

McMaster University  
Department of Anthropology

Dr. Megan Brickley  
Fall Term, 2017

### **Anthropology 3PP3 Paleopathology**

**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 Mondays 14.30-17.20 in CNH 407

**Course Description:** The focus of the course will be archaeological human remains and interpretations of past human health through the research on paleopathology (the study of ancient diseases and their origins). Course reading will also include current clinical literature to enable a bioarchaeological approach to be taken to the interpretation of past human health. The combined lecture and laboratory format gives the student a comprehensive overview of the pathological processes of bone, enamel and dentine as well as experience with the methods used recording pathological lesions in archaeological human remains.

**Learning Objectives:** At the end of this course, you will be able to:

Recognise and describe pathological lesions on skeletal remains and demonstrate an understanding of the changes that occur in bones and teeth in response to different diseases and forms of trauma.

**The lab:** All laboratory activities are under the authority of Bonnie Kahlon, the lab co-ordinator. Because of the practical emphasis in this course, most students find it extremely helpful to take advantage of additional time in the lab. Bonnie will announce these times and we encourage you to attend. Students must abide by the rules of the lab for their own safety and for the preservation of the skeletal collection. Failure to do so can lead to loss of laboratory privileges.

#### **Learning Assessments:**

**Mid-term exam, 20%:** Consists of a written exam composed of, comprehension, short-answer and pictorial questions related to material from the lectures, labs, and independent reading. This test will be open book.

**Poster assignment, 25%:** Each student will sign up for a skeletal element (or small group of elements) that has some kind of pathological or traumatic change. Basic information on the geographical and temporal origin of the material will be provided. Students are required to take a biocultural approach to analysis undertaken and provide a differential diagnosis for the lesions recorded. Information on the methods used and findings should be presented as a poster in the style of posters at presented at meetings of organisations such as the Paleopathology Association (PPA) and the Canadian Association of Physical Anthropologists (CAPA). A letter sized version of the poster will be submitted online. Full instructions on format of the poster and grading scheme will be provided. Assignment is due on **November 6<sup>th</sup>**.

**Is it pathological? Practical test, 20%:** Deciding if a bone is damaged due to taphonomic processes, within the range of what might be considered normal or pathological is one of the hardest parts decisions in paleopathology. In this practical test students will have to determine which items are just damaged post mortem, which are normal and which pathological. For those considered pathological basic information will need to be provided on changes recorded. This test will be open book.

**Final (take home) exam, 35%:** This will be based on all in-class work, lectures, labs, discussions, and assigned readings. It will consist of a series of essay questions. The exam will be handed out on the last day of class and you will have approximately 7 days to complete the examination. The exact deadline for completion will be announced during the term and depends on the Registrar's requirements.

#### **Required Texts:**

Roberts, C. and Manchester, K. (2007) *The Archaeology of Disease*, 3<sup>rd</sup> ed.

White, T. D., and P.A. Folkens (2005) *The Human Bone Manual* **OR** equivalent

#### **Course Schedule**

Week 1. Sept. 11	Course introduction, treatment of archaeological human remains, review of the skeleton and introduction to bone biology.
Week 2. Sept. 18	History of paleopathology, theoretical considerations and disease classification. <b>Poster sign up.</b>
Week 3. Sept. 25	Congenital disease and dental disease.
Week 4. Oct. 2	Trauma, fractures, weapons injuries and other types of injury.
Week 5. Oct. 9	No class this week, recess week.
Week 6. Oct. 16	<b>Mid term exam.</b>
Week 7. Oct. 23rd	Metabolic and endocrine disease.
Week 8. Oct. 30	Joint disease.
Week 9. Nov. 6	Infectious disease and non-diagnostic changes. <b>Poster hand in.</b>
Week 10. Nov. 13	Neoplastic disease. Review of pathological conditions covered.
Week 11. Nov. 20	<b>Is it pathological? test</b>
Week 12. Nov. 27	The future of paleopathology including non-human pathology.
Week 13. Dec. 4	Information and hand-out of the final take home exam.

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## **Policy on the Submission of Assignments, Missed Work and late work and Special Accommodations**

All assignments should be uploaded to the folder in Avenue in the week specified in the Course Schedule. Exact dates and times will be posted online. Assignments submitted e-mail will not be accepted. No extensions will be given unless written medical certification, approved by your Faculty office, is provided. Students with specific learning accommodations should contact Dr. Brickley by the second week of class. You must have written confirmation from Student Accessibility Services (formerly the Center for Student Development). <http://sas.mcmaster.ca/>

**Should a student be unable to complete either the 'mid-term' or the 'is it pathological' test the weighting given to the final take home examination will increase proportionally, so the final take home exam will account for a greater percentage of the final grade. Failure to hand in a poster will result in a grade of 0, lateness penalties are detailed below.**

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.

**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 3PP3 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](mailto:@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. (*Insert specific course information, e.g., style guide*)
2. Improper collaboration in group work. (*Insert specific course information*)
3. Copying or using unauthorized aids in tests and examinations.  
(*If applicable*) In this course we will be using a software package designed to reveal plagiarism. Students will be required to submit their work electronically and in hard copy so that it can be checked for academic dishonesty.

## **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)

### **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](mailto:hutchin@mcmaster.ca)