

McMaster University
Department of Anthropology

Dr. Megan Brickley
Fall Term, 2017

ANTHROPOLOGY 4R03. SKELETAL BIOLOGY OF EARLIER HUMAN POPULATIONS

Instructor: Dr. M. Brickley brickley@mcmaster.ca

Dr. Brickley's office hours: Monday 13.30 to 14.30 and Tuesday 10.30-11.30, in CNH 518.

Tel: 905 525 9140 ext 24256

Lab Co-ordinator: Bonnie Kahlon kahlonh@mcmaster.ca

Class Schedule: Lectures Tuesdays 11.30-2.20 in CNH 407

Course Description: This course is designed for students interested in skeletal biology and the analysis of human skeletal and dental remains. We will discuss the nature of skeletal samples, the information we can gain from the human skeleton, and some of the limitations of skeletal analysis. We will then investigate the methods used in the study of skeletal and dental remains, and critically evaluate the strengths and limitations of these methods. It is expected that students will have previous training in osteology or skeletal anatomy, but this course is not necessarily limited to those pursuing advanced degrees in biological anthropology. This course is designed to develop skills in research, skeletal analysis, and written communication that are relevant in both academic and professional settings.

There are weekly readings from the course text, and students are expected to come to class prepared to discuss the week's readings and apply them during class. The course is a blend of lecture and seminar formats, and there will be practical laboratory sessions that form part of the learning experience.

By the end of this course you will be able to: Discuss and evaluate techniques used to investigate the skeletal biology of past populations. Develop an independent research project, and present the results of the analysis to your peers in a poster conference at the end of the term. Identify major themes in bioarchaeological research.

Learning Assessments:

Proposal – (15%) You will be allocated a set of human skeletal material on which you can conduct a short research project. Some guidance will be given on areas your material could be used to investigate. This provides hands-on experience of conducting original research using techniques discussed in class. The proposal is an opportunity to ensure you have a clear plan in place at an early stage of the course. Your proposal should include a title, a brief description of the research you will conduct (max. 500 words), and a list of at least 5 appropriate academic sources that relate to your research (i.e., academic books, articles from peer-reviewed journals, or chapters in conference proceedings).

Poster presentation (30%) – You will prepare a poster that provides information on your research project. Posters will be presented as PowerPoint slides in the Poster Conference classes. Speakers will be given an allocated time to present the key information on the project and findings, and answer

questions from those attending. Breakdown of marks and criteria for assessment for will be circulated at least two weeks prior to the conference. One sixth of the grade (5% of the 30% allocated to this assessment) will come from peer evaluation. You will (anonymously) assess some of your peers' posters using clearly defined criteria.

Student groups leading discussion (25%) – Students will be randomly assigned to groups. Groups will work together to choose a recent journal article (no earlier than 2012) from a peer-reviewed journal that fits with the topic to be covered in the allocated week. You should ensure that the paper is a useful addition to the suggested chapter for that week and will be available to everyone in the class (i.e. McMaster has a subscription to the journal). Guidance will be provided on selecting an article. The week in which each group should meet with Dr. Brickley to discuss their choice is indicated on the timetable. A full reference for the paper must be sent to the class list one week before the class. The team should prepare a presentation on the selected paper in which the key issues raised by the selected paper are introduced and discussed. All members of the team must contribute at least 5 minutes of material. The presentation should fill 30 minutes of time and the team should then open and lead discussion.

Take Home Exam (30%) – There will be two sections and some element of choice of questions in the second section.

Required Text:

Agarwal, S. and Glencross, B. 2011. Social Bioarchaeology. Chichester: Wiley-Blackwell.

Course Schedule

<u>Week</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>Readings</u>	<u>Topic</u>
1	Sept 5	A & G – Chp 1 & 5 Project material allocated	Intro. to course & the nature of skeletal samples -paleodemography and sample representativeness
2	Sept 12th	A & G – Chp 4 & 10 Project material allocated	Review of the skeleton
3	Sept 19th	A & G – Chps 6, 10	Sex, gender, and age in bioarchaeology (Guest contributor Creighton Avery)
4	Sept 26th	A & G – Chps 12, 13	Childhood (Guest contributor Kalyna Horocholyn)
		Deadline for selection of exact project	

		Group 1 meet Dr. Brickley	
5	Oct 3rd	A & G – Chp 11 Proposal due 9am	The aged skeleton & activity patterns (Guest contributor Lori D’Ortenzio)
		Group 2 meet Dr. Brickley	
6	Oct 10		No class - Midterm break
7	Oct 17	A & G – Chp 14	Injury and violence Student group 1 present introduction and lead discussion
		Group 3 meet Dr. Brickley	
8	Oct. 24th	A&G - Chp 9	Humans and Disease (Guest contributor Laura Lockau) Student group 2 present introduction and lead discussion
		Group 4 meet Dr. Brickley	
8	Oct. 31st	A & G – Chp 8	Dental Anthropology Student group 3 present introduction and lead discussion
		Group 5 meet Dr. Brickley	
9	Nov 7th	A & G – Chp 3	Ethics in skeletal biology and bioarchaeology Student group 4 present introduction and lead discussion
10	Nov 14th	A & G – Chp 15	Biochemical analyses (Guest contributor Katie East) Student group 5 present introduction and lead discussion
11	Nov 21st		POSTER CONFERENCE Group 1 poster presentations
12	Nov 28th		POSTER CONFERENCE Group 2 poster presentations
13	Dec 5th		Take home exam

FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES EMAIL 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.

POLICY ON MISSED ASSIGNMENTS

If you miss an assignment, written confirmation, approved by your Faculty office, is required in order to make up the marks. ***Students are responsible for contacting the instructor.***

Marks allocated to elements of assessment that have a set date on which they have to happen that are missed will be added to weighting given to the final take home examination, so the final take home exam will account for a greater percentage of the final grade.

Lateness penalty for unapproved lateness: 15% per day including weekend days until a mark of 0 is reached. A deduction of 15% will be made for any part of an assignment that is over the specified length.

NEW MSAF POLICY

<http://www.mcmaster.ca/msaf/>

Please note important changes to the McMaster Student Absence Form (MSAF) policy **beginning in the Spring/Summer 2015 term:**

- The time frame within which the MSAF is valid has been **reduced from 5 days to 3 days.**
- The upper limit for which an MSAF can be submitted **has been reduced from 'less than 30%' to 'less than 25%' of the course weight.**

If you have any questions about the MSAF, please contact your Associate Dean's office.

If you are absent for reasons other than medical reasons, are missing for more than 3 days, have missed academic work worth more than 25% of the final grade, or exceed one request per term you **MUST** visit your Associate Dean's Office (KTH 129).

You may be required to provide supporting documentation. It is up to the instructor to determine the appropriate relief for missed term work.

SPECIAL ACCOMMODATIONS

Students with specific learning accommodations should contact Dr. Brickley by the end of the **3rd week** of term. You must have written confirmation from Student Accessibility Services (formerly the Center for Student Development). <http://sas.mcmaster.ca/>

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 his/her McMaster email and course websites weekly during the term and to note any changes.

COURSE MATERIALS AND AVENUE TO LEARN (A2L)

Lectures will be presented using Power Point, **abbreviated** versions of which will be posted weekly on A2L. Grades will also be posted on A2L. You must be registered in the course to have access to the 4R03 site.

WRITING HELP

McMaster students have free access to an on-line program to help with writing. The user copies and pastes text into the program and receives notification of errors and suggestions for corrections. This program is called **Grammarly**. To register as a user, go to: <http://www.grammarly.com/edu/> and click on "Sign Up" at the top of the page. You must use your @mcmaster.ca email address to register.

Writing Support Services in the Student Success Centre provides a variety of services to help students improve their writing.

Student Behavior and Responsibilities

Your learning – it is your responsibility to **keep up with the readings – do not leave them until the night before the exams. Attendance in this class is essential** if you want to do well in this course. You are expected to think about the readings and integrate them into the information and concepts presented during lecture.

Classroom behavior – Please **do not be afraid to ask questions** or provide constructive comments! If you do not understand something, or if I have gone over a concept too fast, stop me and ask a question. Chances are if you do not understand something, other people in the class are in the same position.

Please ensure that cell phones are turned off (including text messaging, Twitter, etc.) and **arrive on time for class**. If you have to leave class early, please sit near one of the exits.

Laptop computers may be used in class for taking notes, but students using their computers for any other purpose (e.g., checking Facebook) will be asked to turn their computers off

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY

Academic dishonesty consists of misrepresentation by deception or by other fraudulent means and 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 kinds of academic dishonesty please refer to the Academic Integrity Policy, Appendix 3, <http://www.mcmaster.ca/policy/Students-AcademicStudies/AcademicIntegrity.pdf>

The following illustrates only three forms of academic dishonesty:

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

AODA

If you require this information in an alternate/accessible format, please contact Delia Hutchinson at 905-525-9140 extension 24523 or email hutchin@mcmaster.ca