ANG5742: Problems in Forensic Anthropology

Department of Anthropology
College of Sciences, University of Central Florida

COURSE SYLLABUS- Spring 2018

Instructor:	*John J. Schultz, Ph.D.*		
Office:	*Phillips Hall 409T*	*Class Meeting Days:*	*Monday*
Phone:	*407-823-1180*	*Class Meeting Hours:*	*3:00-5:50pm*
E-Mail:	*john.schultz@ucf.edu*	*Class Location:*	*MSB 149*
Office Hours:	*Monday 1:00-3:00pm; or by appointment*		

University Course Catalogue Description

Current issues and topics in forensic anthropology.

Course Objectives

After completing this course students will develop a basic proficiency in the following areas:

- ***History of Forensic Anthropology***
- ***Taphonomy***
  - Understanding the theoretical basis and history of forensic taphonomy
  - Recognizing the different stages of human decomposition
  - Recognizing the environmental factors affecting postmortem change to bone including alterations through both flora and faunal impacts
  - Recognizing and identifying the different stages of heat alteration to bone and the commercial cremation process
  - Establishment of a postmortem interval based on taphonomic changes to bone
- ***Trauma***
  - Understanding basic bone biomechanics
  - *Recognizing Blunt and Gunshot trauma*
  - Evaluating the timing of trauma to bone (is the damage perimortem, or postmortem)
- ***Ethics and Legal Considerations in Forensic Anthropology***

Course Description

This is an advanced forensic anthropology course focusing on both taphonomic alterations to bone and trauma-based patterns of injury and healing (where

applicable). It is expected that each student is proficient in human osteology, including small fragment identification as well as basic laboratory methods of skeletal analysis. This course will increase the student's knowledge of two fundamental areas of forensic casework and will provide the foundation for continuing studies in ANG 6740C Advanced Forensic Anthropology.

Course Prerequisites

Graduate student in the Anthropology MA program and completion of a Human Osteology Class

Required Textbook

Passalacqua NV, Rainwater CW. 2015. Skeletal Trauma Analysis: Case Studies in Context. West Sussex: Wiley Blackwell.

Additional Readings

Refer to course schedule for additional readings

Basis for Final Grade

Your final grade will be based on a total of 400 possible points and will be derived from class participation, leading two class discussions, and writing two papers: one on an approved taphonomic topic of your choice and one on an approved trauma topic of your choice. The requirements for this course are weighted as follows:

Assessment	Points	Percent of Final Grade
Academic Activity Assignment	1	0.25%
Taphonomy		
Presentation	50	12.5%
Paper	100	25%
Trauma		
Presentation	50	12.5%
Paper	100	25%
Class Participation	9	2.25%
Leading Two Class Discussions	30	7.5%
Four Short Case Reports	60	15%

Class Participation (9 points)

This is a graduate level course, and as such it is expected that each student will participate in class each week. You will be expected to have read all of the

required readings and contribute to the class discussion. **Grades will be based on the respectful exchange of thought and ideas and on the contribution's relevance to the weekly topic.**

Leading Class Discussion (30 points)

Each student will be expected to facilitate two class discussions: on one taphonomic topic and one trauma topic. Topics will be selected the first week of class.

Two to three required readings are already chosen for the discussion that provide foundational information for the topics. Your role as the weekly student leader will be select two to three additional pertinent articles as required readings and post the reference information on Canvas at least one week prior to the planned discussion. The articles can be pertinent research and cases studies to supplement the class discussion. It is a good idea to have Dr. Schultz review your selected articles ahead of time to confirm that they are appropriate for the discussion topics.

Short Case Reports (60 points)

You will be required to complete four short case reports, 15 points each, with appropriate case file documentation. Each assigned case will consist of interpreting and describing traumatic injuries to the skeleton. Report details will be discussed in class.

Required Papers and Presentations (150 points each for a total of 300 points)

You will be required to write two fully referenced (AJPA style) literature review papers. Each paper is to be double-spaced with 1" margins, utilizing Time New Roman font and is not to exceed 25 pages (including cover page, literature cited, figures and tables). You may select a topic in each category that interests you. The topic may be the same as your discussion topic, or may be on another topic we cover in class. We will discuss further requirements for the papers in class. In addition, you will be required to present both papers as PPT presentations. We will discuss further requirements for the PPT presentations in class.

Academic Activity Assignment – What I expect to achieve by completing this class.

Starting with the fall 2014 semester, verification of student engagement is required to support UCF's compliance with a federal financial aid regulation that must be followed for all classes. The regulation states that students who receive federal student aid must be academically engaged in each course in which they are enrolled. Without verification of this engagement, students will not receive their student aid. Institutions must now verify that every student enrolled in every course has met this standard. Everyone is required to post a statement, even if you do not require federal aid, which explains the following:

1) Please post what you expect to achieve by completing this class.

All postings must be completed by January 12 (11:59 pm). You will receive one point for completing the assignment. However, you will receive a deduction of 2 points if the posting is not completed by January 12.

Grading Scale The **+/**- system will be used in this class.

A	= 94-100	**C**	= 74-76
A-	= 90-93	**C-**	= 70-73
B+	= 87-89	**D+**	= 67-69
B	= 84-86	**D**	= 64-66
B-	= 80-83	**D-**	= 60-63
C+	= 77-79	**F**	= **<** 60

Course Policies: Grades

Paper Requirements: Due dates for outlines and papers are clearly marked on the schedule. If you must miss a class (see attendance policy below), you may send me your assignment via email BEFORE class begins. No assignments will be accepted after that time. Should you miss a deadline due to a valid emergency, I will require an acceptable written excuse from a physician or written proof of a personal or family crisis such as a death certificate.

Grades of "Incomplete": Incomplete grades are given only in situations where unexpected and DOCUMENTED medical emergencies prevent a student in good standing in the course from completing the remaining work. I am the final authority on whether you qualify for an incomplete. Incomplete work must be finished by the end of the subsequent semester or the "I" will automatically be recorded as an "F" on your transcript.

Final Grades: I do not make individual allowances for final grades. If you are doing poorly in the class make arrangement to speak with me early in the semester so we can discuss ways to improve study and comprehension skills.

Course Policies: Technology and Media

Email: I prefer students to email my UCF account directly when there are questions or when sending assignments. I check my UCF email regularly and you can generally expect a response the day of the email or the next weekday. I may only check email once during the weekend. If you do not receive a response over the weekend, you can expect a response Monday morning.

Laptop Usage: Using a laptop to take notes is a privilege, not a right. You are allowed to use a laptop to take course notes, However, you are not allowed to use the laptop for anything else such as internet surfing, chatting, or checking your email during class time.

Course Policies: Student Expectations

Attendance Policy: Attendance is mandatory and will be tracked weekly. I realize that sometimes life gets in the way of classes and you many need to miss a class. However, you should still be prepared for class in advance. If it becomes necessary for you to miss a class, you will be given the opportunity to make up the work by turning in a typed 5 page fully-referenced (AJPA style) paper at the next class that summarized the readings that we discussed in the class period that you missed. There will be a penalty of 15 points deducted from your total class points if you do not complete the assignment. Please contact me before class if you will not be present for a particular class session. In addition to attending each class meeting, class participation is very important in graduate school. Most of our courses follow a seminar format. Participation refers to your ability to ask questions and/or direct comments to stimulate a class discussion. This does not mean students will be graded on how much they speak, but rather on how well they are prepared and involved in the class.

Professionalism Policy: Per university policy and classroom etiquette: mobile phones, iPods, etc. must be silenced during all classroom discussions. Also, texting is not appropriate during class time. Those not heeding this rule will be asked to leave the classroom so as to not disrupt the learning environment if this becomes a problem. Please arrive on time for all class meetings. Students who habitually disturb the class by talking, arriving late, etc., and have been warned may suffer a 5% reduction in their final class grade.

Academic Conduct Policy: Academic dishonesty in any form will not be tolerated. If you are uncertain as to what constitutes academic dishonesty, please consult The Golden Rule, the University of Central Florida's Student Handbook (http://www.goldenrule.sdes.ucf.edu) for further details. As in all University courses, The Golden Rule "Rules of Conduct" will be applied. Violation of these rules will result in a record of the infraction being placed in your file and the work in question will receive a grade of "zero" AT A MINIMUM. At the instructor's discretion, you may also receive a failing grade for the course. Confirmation of such incidents can also result in expulsion form the University.

University Writing Center: The University Writing Center (UWC) is a free resource for UCF undergraduates and graduates. At the UWC, a trained writing consultant will work individually with you on anything you've written (in or out of class), at any point in the writing process from brainstorming to editing. Appointments are recommended, but not required. For more information, or to make an appointment, visit the UWC website at http://www.uwc.ucf.edu, stop by MOD 608, or call 407-823-2197.

Assessability Access: The University of Central Florida is committed to providing reasonable accommodations for all persons with disabilities. This syllabus is available in alternate formats upon request. Students with disabilities who need accommodations in this course must contact the professor at the beginning of the semester to discuss needed accommodations. No accommodations will be provided until the student has met with the professor to request accommodations. Students who need

accommodations must be registered with Student Disability Services before requesting accommodation from the professor. To contact Student Disability Services:

Student Disability Services
Student Resource Center, Room 132
Phone 407-823-2371

Course Schedule				
Week	**Date**	**Topic**	**Trauma Case**	**Facilitator**
1	*Jan 8th*	Class Introduction and Writing Short Reports		N/A
2	Jan 15th	**Martin Luther King Jr. Day**		*No class*
3	Jan 22nd	Introduction to Forensic Anthropology; Evaluating Timing of Injury		Dr. Schultz & 1 Student
4	Jan 29th	Trauma: Gunshot Wounds and Blunt Force Trauma		2 Students
5	Feb 5th	Sharp Force Trauma and Saw Wounds		1 Student
6	Feb 12th	Trauma Case studies	Case 1	2 Students
7	Feb 19th	Trauma Presentations		N/A
8	Feb 26th	Time Since Death and Decomposition		1 Student
9	Mar 5th	The Effects of Burial Environment and Subaerial Weathering	Case 2	1 Student
10	Mar 12th	**Spring Break**		*No Class*
11	Mar 19th	Forensic Significance Based on Taphonomic Modifications and Bone Staining		1 Student
12	Mar 26th	Animal Damage and Dispersal	Case 3	1 Student
13	Apr 2nd	Thermal Modifications and Cremations		1 Student
14	Apr 9th	Miscellaneous Taphonomy Research		1 Students
15	April 16th	Ethics and Legal Considerations	Case 4	Dr. Schultz
16	Apr 23rd	Class wrap-up		N/A
17	Apr 30th	Taphonomy Presentations		N/A

TTY/TDD only phone 407-823-2116

Important UCF Deadlines for Spring 2018

January 11, 2018 (11:59 PM)	Drop/Swap
January 12, 2018 (11:59 PM)	Add
March 21, 2018 (11:59 PM)	Grade Forgiveness
March 21, 2018 (11:59 PM)	Withdrawal