



UCSC

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, SANTA CRUZ

Anthropology 103: Forensic Anthropology
Tuesdays, Thursdays 9-12pm
Social Sciences 1 461

Instructor: Eden Washburn M.A.
Email: ewashbur@ucsc.edu
Office: Social Sciences 1, Room 313
Office Hours: Tuesdays 12-2, or by appointment

Textbook: The required text is free (written by Alison Galloway and Susan Kuzminsky).
PDF chapters are available through the canvas website.

Helpful, but

not required: *An Introduction to Forensic Anthropology* (Fourth or Fifth Edition) Steven N. Byers
Human Osteology (Third Edition) Tim D. White, Michael Black, and Pieter Folkens

Course Description: In this course students will learn about the field of forensic anthropology. This discipline is part of the broad field of biological (physical) anthropology, which is the study of humankind. Using an applied framework and case studies, this course examines analytical techniques used to generate a biological profile typically used in medicolegal 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.

The course requires that you watch online lectures and power points, take quizzes and a midterm, and submit a final case report. It will require approximately 12 hours of work each week if actively engaged in the course.

Grading:

Lab Assignments (8)	20%
Quizzes (4)	20%
Article Critique (1)	15%
Final Project (Case Study)	35%
Attendance & Participation	10%

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 labs, 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.

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.

Canvas: The textbook (PDF version), weekly videos, course syllabus, assignment instructions, and any relevant materials for the course are available on the UCSC Canvas website. Any updates or changes to the course will also be announced through Canvas, so be sure to check the site daily.

Laboratory Assignments: These are designed to help you master the concepts learned from readings, video lectures, and the forensic assessments. Assignments are always due on the same day they are assigned, so for example, the Lab 1 assignments are turned in to me at the end of Lab 1.

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

Article Critique: The article critique is designed to introduce students to scholarly literature on the topic of their choosing within the broad field of forensic anthropology. Detailed instructions for the article critiques are posted on Canvas.

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 biological profile.

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

<https://www.ucsc.edu/academicmisconduct> 3

Lab rules: Please arrive to labs on time and leave when the class ends. Turn cell phones off while in the lab. You may use laptops or other tablet devices to take notes, but no filming is allowed. Cheating during quizzes is not tolerated and will lead to serious disciplinary action.

DRC Accommodations: UC Santa Cruz is committed to creating an academic environment that supports its diverse student body. If you are a student with a disability who requires accommodations to achieve equal access in this course, please submit your Accommodation Authorization Letter from the Disability Resource Center (DRC) to me privately during my office hours or by appointment, preferably within the first two weeks of the quarter. At this time, I would also like us to discuss ways we can ensure your full participation in the course. I encourage all students who may benefit from learning more about DRC services to contact DRC by phone at [831-459-2089](tel:831-459-2089) or by email at drc@ucsc.edu.

Note: This syllabus is subject to change. If changes occur, students will be notified in class or through the Canvas course website.

Course Schedule:

Week 1	Topics Covered	Reading/Assignment
7/30 (Tuesday)	Introduction Skeletal Review What is Forensic Anthropology History of Forensic Anthropology	All videos posted for Tuesday All PDF book chapters for Tuesday Visit www.eskeletons.org to review human skeletal elements Lab Assignment
8/1 (Thursday)	Preliminary Assessment Human/Nonhuman Distinctions, Comingling and Laboratory Processing and Documentation	Quiz #1 Lab Assignment All videos posted for Thursday All PDF book chapters for Thursday
Week 2	Topics Covered	Reading/Assignment
8/6 (Tuesday)	Biological Profile (Part 1) – Sex Determination for adults and subadults	All videos posted for Tuesday All PDF book chapters for Tuesday Lab Assignment Article Critique Assignment Posted
8/8 (Thursday)	Biological Profile (Part 2) - Age estimation for adults and subadults	Quiz #2 Lab Assignment All videos posted for Thursday All PDF book chapters for Thursday

Week 3	Topics Covered	Reading/Assignment
8/13 (Tuesday)	Nonmetric Ancestry Stature, Weight, and Handedness Anomalous Conditions Biological Profile (Part 3) Misc. Characteristics	All videos posted for Tuesday All PDF book chapters for Tuesday Lab Assignment
8/15 (Thursday)	Analysis of Trauma Timing of Injury Antemortem Fractures Perimortem Blunt Force Defects Perimortem Sharp Force Defects Perimortem High Velocity Projectile Defects Perimortem Explosive and Catastrophic Defects	Quiz #3 Lab Assignment All videos posted for Thursday All PDF book chapters for Thursday
Week 4	Topics Covered	Reading/Assignment
8/20 (Tuesday)	Postmortem Interval Decay Process Estimation by the Postmortem Interval and Complicating Factors Effects of Fire on Human Remains	All videos posted for Tuesday All PDF book chapters for Tuesday Lab Assignment
8/22 (Thursday)	Scene Recovery Human Rights Investigations Expert Witness Positive and Probable Identification Facial Reconstruction	Quiz #4 Lab Assignment All videos posted for Thursday All PDF book chapters for Thursday Article Critique Due (in class, typed with article attached)
Week 5	Topics Covered	Reading/Assignment
8/27 (Tuesday)	Report Writing Role in Criminal Investigations Role in Civil Investigations Court Testimony	All videos posted for Tuesday All PDF book chapters for Tuesday Lab Assignment
8/29 (Thursday)	Final	Final assignments due Friday, 8/30, 5:00 pm. No late finals accepted!!