster. Similar to a D grade, these new grades award credit to the degree, however, these grades do not satisfy general education, major requirements or prerequisites.

**Course Policy:**

Communication: I check my email during business hours Monday through Friday and will usually respond within 24 hours. It may take longer to receive a response on weekends and holidays. Please format your emails with a basic greeting, body, and salutations. Proper grammar is expected.

Late Policy: Exams will not be considered if submitted late. You may submit one Canvas discussion/comment late without it affecting your grade. After that, any late Canvas submissions will only receive 50% credit. Canvas submissions later than two weeks will not be considered and will receive zero credit.

Academic Misconduct: Students are responsible for making themselves aware of and understanding the policies and procedures of UCSC’s policy on Academic Misconduct https://www.ue.ucsc.edu/academic\_misconduct. These policies include cheating, fabrication, falsification and forgery, multiple submission, plagiarism, complicity and computer misuse. If there is reason to believe you have been involved in academic dishonesty, you will be referred to your College Provost and receive a failing grade in the course.

Students with Disabilities: If you qualify for classroom accommodations because of a disability, please submit your Accommodation Authorization from the Disability Resource Center (DRC) to me during my office hours in a timely manner, preferably within the first two weeks of the quarter. You can reach the DRC at 459-2089 V, 459-4806 TTY.

**Course Schedule:**

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| **Week 1** | **Topics Covered** | **Lecture/Reading Assignments** |
|  | Introduction and history, human vs. nonhuman, commingling, biological profile, sex estimation, lab processing | View lecture for modules 1-6Read chapters: 1-7 |
| **Week 2** | **Topics Covered** | **Lecture/Reading Assignments** |
|  | Age estimation, ancestry, stature estimation | View lecture for modules 8-13Read chapters: 8-13**Quiz #1- due Friday by 8 pm** |
| **Week 3** | **Topics Covered** | **Lecture/Reading Assignments** |
|  | Anomalies, pathological conditions, trauma, miscellaneous | View lecture for modules 14-19Read chapters: 14-21**Midterm- due Sunday by 8 pm** |
| **Week 4** | **Topics Covered** | **Lecture/Reading Assignments** |
|  | Decay, disposal, estimating PMI, positive identification, scene investigation, effects of fire, human rights | View lecture for modules 20-26Read chapters: 22-26**Quiz #2- due Friday by 8 pm** |
| **Week 5** | **Topics Covered** | **Lecture/Reading Assignments** |
|  | Isotopes, diet, and forensics, facial approximation, civil investigation, legal standing, courtroom testimony, report writing | View lecture for modules 27-31Read chapters: 27-31**Quiz #3- due Friday by 8 pm****Case Report: due Sunday by 8 pm** |

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

**Criteria for Grading Examination Essays**

Students will submit their forensic case reports on Canvas. Please upload this assignment as “.doc” or “.docx” files to the Canvas Dropbox by the specified due dates. Each assignment will be evaluated and returned via Canvas Dropbox with my comments (as track changes in Word). If you use another word processing program, please “Save As” a Word document. Please label each the assignments with your last name and the assignment name. (Example: Verdugo\_CaseReport.docx).

A: Requires a thesis statement supported by data and arguments throughout the essay. The essay should be well organized, clearly written, comprehensive, and have few spelling or grammatical; errors. It should include examples from class assigned readings and the lectures.

B: Requires general comprehensive handling of the material. It is still well organized but may lack some relevant points. It should still include examples from class lecture and course readings. There may be some spelling or grammatical errors.

C: Requires a basic comprehension of the material. May lack thorough discussion and have organizational problems. It may lack a clear thesis statement and have numerous spelling or grammatical errors. It may also lack examples from class and reading material or use examples incorrectly.

D: Displays little comprehension of the material. Includes major problems regarding thesis statement development, organization, spelling and grammatical errors. Lacks any examples from class or reading material.

F: Includes serious problems in treatment of the topic discussed, in terms of factual accuracy, comprehensiveness, organization, clarity of expression, typos, misspellings, grammatical errors, and/or supporting examples. If no paper is submitted, the student will receive a failing grade for the assignment.