Forensic Anthropology

ANT 4521 • 3 credit hours

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

ANT4521 (0M01) • Prof. Katherine Lane • 3.0 Credit Hours
Fall 2022 • Tuesdays 3-4:20pm in CB2 106 and online!

Professor Contact

Professor:	Prof. Katherine Lane, MA
Office:	Howard Phillips Hall (UCF Main campus)
Office hours:	Tuesdays 12-1:30pm in TBD and by private appointment
Contact:	Katherine.Lane@ucf.edu or Inbox in Webcourses; please allow 24-48 hour response time on weekdays

For a full list of readings and due dates by module click here for the Course Schedule snapshot. For the most up-to-date information on due dates, check the Course Summary at the end.

Syllabus Quick Links

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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.

NOTE: Images of human and animal remains, both skeletonized and in varying states of decomposition, are shown throughout the lectures to provide context or examples for the course topics.

We will explore these various topics through lectures, assigned readings, written exercises, 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 on Webcourses.

This course will be delivered as a mixed mode or hybrid course, meaning we will meet in person on campus on Tuesday afternoons and all other content is posted on Webcourses. All assignments, quizzes, and exams are completed online.

Please wear masks in this class for the protection of yourselves and those around you who may be at higher risk from COVID complications.

Anthropology majors! This course counts as a Restricted Elective towards the major requirements. This course is also required for the Crime Scene Investigation Certificate!

Learning Objectives

By the end of this course you will be able to:

- 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... it's free!)

Forensic Anthropology: Current Methods and Practice, 2019, by Christensen et al.

This book is available FOR FREE through the UCF Library. You will need to log in with your NID and password to access the pdf of the chapters: https://www.sciencedirect.com/book/9780128157343/forensic-anthropology

I will provide you with additional readings electronically on Webcourses. Woo!

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.

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 (in North America)
Applied Anatomical Research Center (AARC)-Sam Houston State University: https://www.shsu.edu/centers/aarc/
Complex for Forensic Anthropology Research (CFAR)-Southern Illinois University, Carbondale: https://cola.siu.edu/anthro/cfar/
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 Research 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+
A-	90-93%	B	84-86%	C	70-76%	D
		B-	80-83%			F

Important Things About Your Grade!

This course is a requirement for some Criminal Justice-oriented 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	15%	Complete 4 of 6 posted responses to case studies in forensic anthropology
Investigate This!	15%	Complete 4 of 6 exercises applying various methods in forensic anthropology
Quizzes	10%	Complete 2 quizzes
Exams	60%	Complete 3 exams made up of true/false, multiple choice, fill-in-the-blank, short answer questions. ProctorHub enabled.

Attendance: This is a **mixed-mode course!** As such you are expected to attend class on the assigned days and **log in regularly each week** to complete the assigned online activities.

Case Study Responses: I will post a number of articles for you to read and 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; one is a human osteology quiz and the other is a skeletal trauma quiz. There are no make-ups for these quizzes so make sure you take them during their assigned times (also see the 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 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 the section on make-up work). **The Final Exam (Exam 3) is scheduled during the final exam period. NOTE: ProctorHub is enabled.**

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, global pandemics (!!), 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.

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 • Quizzes due by 11:59pm • Assignments due by 11:59pm	• Start review of module pages	• Read required readings	• Watch any video or media in modules • Review notes and readings	• Review posted lectures	• Quizzes and exams open at 8am	• 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 courses every weekday, and you should preferably be completing your assignments and exams on a laptop or desktop whenever possible!

Course Requirements

Over the course of this semester, you will be expected to:

- Attend class
- 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 Wecbourses regularly--I 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 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.

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.

Statements Regarding COVID-19

UCF expects that all members of our campus community who are able to do so get vaccinated, and we expect all members of our campus community to wear masks indoors, in line with the latest CDC guidelines. Masks are required in approved clinical or health care settings.

I recognize and understand the difficult times we are all in. The COVID-19 pandemic impacts us all in many ways, including physically, mentally, emotionally, financially, academically, and professionally. I will work with you on challenges you may be encountering and to provide support to help you succeed.

Notifications in Case of Changes to Course Modality

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

COVID-19 and Illness Notification

Students who believe they may have been exposed to COVID-19 or who test positive must 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 or have tested positive for COVID-19.

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

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. Check here to find out how to set your PGPs: https://community.canvaslms.com/t5/Student-Guide/How-do-I-select-personal-pronouns-in-my-user-account-as-a/ta-p/456

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 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 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 Lecture and Assignment Schedule

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