Forensic Anthropology
ANT 229
March 5, 2008

Bare Bones Review Guidelines

On **April 7**, your review of the assigned forensic anthropology novel, *Bare Bones*, is due, and we will be discussing it in class. This book was chosen for a plot that involves both animal and human bones, disease and trauma, and uncertain identification of skeletons. Below are guidelines for both the paper. Our class discussion will also be based on these topics, so remember to take notes as you read and jot down which page numbers or chapters include information on forensic anthropology.

This is **not** a book report in which you simply summarize what you have read. I expect some amount of critical analysis based on everything you have learned in class to date. **Your paper should be 5-7 pages, double-spaced with 1" margins and in 10-12pt font**. Although you do not have to cite outside sources, if you quote from the text or refer to a particular passage, please put the page number in a parenthetical reference like: (p. 234). Quotations from the course textbook can be listed as: (Byers, p. 234). Organize your paper based on the following outline. Each section should be about one page long, and the paper should be cohesive, with an introduction and a conclusion.

I. *Recovery methods*. Bones are recovered from forensic contexts in the novel (animal bones in the woods and human bones in a plane crash, a privy, and a submerged car). Discuss the methods that Brennan and others use to extract remains, what the crime scenes tell them, and what the state of the remains tells them about time since death.

II. *Lab Analysis*. Brennan takes the animal and human bones back to her office for analysis. Talk about the methods she uses to prepare the bones for identification, how she distinguishes animal from human bone, and the kinds of things she records prior to identifying the bones.

III. *Human Identification*. Forensic anthropologists are called upon to provide an identification of a body based on the skeletal elements present. In this book, Brennan identifies the remains of bad guys like J.J. Wyatt and Harvey Pearce, as well as good guys like Brian Aiker and Charlotte Cobb. What methods does she use to figure out age, sex, and race from the skeletons? Why don't these methods always work for Brennan? What other lines of evidence does she use to secure a positive ID?

IV. *Disease and Trauma*. Sometimes it's necessary to look at further identifying characteristics of skeletons, like disease and trauma, to secure an ID. How does Brennan's knowledge of disease and trauma help her ID the confusing skeletons in this book, such as J.J. Wyatt and Charlotte Cobb? What methods does she use other than anthroposcopic analysis to understand disease and trauma in the bones?

V. *Discussion*. After you have outlined Brennan's methods and results as listed above, provide at least a one-page discussion of the forensic anthropology presented in the book. Based on what you have learned in class to date about human osteology, animal bones, disease, and trauma, are the methods and results presented in the book realistic? Why or why not?