

## Anthropology 107 Syllabus

Modesto Junior College

Section 5883; Monday/Wednesday 11:10 am – 12:35 pm, CAT 201

### Instructor Contact Information: Susan Kerr, Ph.D.

Office: Center for Advanced Technologies 205

Office Hours: M 1-3 pm; Th 8:30-9:30 and 1-3 pm, or by appointment

Phone: 575-6107

Email: [kerrs@mjc.edu](mailto:kerrs@mjc.edu)

Web Page Address: [www.kerrs.faculty.mjc.edu](http://www.kerrs.faculty.mjc.edu) (click on link to “Classes I Teach,” then Anthropology 107)

Canvas Shell: Our course has a Canvas shell that you are added to automatically. We will use this for posting grades, turning in some assignments, and communication. Please access your shell as discussed in Week 1 lecture.

### Course Objectives and Student Learning Outcomes

This course will examine the science of solving crimes with anthropological data, especially that from human skeletal remains. Basic human skeletal anatomy will be taught in order to set the stage for examining details of criminal investigations. Methods of determination of sex, age, population, cause of death, and the potential of individual identification will be discussed and evaluated. Case studies will be presented, including the identification of the family of Russian Czar Nicholas and Czarina Alexandra, Butch and Sundance, and Argentinean “lost ones”, and current local cases as applicable. Additionally, the course will explore the relationship between anthropologists and members of the criminal justice system. This course is transferable to CSU campuses.

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

1. Describe the basic concepts, methods of inquiry, and the theory of biological adaptation;
2. Identify significant data and models that contribute to our knowledge of skeletonized human remains.
3. Use anthropological perspectives to describe and explain contemporary issues.

**Required Course Textbooks** (These are available at the bookstore...if you cannot guarantee FAST shipping, I do not recommend going online for your books...you will need to read Ch. 1 in Week 1).

1. *The Human Bone Manual* by T. D. White and P. A. Folkens (You will need to bring this book to class each time!)
2. *Hard Evidence: Case Studies in Forensic Anthropology* by D.W. Steadman. 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition, 2009. (If you wish to use the copy at the reserve desk in the library, you may, but you will need to bring copies of articles to class for in-class projects.)

**Other Sourcebooks** (not required, but great references!)

1. *Introduction to Forensic Anthropology* by S. N. Byers, Third Edition (the classic hardcover on forensic anthropology...pricey but good)
2. There are also reference books in Forensic Anthropology at the MJC Library AND a human skeleton for study purposes!

**Required** supplies for this course (Have these by the second class meeting, and bring them to class every time!):

- 3-ring binder (to keep class work/notes in—we refer back to previous work a lot in this class)
- Calculator (simple models work just great)

### Class Participation/Attendance/Make-ups

**Class participation** is integral to the learning process in this course—your effort in the course is directly related to your grade. There are times when we will work in groups to observe skeletal materials, but you are always individually responsible for the material (i.e., you work alone on exams, so make sure YOU know the material). I can guarantee that the amount of time you spend actually picking up and looking at the bones will greatly increase your knowledge and your success. **Attendance** will allow you to succeed since you will be here for all class participation sections. If you miss one section, I cannot set up the demonstration again in an on-demand situation.

Please be prepared to take notes on all materials presented and announcements made in class. Exam questions will be drawn from lecture, in-class project materials, videos, and reading materials. Because exams have large portions that are hands-on, there can be no makeup on the hands-on portions of the exams. If you have an emergency and must miss an exam, contact me via email or phone that day (unless you have written documentation of your inability to contact me). The written portion may be made up, though accommodations will be determined on a case-by-case basis.

### **Drop Policy**

Once the first two weeks of class are completed, you are in the class officially and I expect that you will finish and pass! I want you to succeed! This is NOT a simple class, however, and you need to stay on top of your work. If you feel overwhelmed, the first thing to do is contact me! I am here to help. Do not just drop the class. Let's work together to see how we can increase your chance of success. I have Anthropology tutors available, and you can come visit me during office hours to talk about topics that may be unclear to you. Most importantly, do not JUST drop without talking to me first! If, after our discussion you still need to drop, you may complete the process through the MJC registration system.

\*\*\*\*If you are a qualified student with disability and need accommodation to complete exams or quizzes, please present your written accommodation ASAP. This is essential since we will need to make plans for the hands-on portions of the exams and/or quizzes.\*\*\*\*

### **Quizzes**

There are 3 quizzes on readings and other materials...these are designed to make sure you are keeping up with the bones identification and other course concepts. They will be evenly dispersed throughout the semester. If you fail the FIRST quiz, you will have a private meeting with me to discuss whether this class is the right fit for you.

### **Exams**

There are 3 exams—2 during the course of the semester and a final. Exams will include multiple choice, visual identification of bones or other materials, and essays. Exams will cover everything presented in class and assigned materials (both theoretical and application-based concepts). The final exam is in two parts, a take home essay and an identification section in class (see below for details). You must take the final to pass the class.

### **In-Class Exercises**

I will intersperse lecture with hands-on activities using the human skeletal remains or other materials throughout the course. There will be some kind of hands-on activity almost every week, most of which will be completed within the class period. These in-class exercises will count for approximately 1/3 of your grade, so attendance and effort is essential! This is where your independent effort really helps. Be sure to make sure that you understand the project details—talk to other students and share ideas! Do not share final answers.

### **Forensic Anthropology Project (Take-Home Final Essay—100 points)**

Here is where you get to be creative! Using all of the knowledge you acquire during class, your final essay will be a forensic case you create using skeletal remains and other materials that I give you for the project. You will describe the hypothetical remains that have been found, and then show how these remains would best be collected and analyzed.

For example, if I were writing the report, I might state that I found the remains of a human cranium in the basement of a home. I would need to describe the discovery, excavation, and preservation process. After collection of the remains, I would describe what bones were found (name, describe in detail which features are preserved). This allows description of how one might determine the demographic and health status of the individual(s). Essentially, this essay will allow you to show the entire process of a forensic case from start to finish, using your own data. Drafts will be due as we progress through the course, and the hard copy of the FINAL version will be due when you arrive for the final exam. Soft copies of text will be turned in through Turnitin.com.

### **Final Exam**

In addition to the final essay, you will have a short fill-in final identifying bones, etc. This will be worth 50 points, to make up the total of 150 points for the Final Exam as listed below. The identification portion of the exam is primarily review of bones, features and methods (measuring bones, etc.), rather than a conceptual exam (the take home essay is for that!).

**Grading Policy**

Your grade will be determined on the basis of your performance on exams, quizzes and in-class work. Please note that independent work (quizzes and exams) accounts for nearly 70% of your grade in this class. The breakdown is as follows:

Quizzes (20 points each)	60
In-Class Exercises (20 points each)	200
Exams (100 points each)	200
Final Exam (150 points)	150
<b>Total Points Possible</b>	<b>610</b>

Letter grades for the class will be assigned based on the following breakdown:

549-610	A (outstanding)
488-548	B (very good)
427-487	C (average)
366-426	D (below adequate)
below 366	F (not passing)

**Academic Conduct**

You are expected to abide by the rules of academic conduct in this classroom. Please see the current Class Schedule for the complete policy. Specifically, plagiarism, cheating, or other types of academic misconduct are totally unacceptable! Copying the work of others is a particular problem, and I will be very strict on this issue. If you are discovered copying material from ANYWHERE, you will receive a ZERO on that assignment, and could potentially receive an "F" in the course or face institution-wide consequences such as expulsion or being placed on academic probation. As scholars, you are expected to understand the concepts of plagiarism and other forms of misconduct, so no excuse of ignorance is acceptable.

In addition, arriving late and talking to friends during class is distracting and rude to other students and me; if you do this, you will be asked to leave. On a technical note—please TURN OFF ALL ELECTRONIC DEVICES while in class. If they are in use (other than a laptop for basic note-taking, not internet surfing, etc.), or you are distracted by them in any way, they will be confiscated until the end of class. In this class there is seemingly time for chatting and phone use as we complete projects, but this is NOT the case...while in class you should be working on class projects...if you are not, you are probably not learning what you need to.

Last, in a class situation where you work together to complete projects, you will encounter students that you get along with, and some you do not. If any situation arises where there is incompatibility, even in a group that has been working together for weeks, TELL ME! I can facilitate a rearrangement if needed. In the same vein, you are each expected to maintain a proper and respectful attitude to other students in this class.

Finally, we will be working with some REAL HUMAN BONES and other specimens in this lab. They are fragile! They used to be living people! Please learn from them but treat them with the utmost respect.

**Course Schedule**

*Note: The schedules and procedures in this syllabus are subject to change in the event of extenuating circumstances.*

<b>Week</b>	<b>Weekly Topics</b>	<b>Reading Assignments</b>
1 (8/28 & 8/30)	Introduction to Anthropology and Forensic Anthropology	White and Folkens: Chapter 1 Steadman: Chapter 1 (Marty Miller Case— read for basic ideas of a forensic case)
2 (9/6)	<b>**Holiday on Monday**</b> Introduction to Bone; History of Forensic Anthropology <b>Investigation:</b> History of Forensic Anthropology	White and Folkens: Chapter 4 Burns Chapter (I will give you this as a handout)
3 (9/11 & 9/13)	The Human Skeleton Overview Osteology I: Cranium and Mandible <b>**QUIZ 1**</b>	White and Folkens: Chapter 6 (orientation terms) and Chapter 7
4 (9/18 & 9/20)	Osteology II: Shoulder Girdle, Thorax, Vertebral Column and Hyoid <b>Investigation:</b> The Herring Case	White and Folkens: Chapters 9-11 Steadman: Chapter 3 (Herring Case)
5 (9/25 & 9/27)	Osteology III: The Arm and Hand; DNA Analysis from Skeletal Remains <b>Investigation:</b> Extract Your DNA	White and Folkens: Chapters 12-13 and Section 18.7 of Chapter 18
6 (10/2 & 10/4)	Osteology IV: The Leg, Foot, and Os Coxa <b>**EXAM 1**</b>	White and Folkens: Chapters 14-16
7 (10/9 & 10/11)	Odontology (The Teeth) Skeletal Analysis I: Determination of Sex <b>Investigation:</b> Hands and Feet	White and Folkens: Chapter 8 (Odontology); Chapter 19 (Section 19.4)
8 (10/16 & 10/18)	Forensic Methods I: In the Laboratory (Chain of Evidence; Organization; Inventory Process); Determination of Species and MNI <b>Investigation:</b> Inventory of Skeletal Remains	White and Folkens: Chapter 18
9 (10/23 & 10/25)	Skeletal Analysis II: Determination of Age at Death <b>Investigation:</b> Practice Sex and Age Determination <b>**QUIZ 2**</b>	White and Folkens: and Chapter 19 (Sections 19.1-19.3)
10 (10/30 & 11/1)	Forensic Methods II: In the Field (The Crime Scene; Review Chain of Evidence; Interacting with Criminal Investigators) <b>Investigation:</b> Lava Beds Photo ID Project	White and Folkens: Chapters 2 and 5
11 (11/6 & 11/8)	Forensic Evidence, Professional Results, and Methodology (Review DNA; Isotopic Analysis; Expert Witness; Ethics) <b>**QUIZ 3**</b>	White and Folkens: Chapter 3 and Steadman: Chapter 2 (Multidisc. Studies) Steadman: Section III Intro (pp. 103-112) on Archaeology in Forensics
12 (11/13 & 11/15)	Skeletal Analysis III: Cranial Metrics, Determination of Ancestry and Stature <b>Investigation:</b> Osteometry	White and Folkens: Chapter 17, Chapter 19 (Sections 19.5-19.11)
13 (11/20 & 11/22)	Finish up Skeletal Analysis III, Review for Exam <b>Investigation:</b> Trauma Article (Look Until You See) <b>**EXAM 2 Mon.**</b>	Steadman: Chapter 15 (Look Until You See)
14 (11/27 & 11/29)	Skeletal Analysis IV: Trauma, and Pathology; Final Reports <b>Investigation:</b> Ancestry, Trauma, Stature Project	
15 (12/4 & 12/6)	Forensic Anthropology and Genocide; Skeletal Analysis V: Final Reports	Steadman: Chapter 24 (Doretti and Snow)
Finals Week	<b>FINAL EXAM: Wednesday, December 13<sup>th</sup>, 10 am</b>	