

SUNY Cortland – Department of Sociology & Anthropology
INTRO TO FORENSIC ANTHROPOLOGY

Spring 2008

ANT 229-001/002, 3.0 credits

Van Hoesen B-216 / Cornish D-305

MWF 12:40-1:30 & 1:50-2:40

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Cornish D-309, MW 10-11am, 753-2479

KKillgrove, Sun 8-9pm

Course Website: <http://web.cortland.edu/killgrovek/ANT229/>

Course Description: Forensic anthropology involves using a variety of methods and theories about human biology to answer medical and legal questions. Individuals who work as forensic anthropologists collaborate closely with police officers, lawyers, doctors, medical examiners, and other specialists to identify dead bodies and skeletonized individuals, often in the context of homicides. This course provides an introduction to the practice of forensic anthropology. Through alternating lectures and lab sessions, we will cover topics of skeletal biology, disease and trauma that can be seen on bone, methods used by forensic anthropologists, and the ethical concerns that arise when working with human remains in a medicolegal context.

Texts:

Required – *Introduction to Forensic Anthropology, 3rd ed.* by Steven Byers

Bare Bones by Kathy Reichs

Recommended – *Hard Evidence: Case Studies in Forensic Anthropology* by Dawnie Steadman

Requirements:



Labs & Homework (40%) – The majority of your grade will be determined by 10 in-class lab projects. When noted on the syllabus, class will meet in the Archaeology Lab in Cornish D-305. Each lab is designed to reinforce the topics covered that week and to provide hands-on experience. Detailed instructions and an assignment will be provided with every lab. The lab write-up can be turned in immediately after class on Friday or at the beginning of class on Monday. Late labs will not be accepted, but emailed write-ups are acceptable.



Midterm (20%) – The midterm will be held on March 5. It will consist of multiple choice questions and short-answer responses.



Final Project (20%) – Rather than an exam, in this course you will complete a final project. Following the midterm, I will hand out a list of possible projects, including: mummification, blood spatter analysis, blunt trauma to bone, facial reconstruction, writing a grant proposal. Each project will come with instructions and some bibliography. Students may work in pairs to carry out most of the projects (across sections if desired), but the final write-up must be your own.



Book Review (10%) – During the semester, you will read *Bare Bones* by Kathy Reichs, a forensic anthropologist whose characters form the Fox TV show *Bones*. Guidelines for the review will be forthcoming after the midterm. The review is due April 7, and we will have a discussion in class about the text.



Participation and Attendance (10%) – Your attendance at lecture and participation in lab and class activities are required in this course. More than two unexcused absences in lecture and/or more than one unexcused absence in lab will result in half a letter grade deduction. Grading in this class is on a 10-point scale (e.g., 96 = A, 82 = B-, 78 = C+).

Course Outline:

| <i>Wk</i> | <i>Topic</i> | <i>Monday</i> | <i>Wednesday</i> | <i>Friday</i> |
|------------------|---------------------|---|--|---|
| 1 | Intro | | January 23 | January 25 Introduction Byers Ch 1, 1-12 5 Things to Learn |
| 2 | Human Osteology | January 28 Manimal! Byers Ch 3, 60-71 | January 30 Old or New? Byers Ch 3, 72-84 Steadman – eReserves | February 1 * Lab – Handling Bone Lab Writeup |
| 3 | | February 4 Bone Basics Byers Ch 2, 28-38, 52-54 | February 6 Getting the Ax Byers Ch 2, 38-42 | February 8 * Lab – Strengthen Your Core Lab Writeup |
| 4 | | February 11 Osseous Offshoots Byers Ch 2, 43-51 & 416-9 | February 13 What Big Teeth You Have Byers Ch 2, 54-58 | February 15 * Lab – Limb-bones ‘n Things Lab Writeup |
| 5 | | February 18 Age Before Beauty Byers Ch 9 | February 20 Sextimate Byers Ch 8 | February 22 * Lab – Party Tricks Lab Writeup |
| 6 | | February 25 Finishing the Race Byers Ch 7 | February 27 Size Does Matter Byers Ch 10 & 419-421 | February 29 * Lab – Tall Drink of Water Lab Writeup |
| 7 | | March 3 Review Review | March 5 Midterm | March 7 Angel or Devil Movie Critique |
| 8 | | Party | Spring Break! | Have Fun! |
| 9 | Disease and Trauma | March 17 Flesh Wounds Byers Ch 11 | March 19 Guns & Ammo Byers Ch 12 | March 21 * Pointless Damage Byers Ch 13 |
| 10 | | March 24 Cuts Like a Knife Byers Ch 14 | March 26 Mortal Maladies White – eReserves | March 28 * Lab – Blow by Blow Lab Writeup |

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| 11 | | <i>March 31</i> Diseased Deceased Byers Ch 15 | <i>April 2</i> Damaged Goods Byers Ch 16 | <i>April 4 *</i> Lab – Battered and Fried Lab Writeup |
| 12 | Methods & Practical Skills | <i>April 7</i> <i>Bare Bones Discussion</i> Book Review Due | <i>April 9</i> Scholars' Day | <i>April 11</i> Butch and Sundance Movie Critique |
| 13 | | <i>April 14</i> Walk in the Park Byers Ch 4, 86-92 | <i>April 16</i> Drawing Conclusions Byers Ch 4, 92-94 | <i>April 18</i> Lab – Map Quest Lab Writeup |
| 14 | | <i>April 21</i> Laying the Groundwork Byers Ch 4, 95-105 | <i>April 23</i> Book of the Dead Byers Ch 6 | <i>April 25</i> Lab – Picture Perfect Lab Writeup |
| 15 | | <i>April 28</i> Things Fall Apart Byers Ch 5 | <i>April 30</i> Matching Stiffs Byers Ch 18 | <i>May 2</i> Mortal Conduct Byers Ch 19 |
| 16 | Ethics & Courtrooms | <i>May 5</i> Activity – Arraigning Men Kennedy – eReserves Prepare your part | | |
| 17 | | <i>May 12</i> Final Due , 12 noon | | * Class will meet in Cornish D-305. |

SUNY Cortland Statement of Academic Integrity.

The College is an academic community whose mission is to promote scholarship through the acquisition, preservation and transmission of knowledge. Fundamental to this goal is the institution's dedication to academic integrity. Providing an atmosphere that promotes honesty and the free exchange of ideas is the essence of academic integrity. In this setting all members of the institution have an obligation to uphold high intellectual and ethical standards. It is the responsibility of the faculty to impart not only knowledge but also respect for knowledge. It is also the professional responsibility of all faculty members to explain the importance of honesty and respect for knowledge in order to ensure an academic environment that encourages integrity. To establish such an environment, students must recognize that their role in their education is active; they are responsible for their own learning. Specifically, it is the responsibility of students to protect their own work from inappropriate use by others and to protect the work of other people by providing proper citation of ideas and research findings to the appropriate source. This includes the obligation to preserve all educational resources, thereby permitting full and equal access to knowledge. This academic community takes seriously its responsibilities regarding academic honesty. Academic integrity is absolutely essential to ensure the validity of the grading system and maintain high standards of academic excellence. In addition, all members of the academic community must exhibit behavior exemplifying academic honesty and encourage such behavior in others. Violations of this policy include: plagiarism, cheating on exams, and other infractions. Please see the Handbook, chapter 340, for more information.

SUNY Cortland Disability Statement.

If you are a student with a disability and wish to request accommodations, please contact the Office of Student Disability Services located in B-1 Van Hoesen Hall or call (607) 753-2066 for an appointment. Information regarding your disability will be treated in a confidential manner. Because many accommodations require early planning, requests for accommodations should be made as early as possible.

Bibliography

Additional Required Readings: (E-reserve)

- Kennedy, Kenneth. 2003. Trials in court: the forensic anthropologist takes the stand. Chapter 6 in *Hard Evidence*, edited by Dawnie Steadman.
- Steadman, Dawnie. 2003. The pawn shop mummified head: discriminating among forensic, historic, and ancient contexts. Chapter 16 in *Hard Evidence*, edited by Dawnie Steadman.
- White, Tim. 2005. Osteological & dental pathology. Chapter 17 in *The Human Bone Manual*.

Books of Interest at Memorial Library on Forensic Anthropology:

(See final project handout for more suggestions specific to your topic.)

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| Bass, William. 2003. <i>Death's acre: inside the legendary forensic lab the Body Farm, where the dead do tell tales.</i> | GN 69.8 .B37 |
| Bell, Suzanne. 2004. <i>Encyclopedia of forensic science.</i> | HV 8073.B425 |
| Craig, Emily. 2004. <i>Teasing secrets from the dead: my investigations at America's most infamous crime scenes.</i> | HV 8073.C65 |
| Ferllini Tims, Roxana. 2002. <i>Silent witness.</i> | GN 69.8.F47 |
| Fridell, Ron. 2007. <i>Forensic science.</i> | TMC HV 8073.8.F74 |
| Kallner, Donna. 1996. <i>The bone detectives: how forensic anthropologists solve crimes and uncover mysteries of the dead.</i> | TMC GN 69.8.J33 |
| Lasker, Gabriel. 1999. <i>Happenings and hearsay: experiences of a biological anthropologist.</i> | GN 50.6.L37 A3 |
| Manheim, Mary. 1999. <i>The bone lady: life as a forensic anthropologist.</i> | GN 50.6.M35 M35 |
| Manheim, Mary. 2005. <i>Trail of bones: more cases from the files of a forensic anthropologist.</i> | GN 69.8.M36 |
| Maples, William. 1994. <i>Dead men do tell tales.</i> | GN 50.6.M36 A3 |
| Nafte, Myriam. 2000. <i>Flesh and bone: an introduction to forensic anthropology.</i> | GN 69.8.N33 |
| Rhine, Stanley. 1998. <i>Bone voyage: a journey in forensic anthropology.</i> | GN 69.8.R45 |
| Schwartz, Jeffrey. 1993. <i>What the bones tell us.</i> | GN 50.6.S39 A3 |
| Ubelaker, Doug. 1984. <i>Human remains: excavation, analysis, interpretation.</i> | GN 70.U23 |
| White, Tim. 2005. <i>The human bone manual.</i> | GN 70.W44 |