

ANTH M17: FORENSIC ANTHROPOLOGY

Originator

akinkella

Co-Contributor(s)
Name(s)

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College

Moorpark College

Discipline (CB01A)

ANTH - Anthropology

Course Number (CB01B)

M17

Course Title (CB02)

Forensic Anthropology

Banner/Short Title

Forensic Anthropology

Credit Type

Credit

Start Term

Fall 2021

Catalog Course Description

Introduces the field of forensic anthropology through a study of the history and methods of forensic anthropology and the role it plays in the medico-legal system. Includes the human skeletal system, forensic archaeology, and recovery and techniques for analyzing human skeletal remains.

Taxonomy of Programs (TOP) Code (CB03)

2202.00 - Anthropology

Course Credit Status (CB04)

D (Credit - Degree Applicable)

Course Transfer Status (CB05) (select one only)

A (Transferable to both UC and CSU)

Course Basic Skills Status (CB08)

N - The Course is Not a Basic Skills Course

SAM Priority Code (CB09)

E - Non-Occupational

Course Cooperative Work Experience Education Status (CB10)

N - Is Not Part of a Cooperative Work Experience Education Program

Course Classification Status (CB11)

Y - Credit Course

Educational Assistance Class Instruction (Approved Special Class) (CB13)

N - The Course is Not an Approved Special Class

Course Prior to Transfer Level (CB21)

Y - Not Applicable

Course Noncredit Category (CB22)

Y - Credit Course

Funding Agency Category (CB23)

Y - Not Applicable (Funding Not Used)

Course Program Status (CB24)

2 - Not Program Applicable

General Education Status (CB25)

Y - Not Applicable

Support Course Status (CB26)

N - Course is not a support course

Field trips

Will not be required

Grading method

(L) Letter Graded

Alternate grading methods

(O) Student Option- Letter/Pass

(P) Pass/No Pass Grading

Does this course require an instructional materials fee?

No

Repeatable for Credit

No

Is this course part of a family?

No

Units and Hours

Carnegie Unit Override

No

In-Class

Lecture

Minimum Contact/In-Class Lecture Hours

52.5

Maximum Contact/In-Class Lecture Hours

52.5

Activity

Laboratory

Total in-Class

Total in-Class

Total Minimum Contact/In-Class Hours

52.5

Total Maximum Contact/In-Class Hours

52.5

Outside-of-Class

Internship/Cooperative Work Experience

Paid

Unpaid

Total Outside-of-Class

Total Outside-of-Class

Minimum Outside-of-Class Hours

105

Maximum Outside-of-Class Hours

105

Total Student Learning

Total Student Learning

Total Minimum Student Learning Hours

157.5

Total Maximum Student Learning Hours

105

Minimum Units (CB07)

3

Maximum Units (CB06)

3

Student Learning Outcomes (CSLOs)

Upon satisfactory completion of the course, students will be able to:

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1 | determine the various techniques used in determining sex, age, and ancestry from human skeletal remains. |
| 2 | assess different types of ante-, peri-, and postmortem changes to bone, including pathology, trauma, and natural anomalies. |
| 3 | assess the forensic context and describe the laboratory and recovery procedures involved in forensic anthropology casework. |
| 4 | explore the application of standard, scientific, anthropological techniques to identify human remains and to assist in the detection of a crime. |

Course Objectives

Upon satisfactory completion of the course, students will be able to:

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1 | explain the relationship of forensic anthropology to social and biological sciences, including the definition and history of the field. |
| 2 | demonstrate an understanding of methodologies developed by anthropologists to explain human variation. |
| 3 | identify primary skeletal markers used in the identification of age, sex, race and stature. |
| 4 | recognize markers for different types of pathology and trauma. |
| 5 | analyze and interpret skeletal remains based upon anthropological concepts and data. |
| 6 | assess types of evidence and demonstrate an understanding of the legal process with regard to the presentation of forensic evidence. |
| 7 | synthesize examples of cultural and ethical applications in the field of forensic anthropology. |

Course Content

Lecture/Course Content

- 6% - Introduction to forensic anthropology, including historical background, theory, and method
- 6% - The medico-legal system, role of the anthropologist in death investigations, and testifying and presenting forensic evidence
- 12% - Human osteology and odontology, osteometry and craniometry, human dentition, and bone anatomy and growth
- 6% - The forensic context: bone vs. nonbone, human vs. nonhuman, and contemporary vs. noncontemporary
- 6% - Estimating time since death (the postmortem interval)
- 6% - Locating remains, processing crime scenes and recovering remains, inventory and chain of custody
- 12% - The identification process, including estimation of sex, ancestry, stature, age at death, and identification of occupation stress and other markers
- 12% - Pathology and trauma, including types of trauma, trauma vs. animal activity, trauma vs. medical procedures, evidence of disease, and characteristics of force
- 6% - Antemortem skeletal conditions, pathologies, and anomalies
- 6% - Postmortem changes to bone, dismemberments, scavenging and weathering, burial damage, fire or water damage, and miscellaneous damage
- 6% - Identification using antemortem records
- 6% - Forensics within the criminal justice system, including reports and expert witness testimony, ethical responsibilities, professional associations and career options
- 6% - The forensic anthropology of disasters, human rights, and POW/MIA recovery
- 4% - Current trends in forensic anthropology

Laboratory or Activity Content

N/A

Methods of Evaluation

Which of these methods will students use to demonstrate proficiency in the subject matter of this course? (Check all that apply):

- Problem solving exercises
- Written expression

Methods of Evaluation may include, but are not limited to, the following typical classroom assessment techniques/required assignments (check as many as are deemed appropriate):

- Classroom Discussion
- Essay exams
- Group projects
- Individual projects
- Objective exams
- Projects
- Participation
- Reports/Papers/Journals
- Reports/papers
- Written analyses
- Written homework

Instructional Methodology

Specify the methods of instruction that may be employed in this course

- Audio-visual presentations
- Collaborative group work
- Class activities
- Class discussions

Case studies
 Distance Education
 Group discussions
 Guest speakers
 Instructor-guided interpretation and analysis
 Internet research
 Lecture
 Readings
 Small group activities

Describe specific examples of the methods the instructor will use:

Instructor will use PowerPoint presentations, board work, educational videos, classroom discussions, and group work to explain course content.

Instructor will use cast material to simulate forensic situations.

Representative Course Assignments

Writing Assignments

- Fill in and short answer exam on the basics of osteology and identifying human remains.
- Essays that explore the ethical considerations of forensic anthropology.
- Essays that explore the various techniques used in determining sex, age, and ancestry from human skeletal remains.
- Summaries of guest lectures, films, or other class projects related to the methodology of forensic anthropology.

Critical Thinking Assignments

- Critical reviews that consider the ethical implications of forensic anthropology in both ethnic conflict zones and areas where mass disasters have transpired.
- Class discussions on the differences between scientific research and non-scientific beliefs and interpretations.
- Written essay exam to assess student understanding of methodologies to explain human variation, pathology, trauma and the legal process for analyzing and presenting forensic evidence.
- Essays that analyze the scientific foundation and reliability of the techniques commonly applied during the analysis of human remains.

Reading Assignments

- Read assigned chapters from the forensic anthropology textbook.
- Read peer-reviewed scientific journal articles regarding forensic anthropology provided by the instructor and answer questions about the article. An example could be: Read the article "Medico-Legal Investigations of Atrocities Committed During the Solomon Islands Ethnic Tensions" and explain the challenges of investigating ethnic conflict and bringing the perpetrators to justice.

Outside Assignments

Representative Outside Assignments

- Assigned readings and other projects.
- Critical reviews of a forensic anthropology case study, including an evaluation of the techniques used to create a biological profile and determine cause and manner of death.
- Library or Internet research assessing types of forensic evidence and demonstrating an understanding of the legal process.
- Assignments on the identification and categorization of human remains; recognition of markers for different types of pathologies and trauma.

Articulation

Equivalent Courses at 4 year institutions

University	Course ID	Course Title	Units
CSU Northridge	ANTH 262	Forensic Anthropology	3

Comparable Courses within the VCCCD

ANTH V36 - Forensic Anthropology
 CJ V36 - Forensic Anthropology

Equivalent Courses at other CCCs

College	Course ID	Course Title	Units
Cabrillo College	ANTHR 13	Forensic Anthropology	3
Sierra College	ANTH 10	Introduction to Forensic Anthropology	3
College of the Redwoods	ANTH 6	Introduction to Forensic Anthropology	3
Cypress College	ANTH 210C	Introduction to Forensic Anthropology	3

District General Education**A. Natural Sciences****B. Social and Behavioral Sciences****B2. Social and Behavioral Sciences**

Approved

C. Humanities**D. Language and Rationality****E. Health and Physical Education/Kinesiology****F. Ethnic Studies/Gender Studies****Course is CSU transferable**

Yes

CSU Baccalaureate List effective term:

S2011

CSU GE-Breadth**Area A: English Language Communication and Critical Thinking****Area B: Scientific Inquiry and Quantitative Reasoning****B4 Mathematical/Quantitative Reasoning**

Approved

Area C: Arts and Humanities**Area D: Social Sciences****Area E: Lifelong Learning and Self-Development****Area F: Ethnic Studies****CSU Graduation Requirement in U.S. History, Constitution and American Ideals:****UC TCA****UC TCA**

Approved

IGETC

Area 1: English Communication

Area 2A: Mathematical Concepts & Quantitative Reasoning

Area 3: Arts and Humanities

Area 4: Social and Behavioral Sciences

Area 4: Social and Behavioral Sciences

Approved

Area 5: Physical and Biological Sciences

Area 6: Languages Other than English (LOTE)

Textbooks and Lab Manuals

Resource Type

Textbook

Classic Textbook

Yes

Description

Byers, Steven N. *Introduction to Forensic Anthropology*. 5th ed., Routledge, 2017.

Resource Type

Textbook

Classic Textbook

Yes

Description

Tersigni-Tarrant, Maria Teresa A. and Natalie R. Langley, editors. *Forensic Anthropology: A Comprehensive Introduction*. 2nd ed., CRC Press, 2017.

Resource Type

Textbook

Description

Christensen, Angi M., Nicholas V. Passalacqua, and Eric J. Bartelink. *Forensic Anthropology: Current Methods and Practice*. 2nd ed., Academic Press, 2019.

Library Resources

Assignments requiring library resources

Research using the Library's print and online resources.

Sufficient Library Resources exist

Yes

Example of Assignments Requiring Library Resources

Term papers and research using the library's print and online resources on such topics as the methodology of forensic anthropology and the analysis of human remains.

Distance Education Addendum

Definitions

Distance Education Modalities

100% online

Faculty Certifications

Faculty assigned to teach Hybrid or Fully Online sections of this course will receive training in how to satisfy the Federal and state regulations governing regular effective/substantive contact for distance education. The training will include common elements in the district-supported learning management system (LMS), online teaching methods, regular effective/substantive contact, and best practices.

Yes

Faculty assigned to teach Hybrid or Fully Online sections of this course will meet with the EAC Alternate Media Specialist to ensure that the course content meets the required Federal and state accessibility standards for access by students with disabilities. Common areas for discussion include accessibility of PDF files, images, captioning of videos, Power Point presentations, math and scientific notation, and ensuring the use of style mark-up in Word documents.

Yes

Regular Effective/Substantive Contact

100% online Modality:

Method of Instruction	Document typical activities or assignments for each method of instruction
Asynchronous Dialog (e.g., discussion board)	Instructor will post a question or a prompt for students to discuss. Students will also use this prompt to interact with other students.
E-mail	Instructor will email students with announcements about the course or an upcoming event. Students in turn may email the instructor with their questions or concerns.
Face to Face (by student request; cannot be required)	Students will have the option to meet the instructor during face-to-face office hours.
Other DE (e.g., recorded lectures)	Instructor may record the lectures and post them for students to view within a specified time frame to be ready for the accompanying assignments for that module.
Synchronous Dialog (e.g., online chat)	Instructor may be available on a certain day or days of the week within a certain time frame to help students and answer their questions via an online chat.
Telephone	Instructor may provide a phone number for the students where they can leave a voicemail and expect a call back within 24 hours.
Video Conferencing	Instructor may be available on a certain day or days of the week within a certain time frame to help students and answer their questions via live video conferencing.

Primary Minimum Qualification

ANTHROPOLOGY

Review and Approval Dates

Department Chair

03/25/2021

Dean

04/05/2021

Technical Review

04/15/2021

Curriculum Committee

04/20/2021

DTRW-I

MM/DD/YYYY

Curriculum Committee

MM/DD/YYYY

Board

MM/DD/YYYY

CCCCO

MM/DD/YYYY

Control Number

CCC000522827

DOE/accreditation approval date

MM/DD/YYYY