

ANTHROP 4R03 ADVANCED BIOARCHAEOLOGY AND SKELETAL BIOLOGY Winter 2022

Course Contacts

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Office: TBA

Office Hours: Friday Afternoons. In Person or Virtual. Book with Calendly: <https://calendly.com/dr-doyle>

CLASS TIME: Tu 2:30PM - 5:20PM

CLASSROOM: CNH 407

DELIVERY MODE: P (in person; synchronous online delivery via Zoom available as needed).

PLEASE NOTE: This is a **lab-based methods course**. We will open up with a short introductory lecture. **It is expected that students will review readings prior to attending class.**

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Course Description

This course is designed for students who are interested in skeletal biology and the diverse fields of anthropological research that depend on the study of human skeletal and dental remains. Those who plan to pursue a career in biological anthropology or a research-related field will especially benefit from this course.

The course will follow a **laboratory** format to explore the theory and method underpinning the study of ancient human population demography, social structures, biological relationships, and health and disease across the life course. In the process, students will develop their knowledge of research design and methods in biological anthropology, along with the ability to critically assess the strengths and weaknesses of different approaches.

This course will offer opportunities for you to hone a number of key professional skill sets, such as written and oral communication, literature research, project management, and teamwork. In particular, you will demonstrate your learning through a topical research project with multiple practical components, including: drafting a proposal; writing an in-depth literature review; and presenting findings in an oral-visual format. Feedback will be offered at key points in the project trajectory.

Course Objectives

By the end of the course students should be able to:

- Describe methods used in major areas of inquiry in biological anthropology;
- Identify and articulate ethical, theoretical, and methodological challenges posed by the nature of skeletal samples and research;
- Demonstrate ability to use a variety of methods to build a biological profile, and explain why and when each method may be appropriate for use;
- Critically analyze the basis and potential applications of new osteological methods;
- Demonstrate professional transferable skills, including:
 - team working and project management
 - professional writing
 - group facilitation
 - design & delivery of presentations in diverse media (visual and/or oral)

Required Materials and Texts

- **Required Readings:** A reading list will be posted to the course website at the beginning of term.
- **Recommended Texts:**
 - White & Folkens. 2006. *The Human Bone Manual*.
 - DiGangi & Moore 2013, *Research Methods in Skeletal Biology* (available in downloadable format from McMaster Library)

The course reading list and a folder of articles will be posted to the course's Avenue 2 Learn site.

Class Format & Instructor Availability

Lectures

This is a laboratory methods-focussed class. Therefore, the Winter 2022 iteration of ANTHROP 4R03 will be fully in person. Remote attendance via Zoom will be offered as needed, but it is essential that you make time to participate during class time. Lectures and readings will be provided asynchronously via the course website on Avenue2Learn.

You are expected to do the assigned readings beforehand and come to class prepared. Class time will involve short lectures, laboratory demonstrations, workshops, and presentations with breaks as needed.

Instructor Availability

Dr Doyle is available by appointment. Please use the Calendly link at the top of the syllabus to book a time.

Course Evaluation – Overview

1. Weekly "ticket in the door" (10 x 0.5% = 5%), asynchronous submission available. **Cumulatively due by the last day of class.**
2. Term Project: Annotated Bibliography (20%), **due Tuesday Feb 15 by 23:59h Eastern.**
3. Term Project: Proposal & source list (5%), **due by March 03 at 23:59h Eastern. Peer review of draft project outlines in class, Tuesday March 01.**
4. Term Project: Presentation (20%), **various due dates; conducted in final 2 weeks of term during class time**
5. Term Project: Final Paper (25%), **due April 12 by 23:59h Eastern.**
6. Final Exam (25%), **take-home final exam. Distributed April 14. To be returned by 23:59h on April 19.**

Course Evaluation – Details

Weekly “ticket in the door” (5%): see due dates in Overview, above.

This is a lab-focussed class, so it is expected that you will attend each class unless prevented from doing so. You will signal your participation by submitting a comment or question at the top of class. Each week’s submission will count for 0.5 up to a total of 10 submissions, cumulatively worth 5% of your grade. Your “ticket in the door” can be submitted asynchronously (i.e. remotely). All 10 are due by the final day of term.

Term Project (scaffolded, 70% total): see due dates in Overview, above.

Project to be performed individually, with option to work in groups. The Research Project and Presentation represents the bulk of the work that you will do in this class. **You may select from the following options:**

- 1) **A conventional research paper** on a topic related to this class. (E.g. Select an area of bio-anthropological research and produce a well-researched paper that explores the history, current applications, and contemporary issues (theoretical, methodological, ethical) affecting that field of bio-anthropology.)
- 2) **A laboratory research project.** This option will involve identifying a research question, research materials, and a methodology, then carrying it out. For example, you may opt to compare the reliability of two methods for estimating stature from the skeleton. The format for the final paper will follow the conventional IMRAD (Introduction, Methods, Results, Discussion) research article format.
- 3) **Method Demonstration.** Conduct a deep dive into a particular method, with a hands-on demonstration of that method presented to the class. Your final paper will be similar in format to Option 1, but with a greater focus on an individual method.

The Term Project has four stages (see full assignment guide for details):

Annotated Bibliography (20%): The annotated bibliography will establish a baseline for your term project. Choose a topic and theme, do some reading, and select a minimum of 8 books or papers that relate to that project. Each source should be presented with its bibliographic information in Chicago author-date, with a 150-250-word entry that summarizes its content and articulates how it connects to the central theme.

Project Outline (5%): Your final project outline is due one week after the Annotated Bibliography. It will summarize your plans for the final project, and give a timeline for completing them by the deadline.

Presentation (20%) (in-class): You have a choice of three different formats:

- 1) A poster presentation of your research project;
- 2) a 30-minute in-class demonstration of a method, with a short introductory talk and follow-up discussion, **or**
- 3) a 15-minute oral presentation on your research topic, followed by a 20-30 minute discussion facilitated by the presenter(s). Assessment based on: demonstrated comprehension of topic; quality of information provided; organization and narrative flow of presentation; time management; quality of questions and follow-up probing during discussion facilitation.

Final Paper (25%). The final paper is your opportunity to more fully explore the topic that you began to research with your annotated bibliography. It is expected that you will produce a thoroughly researched product, with a bibliography that expands on your Annotated Bibliography.

The final paper should be approximately 20 pages for an individual, up to 20-30 pages for groups depending on the number of partners (format: 1.5pt spacing, 12pt font). Should contain an introduction/background section, body sections (each written by one group member) that explore contemporary issues, and a conclusion. See assignment guide for details. Citations and bibliography should be in Chicago author-date.

Final Exam (25%): see due date in Overview, above.

The final exam will be a take-home, essay format exam. It will be cumulative and focussed on demonstrating the depth and breadth of your knowledge in this topic

Email and Tech Support Contact

Dr Doyle's Email Commitment

Please help me provide timely responses to email communications by reserving email for real emergencies. I will do my best to provide a timely response to email communications. During the week, I will generally get back to you within 48h. Emails sent during weekends or after 5pm will generally not receive a response until at least the next business day.

Rules for Email Contact

Email that does not follow these rules may not receive a timely response.

- Use your **McMaster email address** for all course-related communications. (This will avoid your message being caught in a spam filter.)
- ALWAYS put your **course title and section** in the subject line. (Seriously, this is critical.)
- Reserve direct email for personal concerns ONLY (that is: personal emergencies).
- For questions about course policies and technological issues: Show that you have tried to troubleshoot first! Troubleshooting is an incredibly valuable professional skill - don't underestimate it! **Include a description in your email of the steps you have already taken to try to solve your problem.**

Weekly Course Schedule

Sessional Dates:

<https://academiccalendars.romcmaster.ca/content.php?catoid=44&navoid=9034>

PLEASE NOTE: This is a lab-based methodological course. We will open up with a short introductory lecture. It is expected that students will review readings prior to attending class. "

WEEK: 1

DATES (Mon/Fri): 2022-01-10 to 14

TOPIC: Meet & Greet / Re-orienting to the Skeleton 1

READINGS: na ; bring *Human Bone Manual* for in-class reference

NOTES /DEADLINES: n/a

WEEK: 2

DATES (Mon/Fri): 2022-01-17 to 2022-01-21

TOPIC: Re-orienting to the Skeleton 2: Basic Age, Sex & Taking Measurements

READINGS: na ; bring *Human Bone Manual* for in-class reference

NOTES /DEADLINES: Add/Drop Deadline: Jan 18 ;

WEEK: 3

DATES (Mon/Fri): 2022-01-24 to 2022-01-28

TOPIC: DENTAL ANTHROPOLOGY

READINGS: TBA

NOTES /DEADLINES: na

WEEK: 4

DATES (Mon/Fri): 2022-01-31 to 2022-02-04

TOPIC: POPULATION AFFINITY: morphoscopic and morphometric approaches

READINGS: TBA

NOTES /DEADLINES: n/a

WEEK: 5

DATES (Mon/Fri): 2022-02-07 to 2022-02-11

TOPIC: ZOOARCH for BIOANTHs: Distinguishing Human & Animal Remains

READINGS: TBA

NOTES /DEADLINES:

WEEK: 6

DATES (Mon/Fri): 2022-02-14 to 2022-02-18

TOPIC: HOW MANY PEOPLE? Commingling, Fragments, MNI, MLNI, and more!

READINGS: TBA

NOTES /DEADLINES: *DEADLINE: Annotated Bibliography (20%), due Tuesday Feb 15 by 23:59h.

WEEK: 7

DATES (Mon/Fri): 2022-02-21 to 2022-02-25

TOPIC: READING WEEK - NO CLASS

READINGS: na

NOTES /DEADLINES: na

WEEK: 8

DATES (Mon/Fri): 2022-02-28 to 2022-03-04

TOPIC: SEX ESTIMATION - Revisiting Phenice and trying new methods

READINGS: TBA

NOTES /DEADLINES: Guest demo & participatory research with Dr Heather Robertson ; Peer Review of Project Outlines - in class. DUE DATE: Term Project Outline DUE by March 03 at 23:59h.

WEEK: 9

DATES (Mon/Fri): 2022-03-07 to 2022-03-11

TOPIC: AGE ESTIMATION 1: Juveniles.

READINGS: TBA

NOTES /DEADLINES: na

WEEK: 10

DATES (Mon/Fri): 2022-03-14 to 2022-03-18

TOPIC: AGE ESTIMATION 2: Adults. Transition Analysis

READINGS: TBA

NOTES /DEADLINES: Last day to drop without failure: Friday, March 18

WEEK: 11

DATES (Mon/Fri): 2022-03-21 to 2022-03-25

TOPIC: MOLECULAR ANTHROPOLOGY: Stable Isotopes, aDNA, and more!

READINGS: TBA

NOTES /DEADLINES: NA

WEEK: 12

DATES (Mon/Fri): 2022-03-28 to 2022-04-01

TOPIC: FREE TIME: Project Work & Consultations

READINGS: na

NOTES /DEADLINES: na

WEEK: 13

DATES (Mon/Fri): 2022-04-04 to 2022-04-08

TOPIC: PRESENTATIONS

READINGS: na

NOTES /DEADLINES: na

WEEK: 14

DATES (Mon/Fri): 2022-04-11 to 2022-04-12

TOPIC: PRESENTATIONS / course debrief

READINGS: na

NOTES /DEADLINES: CLASSES END; TERM PROJECT due April 12 by 23:59h Eastern. Take-home final exam goes out April 14. To be returned by 23:59h on April 19.

Course Policies

Assignment Submissions

All assignments will be submitted as PDF files to Avenue2Learn. **Please convert all assignment files to PDF format for submission.** (This includes powerpoint slide decks, Word documents, Google docs, text files, images, etc.) **File formats other than PDF will not be accepted unless explicitly stated otherwise for the assignment in question.**

If you run into technical problems when submitting an assignment or exam, take a screenshot that shows your submission screen and desktop clock as a timestamp! Then visit the Avenue to Learn Support page for help.

Late Submissions

You have a 48h grace period before late penalties are applied for written assignments only (does not apply to tests or exams). This means that you can submit your assignment up to 48h after a deadline, without losing points.

A late penalty of 2 points (2% of the total course grade) will be deducted from an assignment's total per 24-hour period (or part thereof late) for assignments.

Extension Policy

Whenever possible, for upper-division courses I allow **one free extension per student (no questions asked)**. Unlike with MSAFs, this policy is not limited to assignments worth more than 25%. If you invoke this policy, you do not need to use an MSAF for your first extension (see <https://www.mcmaster.ca/msaf/>).

If you think that you will require an extension, **contact me well before the due date if possible.**

CAVEATS TO THE "ONE FREE EXTENSION" POLICY

Extensions requested after a deadline will not be granted unless:

- The student and instructor have been in communication about the issue beforehand
- An MSAF has been requested (either using the Mosaic portal or through your Faculty)

No extension will be granted for longer than one cumulative week after the original deadline except under extenuating circumstances. This is to prevent course work from piling up to the point that it becomes undoable.

Please note – **all deferred and makeup exams will be in essay format.**

Assignment Reappraisal

If you disagree with a grade that you have received, please follow the below steps:

1. **Wait 24h.** Re-read your assignment with a cooler head and consider the grading criteria outlined in the assignment guide.
2. **Seek more feedback:** If you require more information about your grade, contact Dr Doyle and ask for further feedback.
3. **Formally request a re-grade:** Write a 300-word (max) statement, explaining why you believe the assessment was mistaken, and submit it to Dr Doyle along with the original assignment. **Dr Doyle will re-assess your work using the same rubric.**

If, after reappraisal you still disagree with an assessment, you may apply for a **re-read** via the McMaster Secretariat website:

<https://registrar.mcmaster.ca/re-read/>

Grades

Grades will be based on the McMaster University grading scale:

MARK	GRADE	Qualitative Scale (Unofficial)
90-100	A+	In general, quantitative & categorical grade ranges reflect the following qualitative scale:
85-90	A	
80-84	A-	80% to 100% (A- to A+): Exceptional performance: strong evidence of original thinking; good organization; capacity to analyze and synthesize; superior grasp of subject matter with sound critical evaluations; evidence of extensive knowledge base.
77-79	B+	
73-76	B	68% to 79% (B- to B+): Competent performance: evidence of grasp of subject matter; some evidence of critical capacity and analytic ability; reasonable understanding of relevant issues; evidence of familiarity with the literature.
70-72	B-	
67-69	C+	50% to 67% (D to C+): Adequate performance: understanding of the subject matter; ability to develop solutions to simple problems in the material; acceptable but
63-66	C	
60-62	C-	

57-59	D+	uninspired work, not seriously faulty but lacking style and vigour.
53-56	D	
50-52	D-	00% to 49% (F): Inadequate performance: little or no evidence of understanding of the subject matter; weakness in critical and analytic skills; limited or irrelevant use of the literature.
0-49	F	

Avenue to Learn & Lecture Recording

In this course we will be using Avenue to Learn. Some real-time lecture sessions may be recorded. Attendees will be warned prior to recording.

Students should be aware that, when they access the electronic components of this course, private information such as first and last names, user names for the McMaster e-mail accounts, and program affiliation may become apparent to all other students in the same course. The available information is dependent on the technology used. Continuation in this course will be deemed consent to this disclosure. If you have any questions or concerns about such disclosure please discuss this with the course instructor.

Turnitin.com

In this course we will be using a web-based service (Turnitin.com) to reveal plagiarism. Students will be expected to submit their work electronically to Turnitin.com and in hard copy so that it can be checked for academic dishonesty. Students who do not wish to submit their work to Turnitin.com must still submit a copy to the instructor. No penalty will be assigned to a student who does not submit work to Turnitin.com. All submitted work is subject to normal verification that standards of academic integrity have been upheld (e.g., on-line search, etc.). To see the Turnitin.com Policy, please visit: www.mcmaster.ca/academicintegrity.



University Policies

Academic Integrity Statement

You are expected to exhibit honesty and use ethical behavior in all aspects of the learning process. Academic credentials you earn are rooted in principles of honesty and academic integrity.

Academic dishonesty is to knowingly act or fail to act in a way that results or could result in unearned academic credit or advantage. This behavior can result in serious consequences, e.g. the grade of zero on an assignment, loss of credit with a notation on the transcript (notation reads: "Grade of F assigned for academic dishonesty"), and/or suspension or expulsion from the university.

It is your responsibility to understand what constitutes academic dishonesty. For information on the various types of academic dishonesty please refer to the Academic Integrity Policy, located at www.mcmaster.ca/academicintegrity.

The following illustrates only three forms of academic dishonesty:

1. Plagiarism, e.g. the submission of work that is not one's own or for which credit has been obtained.
2. Improper collaboration in group work.
3. Copying or using unauthorized aids in tests and examinations.

Academic Accommodation of Students with Disabilities

Students who require academic accommodation must contact Student Accessibility Services (SAS) to make arrangements with a Program Coordinator. Academic accommodations must be arranged for each term of study. Student Accessibility Services can be contacted by phone 905-525-9140 ext. 28652 or e-mail sas@mcmaster.ca. For further information, consult McMaster University's Policy for [Academic Accommodation of Students with Disabilities](#).

Religious, Indigenous and Spiritual Observances (RISO)

The University recognizes that, on occasion, the timing of a student's religious, Indigenous, or spiritual observances and that of their academic obligations may conflict. In such cases, the University will provide reasonable academic accommodation for students that is consistent with the Ontario Human Rights Code.

Please review the [RISO information for students in the Faculty of Social Sciences](#) about how to request accommodation.

Faculty of Social Sciences E-mail Communication Policy

Effective September 1, 2010, it is the policy of the Faculty of Social Sciences that all e-mail communication sent from students to instructors (including TAs), and from students to staff, must originate from the student's own McMaster University e-mail account. This policy protects confidentiality and confirms the identity of the student. It is the student's responsibility to ensure that communication is sent to the university from a

McMaster account. If an instructor becomes aware that a communication has come from an alternate address, the instructor may not reply at his or her discretion.

Privacy Protection

In accordance with regulations set out by the Freedom of Information and Privacy Protection Act, the University will not allow return of graded materials by placing them in boxes in departmental offices or classrooms so that students may retrieve their papers themselves; tests and assignments must be returned directly to the student. Similarly, grades for assignments for courses may only be posted using the last 5 digits of the student number as the identifying data. The following possibilities exist for return of graded materials:

1. Direct return of materials to students in class;
2. Return of materials to students during office hours;
3. Students attach a stamped, self-addressed envelope with assignments for return by mail;
4. Submit/grade/return papers electronically.

Arrangements for the return of assignments from the options above will be finalized during the first class.

Online Elements

This course includes on-line elements (e.g. e-mail, Avenue to Learn (A2L), LearnLink, web pages, capa, Moodle, ThinkingCap, etc.). Students should be aware that, when they access the electronic components of a course using these elements, private information such as first and last names, user names for the McMaster e-mail accounts, and program affiliation may become apparent to all other students in the same course. The available information is dependent on the technology used. Continuation in a course that uses on-line elements will be deemed consent to this disclosure. If you have any questions or concerns about such disclosure please discuss this with the course instructor.

Online Proctoring

Some courses may use online proctoring software for tests and exams. This software may require students to turn on their video camera, present identification, monitor and record their computer activities, and/or lock/restrict their browser or other applications/software during tests or exams. This software may be required to be installed before the test/exam begins.

Copyright and Recording

Students are advised that lectures, demonstrations, performances, and any other course material provided by an instructor include copyright protected works. The Copyright Act and copyright law protect every original literary, dramatic, musical and artistic work, including lectures by University instructors

The recording of lectures, tutorials, or other methods of instruction may occur during a course. Recording may be done by either the instructor for the purpose of authorized distribution, or by a student for the purpose of personal study. Students should be aware that their voice and/or image may be recorded by others during the class. Please speak with the instructor if this is a concern for you.

Course Modification

The instructor and university **reserve the right to modify elements of the course during the term.** The university may change the dates and deadlines for any or all courses in extreme circumstances. If either type of modification becomes necessary, reasonable notice and communication with the students will be given with explanation and the opportunity to comment on changes. It is the responsibility of the student to check their McMaster email and course websites weekly during the term and to note any changes.

Conduct Expectations

As a McMaster student, you have the right to experience, and the responsibility to demonstrate, respectful and dignified interactions within all of our living, learning and working communities. These expectations are described in the [Code of Student Rights & Responsibilities](#) (the "Code"). All students share the responsibility of maintaining a positive environment for the academic and personal growth of all McMaster community members, **whether in person or online.**

It is essential that students be mindful of their interactions online, as the Code remains in effect in virtual learning environments. The Code applies to any interactions that adversely affect, disrupt, or interfere with reasonable participation in University activities. Student disruptions or behaviours that interfere with university functions on online platforms (e.g. use of Avenue 2 Learn, WebEx or Zoom for delivery), will be taken very seriously and will be investigated. Outcomes may include restriction or removal of the involved students' access to these platforms.

Extreme Circumstances

The University reserves the right to change the dates and deadlines for any or all courses in extreme circumstances (e.g., severe weather, labour disruptions, etc.). Changes will be communicated through regular McMaster communication channels, such as McMaster Daily News, A2L and/or McMaster email.

