

Forensic Anthropology

ANTHROPOLOGY 3FA3 - Summer Semester 2017

Instructor: Dr. Andrew Wade
Email: wadeand@mcmaster.ca
Instructor Office Location: CNH 530

Instructor Office Hours:
Tuesdays 5:30PM – 6:00PM
Thursdays 5:30PM – 6:00PM
Or By Appointment

Course Location:
Chester New Hall B107

Required Texts:
Byers SN. 2011. Introduction to Forensic Anthropology, 4th Edition.
Steadman DW. 2009. Hard Evidence, 2nd Edition.

Course Time:
Tuesdays 6:30PM – 9:30 PM
Thursdays 6:30PM – 9:30 PM

CRIME SCENE DO NOT CROSS

This course is designed for students with an interest in forensic anthropology, the specialised field of biological anthropology that focuses on the detection, recovery, and identification of human remains in a legal context. You will get an overview of the human skeleton and an introduction to the methods used by forensic anthropologists in the identification and analysis of skeletal remains (e.g., age-at-death, sex, ancestry, stature, and personal identification). We will also discuss the role of the forensic anthropologist in the investigation of human rights abuses, mass disasters, and criminal investigations.

If I have done my part in this course, and you yours, you will come away able to:

- Discuss the forensic anthropologist's role in legal, mass disaster, and human rights cases.
- Describe how forensic anthropologists find, recover, analyze, and document human remains.
- Explain the processes that act on bodies after death and how they indicate time since death.
- Identify the features used in establishing positive identification.
- Identify and interpret evidence of trauma in skeletal remains.
- Synthesize the methods, techniques, and evidence used by forensic anthropologists to establish a biological profile and assess the events prior to and after death.

If you require this information in an alternate/accessibile format, please contact Delia Hutchinson at [905-525-9140](tel:905-525-9140) extension 24523 or email hutchin@mcmaster.ca

Academic Accommodations

The University provides academic accommodations for students with disabilities in accordance with the terms of the Ontario Human Rights Code. This occurs through a collaborative process that acknowledges a collective obligation to develop an accessible learning environment that both meets the needs of students and preserves the essential academic requirements of the University's courses and programs. *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](#).*

Occasionally, illness or other medical issues make it impossible to meet deadlines or to take exams as scheduled. Students are responsible for arranging assignment extensions and make-up exams with the instructor as soon as possible.

MSAF

The MSAF should be used for medical and non-medical (personal) situations. Approval of the MSAF is automatic (i.e. no documentation required)

Rules governing the MSAF are as follows:

- The timeframe within which the MSAF is valid has been reduced from 5 days to 3 days.
- The upper limit for when an MSAF can be submitted has been reduced from 'less than 30%' to 'less than 25%' of the course weight.
- The 'one MSAF per term' limit is retained.
- As per the policy, an automated email will be sent to the course instructor, who will determine the appropriate relief. Students must immediately follow up with their instructors. Failure to do so may negate their relief.

Policy: The MSAF policy can be found in the Undergraduate Calendar under General Academic Regulations & Requests for Relief for Missed Academic Term Work or here:

<http://bit.ly/2pcODdz>

All other late assignments will be penalized at a rate of 10% per day. Late assignments will not be accepted after 7 days beyond the original deadline without appropriate documentation from the Office of the Associate Dean of Social Sciences.

Academic Integrity (<http://www.mcmaster.ca/policy/Students-AcademicStudies>)

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, specifically Appendix 3, located on the website above.

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.

Correspondence

Most questions can and should be asked in class or during office hours. However, if you have a quick question or comment and need to email me, please feel free to do so. I check my email regularly throughout the week, so you can expect a response within **~48 hours**. Please put **3FA3 in the subject line** of your email and **include your name and student number** at the end of all correspondence. I cannot respond to lengthy questions over email but will be happy to discuss them in person. If office hours conflict with your schedule please let me know and we can make other arrangements. If an emailed question is relevant to the rest of the class, I will post a response on Avenue or discuss it in the next class. Feel free to post questions relevant to course content in the discussion forum of the course web site.

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.

Email Forwarding in MUGSI: <http://www.mcmaster.ca/uts/support/email/emailforward.html>

*Forwarding will take effect 24-hours after students complete the process at the above link

(Approved at the Faculty of Social Sciences meeting on Tues. May 25, 2010)

Use of Electronic Devices (including laptops):

No electronic devices of any kind (including but not limited to cell phones, Blackberries, iPods, other MP3 players, voice recorders, etc.) will be allowed during examinations. Laptops and other data devices may only be used during lectures for note taking or other course-related purposes.

Disruptive use of electronic devices during class time may result in a request that you leave the classroom.

Avenue To Learn

In this course we will be using Avenue to Learn (<http://avenue.mcmaster.ca>). Log in, using your MacID and password, to connect to course content such as this syllabus, lecture overviews, announcements, interesting links, etc. Additionally, each lecture will be video recorded and you will be able to access the videos and lecture PPTs through Avenue.

Marking Scheme

Syllabus Quiz [5%]

Test #1 [15%]

Test #2 [20%]

Case Study Reports [30%]

Final Exam [30%]

Assignments

Syllabus Quiz [5%]

This quiz on the content of this syllabus **must be completed by all students to pass this course**. The quiz will be accessible on Avenue following the first lecture, and **must be completed by 11:59PM on June 27**.

Test 1 [15%] & **Test 2** [20%]

These non-cumulative tests (July 6th & 20th) will consist of multiple choice and short-answer questions related to material from the lectures, videos, and readings.

Case Study Reports [3 x10%]

These reports are short essay-format assignments based on a series of questions related to real and fictitious case studies. **You will submit your three reports on Avenue by 11:59PM on July 6th, July 20th, and August 3rd, respectively.**

Final Exam [30%]

The final exam will be in the same format as the tests, but will cover material from the entire term.

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.

Date	Topic	Readings
June 20	What is Forensic Anthropology? Anthropology & Forensic Science	S – Ch 1 B – Ch 1 (1-15)
June 22	Introduction to the Human Skeleton Establishing Forensic Significance	S – Ch 21 B – Ch 2, 3
June 27	Crime Scene Investigation Finding & Recovering Human Remains	S – Sec III Intro, Ch 10 B – Ch 4 (75-88)
	SYLLABUS QUIZ DUE	
June 29	Forensic Taphonomy Estimating Time Since Death	S – Sec IV Intro, Ch 13 B – Ch 5, 16 (331-344)
July 4	Mass Disasters Human Rights Investigations	S – Sec VI Intro, Ch 23 B – Ch 4 (88-93)
July 6	TEST #1	
	CASE STUDY #1 DUE	
July 11	Biological Profile: Ancestry & Sex	S – Ch 14 B – Ch 7, 8
July 13	Biological Profile: Age & Stature	S – Ch 6 B – Ch 9, 10
July 18	Critical Evaluation Individuation	S – Sec V Intro B – Ch 15, 17, 18
July 20	TEST #2	
	CASE STUDY #2 DUE	
July 25	Cause, Manner, & Mode of Death Trauma	S – Ch 25 B – Ch 11
July 27	Projectile Trauma Blunt Trauma	S – 15 B – Ch 12, 13
August 1	Sharp Trauma Exam Review	S – 17 B – 14, 16 (325-331)
August 3	FINAL EXAM	
	CASE STUDY #3 DUE	

S = Steadman; B = Byers

Recommended Reading:

Snow CC. 1982. Forensic anthropology. *Annual Review of Anthropology* 11:97-131