# Forensic Anthropology

## ANT 4521 (0W61) • 3 credit hours

Department of Anthropology • College of Sciences • University of Central Florida

**Fall 2020 • 3.0 Credit Hours • Fully Online Due to UCF's Policy on COVID-19**

**Professor Contact**


Professor: Dr. Sandra Wheeler
Office: Howard Phillips Hall, 309F (UCF Main Campus); 407-823-3769
Hours: Fridays 1-3pm in Chat for online office hours and by appointment
Contact: Sandra.Wheeler@ucf.edu or Inbox in Webcourses; please allow 24-48 hours response time on weekdays


**Graduate Teaching Assistants (GTA) Contact**

GTAs: Kat Lane and Caroline Jasiak

Contact: TBA in Chat for online office hours; Inbox and on Discussion Board in Webcourses

**University Catalogue Description**

The study of human skeletal remains in relation to a legal context. Prerequisite(s): One of the following; ANT 2511, CHS 3501, any 4000 level Criminal Justice class, or C.I.

**Course Description**

This course will emphasize the role of forensic anthropology within broader forensic investigations of death. Forensic anthropologists study the human skeleton, and forensic anthropology is an applied subfield of biological anthropology that uses methods developed in skeletal biology and forensic science towards issues of medicolegal significance. You will be presented with an overview of the techniques that forensic anthropologists use in the laboratory for human identification and trauma analysis. Proficiency in forensic anthropology techniques will not be taught.

We will explore these various topics through lectures, assigned readings, class discussions and films. Your final grade will be assessed through your performance on assignments and exams. The syllabus may be modified as determined by your professor. All changes will be announced in class or on Webcourses.

**Please note: this course will be delivered asynchronously, meaning you will work through the materials at your own pace with fixed due dates for assignments, quizzes and exams. You will not need to log on to Webourses to meet with me and the class at a scheduled time, all work will be completed on your own with respect to set due dates.**

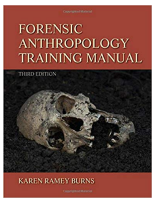
**Learning Objectives**

By the end of this course you will:

- Explain how forensic anthropology grew as a discipline.
- Understand the basic skeletal methods used by forensic anthropologists.
- Evaluate the role of forensic anthropology within broader forensic investigations of death.
- Use case studies to learn how data produced with these scientific techniques can address major research questions in forensic anthropology.

**Required Text (pssst… there isn't one!)**

**There are NO REQUIRED TEXTS for this course.** I will provide you required readings electronically on Webcourses. Woo! However, if you are interested in this subject, I recommend the *Forensic Anthropology Training Manual* 3rd Edition, by Karen Ramey Burns but it is **not required** for this course.




***Forensic Anthropology Training Manual***
Author: Karen Ramey Burns
Publisher: Routledge
Year: 2013
ISBN: 978- 0205022595 (paperback)

**Recommended Resources**

**Professional Organizations**

American Association of Forensic Science: https://www.aafs.org/
American Board of Forensic Anthropology: http://theabfa.org/
Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA): https://www.dpaa.mil/
Orange County Medical Examiner's Office:
https://www.orangecountyfl.net/FamiliesHealthSocialSvcs/MedicalExaminer/MedicalExaminersOffice.aspx -.XR0IuHt7nUI
Indiana State Coroners Training Board: https://www.in.gov/ctb/
FLorida UnIdentified Decedents DataBase (FLUIDDB): http://fluiddb.com/

**Forensic Anthropology Research Facilities**

Applied Anatomical Research Center (AARC)-Sam Houston State University:
https://www.shsu.edu/centers/aarc/
Forensic Anthropology Center (FAC)-University of Tennessee: https://fac.utk.edu/
Forensic Anthropology Research Facility (FARF)-Texas State University San Marcos:
https://www.txstate.edu/anthropology/facts/labs/farf.html
Forensic Investigation Research Station (FIRS)-Colorado Mesa University:
https://www.coloradomesa.edu/forensic-investigation-research-station/index.html
Forensic Osteology Reseach Center (FOREST)-Western Carolina University:
https://www.wcu.edu/learn/departments-schools-colleges/cas/social-sciences/anthsoc/foranth/forensic-anthro-facilities.aspx
Forensic Research Outdoor Station (FROST)-Northern Michigan University: https://www.nmu.edu/frost/home
The Secure Site for Research in Thanatology (SSRT)-Université du Québec à Trois-Rivières:
https://nationalpost.com/news/canada/canadas-first-body-farm-to-open-in-quebec-and-people-are-already-signing-up-to-be-donors
University of South Florida/IFAAS FORT (Facility for Outdoor Research & Training): http://forensics.usf.edu/

**Grading Scale (+/- letter grades)**

| | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| A | 94-100% | B+ | 87-89% | C+ | 77-79% | D | 60-69% |
| A- | 90-93% | B | 84-86% | C | 70-76% | F | >59% |
| | | B- | 80-83% | | | | |

**Important Things**

This course is a requirement for some Criminal Justice certificates. Many programs require you to earn a "C" or better for this course to count towards your degree! Lucky for you, I don't assign C-!

**Student Evaluation**

Your final grade for the course is **weighted** and is based on your performance on the following:

| Assignment | Percent | Description |
|---|---|---|
| Case Study Responses | 20% | Complete 4 of 6 posted responses to case studies in forensic anthropology |
| Investigate This! | 10% | Complete 4 of 6 written exercises investigating various topics in forensic anthropology |
| Quizzes | 10% | Complete 2 **online** quizzes; you will not be able to make up these quizzes if you miss class |
| Exams | 60% | Complete 3 **online** exams made up of true/false, multiple choice, fill-in-the-blank, short answer questions |

**Attendance:** This course has been modified to be a **fully online course** due to changes instated by UCF in response to COVID-19. As such you are expected to **log in every weekday** to complete the assigned online activities.

**Case Study Responses:** I will post a number of articles for you to read and provide you with questions to answer. Although there are 6 posted Case Studies, you are only required to turn in **4** of these. You may choose any **4** you like, but you **must turn in each online by their respective due dates**. If you skip a Case Study Response, you will **receive a zero** for that assignment. Webcourses Gradebook will automatically **drop the lowest two scores** when calculating your final Case Study Response grade. All responses will be run through TurnItIn.com, so make sure you **turn in your own work in your own words**.

**Investigate This!:** Choose 4 of 6 posted written exercises relating to investigating topics in forensic anthropology. Although there are 6 posted Investigate This assignments, you are only required to turn in **4** of these. You may choose any **4** you like, but you **must turn in each online by their respective due dates**. If you skip an Investigate This! assignment, you will **receive a zero** for that assignment. The Grade book will automatically **drop the lowest two scores** when calculating your final 'Investigate This' grade. These all have different due dates so keep track (also see section on make-up work)!

**Quizzes:** There will be **2 online quizzes** made up of multiple choice, true/false, and fill-in-the-blank questions. There are no make ups for these quizzes so make sure you are in class on those days (also see section on make-up work)!

**Exams:** There are **3 online exams** in this course. Exams are made up of true/false, multiple choice, short answer and fill-in-the blank questions and are based on all the material presented in class and online. There will be **no make-ups** for exams without proper documentation (this means a doctor's note, proof of accident, family emergency, etc.; also see section on make-up work). **The Final Exam (Exam 3) is scheduled during the final week of classes.**

**What About Make-Up Work?**

Students who **represent the university in an authorized event or activity** (for example, student-athletes) and who are unable to meet a course deadline due to a conflict with that event must provide the instructor with documentation in advance to arrange a make-up. No penalty will be applied.

Make-up assignments, quizzes or exams may be given in extreme circumstances such as the birth/arrival of a new baby (hey, there have been several little Knights born!), bereavement, catastrophe, hurricanes, pan-Internet virus, etc. Please note that the make-up quiz/exam/assignment may be different than the original quiz/exam/assignment. Out-of-town vacations, trips, mild colds, computer malfunctions, power outages, World War Z, and other similar circumstances **do not** qualify as extreme. If you experience an **exceptional family emergency** or other circumstance that affects your coursework and/or causes you to miss multiple assignments or exams, let me know as soon as possible **and** contact **Student Care Services:** https://scs.sdes.ucf.edu/services/

It is your responsibility to contact me. I can't help you unless I know there is a problem.

In exceptional circumstances, an incomplete grade may be given per University policies. Individual arrangements must be made with your professor for the completion of the course requirements, but in no case will the date set extend beyond the end of the following semester. Students who experience chronic medical or personal problems that prevent them from logging in regularly and participating are encouraged to review policies relating to securing a leave of absence from their university studies.

**Who Should Take This Online Course?**
Online learning is not for everyone; some people may not be able to manage learning in a course that does not fully meet face-to-face. Online learning requires planning and disciplined self-pacing to be successful in this learning environment. You should definitely check out the UCF Knights Online resource to find out how to be a successful online student! I highly recommend treating this course like a regular face-to-face lecture course, as this will help in keeping up with the posted modules each week. As such, **module content, quizzes and exams are paced like a regular face-to-face course with fixed due dates throughout the semester.** Also, as long as you have an internet connection, it won't matter if there is a zombie apocalypse, you will still be able to do your work!

If you are a **UCF Online student,** please consult the UCF Online Student Guidelines for more information about your access to non-academic services.

**What is the Weekly Schedule?**
The following table provides the **weekly cycle of work that you are expected to complete** for this class. The due dates are firm (unless otherwise noted) but this is just a suggestion how to allocate your time reading and completing assignments throughout the week:

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| • Exams (3) close by 11:59pm<br>• Quizzes due by 11:59pm<br>• Assignments due by 11:59pm | • Start review of module pages | • Read required readings | • Watch any video or media in modules<br>• Review reading and notes | • Review posted lectures | • Quizzes and exams open at 8am<br>• Pop in during online office hours 1-3pm | • Dance |

**UCF Mobile App!!**
The UCF Webcourses mobile app has been greatly improved for your use. Having said that, I would not recommend using the Mobile App to complete any written work if possible and I would definitely not use it to take any exam! BUT, it is great for checking on grades and announcements, and even listening to your audio lectures! You should be logging into your 'W' courses every weekday, and you should preferably be completing your assignments and exams on a laptop or desktop whenever possible!

**Course Requirements**
This course begins on **MONDAY AUG 24** and ends on **FRIDAY AUG 28**. The **Final Exam (Exam 3)** is scheduled during Final's Week. Over the course of this semester, you will be expected to:

- Listen to all audio lectures and complete online content
- Read and watch all posted materials
- Complete all assignments and exams by their due dates
- Log into Webcourses regularly-I can see can see when you log in and how long you look at your Webcourses class

Modules will open regularly and all quizzes, assignments, and exams are due on specific dates throughout the course (see schedule below). This is to provide you with a regularly paced online work environment. All quizzes, exams and assignments **will be submitted online.** No paper! Save the trees!
**Important Things**

First and foremost, read this syllabus. This document is your guide so that you can keep up with the scheduled readings, assignments and exams. There are many due dates for the case study responses and quizzes, so you have to stay on top of this. Second, if you email me or your TA using your Knights account, include **ANT 4521 or Forensic Anthropology** in the subject heading and don't forget to include your full name so we know who you are. Otherwise, use the Inbox function in Webcourses to contact us. Lastly, read the syllabus, it really is like your best friend for this course.

This course is supplemented with materials posted on Webcourses, so it is important to have reliable access to the Internet. Lucky for you, there are computers available for your use all over campus.

**Getting Started Information:** We are required to document students' academic activity at the beginning of each course. In order to document that you began this course, **YOU MUST TAKE THE GETTING STARTED QUIZ BY FRIDAY!** Failure to do so will result in a delay in the disbursement of your financial aid. And no one wants that.

**Required Statements Regarding COVID-19**

**University-Wide Face Covering Policy for Common Spaces and Face-to-Face Classes**

To protect members of our community, everyone is required to wear a facial covering inside all common spaces including classrooms (https://policies.ucf.edu/documents/PolicyEmergencyCOVIDReturnPolicy.pdf. Students who choose not to wear facial coverings will be asked to leave the classroom by the instructor. If they refuse to leave the classroom or put on a facial covering, they may be considered disruptive (please see the Golden Rule for student behavior expectations). Faculty have the right to cancel class if the safety and well-being of class members are in jeopardy. Students will be responsible for the material that would have been covered in class as provided by the instructor.

**Notifications in Case of Changes to Course Modality**

Depending on the course of the pandemic during the semester, the university may make changes to the way classes are offered. If that happens, please look for announcements or messages in Webcourses@UCF or Knights email about changes specific to this course.

**COVID-19 and Illness Notification**

Students who believe they may have a COVID-19 diagnosis should contact UCF Student Health Services (407-823-2509) so proper contact tracing procedures can take place.

Students should not come to campus if they are ill, are experiencing any symptoms of COVID-19, have tested positive for COVID, or if anyone living in their residence has tested positive or is sick with COVID-19 symptoms. CDC guidance for COVID-19 symptoms is located here: (https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html)

Students should contact their instructor(s) as soon as possible if they miss class for any illness reason to discuss reasonable adjustments that might need to be made. When possible, students should contact their instructor(s) before missing class.

**In Case of Faculty Illness**

If the instructor falls ill during the semester, there may be changes to this course, including having a backup instructor take over the course. Please look for announcements or mail in Webcourses@UCF or Knights email for any alterations to this course.

**Course Accessibility and Disability COVID-19 Supplemental Statement**

Accommodations may need to be added or adjusted should this course shift from an on-campus to a remote format. Students with disabilities should speak with their instructor and should contact sas@ucf.edu to discuss specific accommodations for this or other courses.

**Academic Responsibility and Integrity**

Time management, problem solving, responsibility and personal accountability are among the most important things you can learn in college. To be successful in this class (and in college in general), you will need to check Webcourses regularly (and often!), keep up with assigned readings and make every effort to complete assignments, quizzes and exams on time and in a professional manner!

Students should familiarize themselves with UCF's Rules of Conduct. According to Section 1, "Academic Misconduct," students are prohibited from engaging in:

- *Unauthorized assistance*: Using or attempting to use unauthorized materials, information or study aids in any academic exercise unless specifically authorized by the instructor of record. The unauthorized possession of examination or course-related material also constitutes cheating.
- *Communication to another through written, visual, electronic, or oral means*: The presentation of material which has not been studied or learned, but rather was obtained through someone else's efforts and used as part of an examination, course assignment, or project.
- *Commercial Use of Academic Material*: Selling of course material to another person, student, and/or uploading course material to a third-party vendor without authorization or without the express written permission of the university and the instructor. Course materials include but are not limited to class notes, Instructor's PowerPoints, course syllabi, tests, quizzes, labs, instruction sheets, homework, study guides, handouts, etc.
- *Falsifying or misrepresenting* the student's own academic work.
- *Plagiarism*: Using or appropriating another's work without any indication of the source, thereby attempting to convey the impression that such work is the student's own.
- *Multiple Submissions*: Submitting the same academic work for credit more than once without the express written permission of the instructor.
- *Helping another violate* academic behavior standards.

For more information about Academic Integrity, students may consult The Center for Academic Integrity.

For more information about plagiarism and misuse of sources, see "Defining and Avoiding Plagiarism: The WPA Statement on Best Practices".

**Academic Integrity:** Plagiarism and/or cheating of any kind on an examination, quiz, or assignment will result at least in an "F" for that assignment (and may, depending on the severity of the case, lead to an "F" or "Z" for the entire course). It may also be subject to appropriate referral to the UCF Office of Student Conduct for further action. See UCF Golden Rule and the UCF Rules of Conduct for more information. I will assume that you will adhere to the academic creed of this University and will maintain the highest standards of academic integrity. In other words, **don't cheat** by giving answers to others or taking them from anyone else. **If you let your friend copy your assignment or exam answers, that is plagiarism also and you will both be subject to a Z grade.** Keep this in mind before you decide to "help out" a friend. Also, please keep in mind while the Internet is an excellent source of *quick* information, it is not necessarily an excellent source of *valid* information and may also be a source of plagiarism in its own right. Absolutely do not copy and paste from the Internet on any assignment or exam. This will be bad for you. And anyhow, I have Google too so I'll know.

***I will also adhere to the highest standards of academic integrity, so please do not ask me to change or expect me to change your grade illegitimately or to bend or break rules for one person that will not apply to everyone. This is particularly the case when it comes to final grades.***

**Trolling:** Trolls, don't be one, don't do it. See statement below.

**Respect for diversity and inclusion:** This class will be conducted in a way that respects all aspects of diversity and it is my intent to teach this course so that all students, no matter their **gender identity, sexuality, disability, age, socioeconomic status, immigration status, ethnicity, and culture,** are respected. It is expected that everyone show respect for one another and the diverse issues and topics that will be covered. If you make inappropriate statements or act aggressively toward other students in class, on the Discussion boards, assignments or other areas of the classroom, **you may be removed from the course** and subject to action by the Office of Student Conduct. Also, please let me know if you would like me to use specific **personal gender pronouns** (PGPs) when communicating with you.

**Campus Safety (if you are on campus)**
Emergencies on campus are rare, but if one should arise during class, everyone needs to work together. Students should be aware of their surroundings and familiar with some basic safety and security concepts.

- In case of an emergency, dial 911 for assistance.
- Every UCF classroom contains an emergency procedure guide posted on a wall near the door. Students should make a note of the guide's physical location and review the online version at <http://emergency.ucf.edu/emergency_guide.html>.
- Students should know the evacuation routes from each of their classrooms and have a plan for finding safety in case of an emergency.
- If there is a medical emergency during class, students may need to access a first-aid kit or AED (Automated External Defibrillator). To learn where those are located, see <http://www.ehs.ucf.edu/AEDlocations-UCF> (click on link from menu on left).
- To stay informed about emergency situations, students can sign up to receive UCF text alerts by going to <https://my.ucf.edu> and logging in. Click on "Student Self Service" located on the left side of the screen in the toolbar, scroll down to the blue "Personal Information" heading on the Student Center screen, click on "UCF Alert", fill out the information, including e-mail address, cell phone number, and cell phone provider, click "Apply" to save the changes, and then click "OK."
- Students with special needs related to emergency situations should speak with their instructors outside of class.

**Student Accessibility Services**
The University of Central Florida is committed to providing access and inclusion for all persons with disabilities. Students with disabilities who need access to course content due to course design limitations should contact the professor as soon as possible. Students should also connect with Student Accessibility Services (SAS) <http://sas.sdes.ucf.edu/> (Ferrell Commons 185, sas@ucf.edu, phone 407-823-2371). For students connected with SAS, a Course Accessibility Letter may be created and sent to professors, which informs faculty of potential course access and accommodations that might be necessary and reasonable. Determining reasonable access and accommodations requires consideration of the course design, course learning objectives and the individual academic and course barriers experienced by the student. Further conversation with SAS, faculty and the student may be warranted to ensure an accessible course experience.

**Deployed Active Duty Military Students**
Students who are deployed active duty military and/or National Guard personnel and require accommodation should contact their instructors as soon as possible after the semester begins and/or after they receive notification of deployment to make related arrangements.

**Religious Observances**
Students must notify their instructor in advance if they intend to miss class (if you meet in person) for a religious observance. For more information, see the UCF policy at <http://regulations.ucf.edu/chapter5/documents/5.020ReligiousObservancesFINALJan19.pdf>.

**Copyright**
This course may contain copyright protected materials such as audio or video clips, images, text materials, etc. These items are being used with regard to the Fair Use doctrine in order to enhance the learning environment. Please do not copy, duplicate, download or distribute these items. **The use of these materials is strictly reserved for this online classroom environment and your use only.** All copyright materials are credited to the copyright holder.

There are many fraudulent websites claiming to offer study aids to students but are actually cheat sites. They encourage students to upload course materials, such as test questions, individual assignments, and examples of graded material. Such materials are the intellectual property of instructors, the university, or publishers and may not be distributed without prior authorization (see Copyright statement above). Students who engage in such activity are in violation of academic conduct standards and may face penalties. Also, it's just not cool.

**Third-Party Software and FERPA**

During this course you might have the opportunity to use public online services and/or software applications sometimes called third-party software such as a blog or wiki. While some of these could be required assignments, you need **not** make any personally identifying information on a public site. Do not post or provide any private information about yourself or your classmates. Where appropriate you may use a pseudonym or nickname. Some written assignments posted publicly may require personal reflection/comments, but the assignments will not require you to disclose any personally identity-sensitive information. If you have any concerns about this, please contact your instructor.

**Course Schedule and Required Readings**

Changes to the lecture, assignment schedules and occasionally readings, are not expected but may occur. Your professor reserves the right to make reasonable adjustments to the assignment schedule. Any changes will be announced through Webcourses. Due dates and required readings can be found in the table below.

| Module | Topic and Readings | Due Dates |
|---|---|---|
| **Module 1** | **Introduction to Forensic Anthropology**<br>Read:<br>• A history of forensic anthropology. DH Ubelaker.<br>• Cadaver use at the University of Tennessee's Anthropological Research Facility. Shirley et al.<br>• Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command's Central Identification Laboratory. Holland et al. | **Getting Started Quiz due AUG 28**<br>**Investigate This 1! SEP 6**<br>**Case Study 1 due SEP 6** |
| **Module 2** | **Osteology and Terminology**<br>Read:<br>• Collecting skeletal remains. Dupras et al.<br>• Review chapters 2-11 in optional text<br>• Use class notes | **Quiz 1 due SEP 13** |
| **Module 3** | **Non-Forensic Skeletal Remains**<br>Read:<br>• Determining the forensic significance of human remains. JJ Schultz.<br>• A comparative taphonomic analysis of 24 trophy skulls from modern forensic cases. Yucha et al.<br>• Review chapters 12, 16 in optional text | **Investigate This 2! SEP 20**<br>**Case Study 2 due SEP 20** |
| **Exam 1 (Available Online at 8am on FRIDAY SEP 25 and closes at 11:59pm EST on SUNDAY SEP 27)** | | |
| **Module 4** | **Organizations & Death Investigation Systems**<br>Read:<br>• The forensic anthropology laboratory in a medical examiner setting. Austin and Fulginiti.<br>• Evidentiary standards for forensic anthropology. Christensen and Crowder<br>• Review relevant pages in chapter 14 in optional text | |
| **Module 5** | **Initial Examination & Forensic Anthropology Reports**<br>Read:<br>• The working forensic anthropology laboratory. Walsh-Haney et al.<br>• Posted articles in Webcourses | **Investigate This 3! OCT 4**<br>**Case Study 3 due OCT 4** |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| | • Review relevant pages in chapters 3, 8, 13, 14 in optional text | |
| **Module 6** | **Developing a Biological Profile**<br>Read:<br>• Posted articles in Webcourses<br>• Review relevant pages in chapters 3, 4, 8, 13, 14 in optional text | |
| **Exam 2 (Available Online at 8am on FRIDAY OCT 30 and closes at 11:59pm EST on SUNDAY NOV 1)** | | |
| **Module 7** | **Trauma**<br>Read:<br>• Posted articles in Webcourses<br>• Review relevant pages in chapter 13 in optional text | **Investigate This 4! OCT 25**<br>**Case Study 4 due OCT 25**<br>**Quiz 2 due NOV 15** |
| **Module 8** | **Personal Identification**<br>Read:<br>• Posted articles in Webcourses<br>• Review relevant pages in chapter 13 in optional text | **Investigate This 5! NOV 15**<br>**Case Study 5 due NOV 15** |
| **Module 9** | **Forensic Taphonomy**<br>Read:<br>• Posted articles in Webcourses | **Investigate This 6! DEC 6**<br>**Case Study 6 due DEC 6** |
| **Module 10** | **Cremations & Memorialization**<br>Read:<br>• Posted articles in Webcourses | |
| **Exam 3 (Available Online at 8am on MONDAY DEC 7 and closes at 11:59pm EST on FRIDAY DEC 11)** | | |

*Schedule and readings subject to change as needed by your instructor. I will announce any changes to the syllabus on Webcourses.