



EAST TENNESSEE STATE
UNIVERSITY

College of Arts & Science

Department of Sociology & Anthropology

ANTH 3450 - Introduction to forensic anthropology

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Overview of the course

Forensic anthropology focuses on the identification of deceased individuals from skeletal and dental remains. This course serves as an introduction to the procedures and methods employed by forensic anthropologists. Topics will include legal issues, such as admissible evidence, scientific standards and chain of custody, as well as technical subjects such as human osteology, recovery of human remains, assessment of age, sex, and population affinity, trauma and taphonomy, and individual identification.

Student requirements include:

- 1) Class participation
- 2) Reading
- 3) 4 exams
- 4) 10 quizzes
- 5) 10 discussions

Student outcomes:

At the end of this course, students will be able to do the following:

- 1) Identify the questions forensic anthropologists attempt to answer
- 2) Identify and use some of the methods employed by forensic anthropologists
- 3) Have a respectful awareness of ethical issues relating to the handling and analysis of human remains

Required texts

Byers (2016) *Introduction to forensic anthropology*. NY: Pearson publishing. 5th edition.

Reading

You are expected to read all assigned texts in a timely fashion. Lectures assume you have read the week's assignment before watching the lecture.

Assignments

You will complete four exams, 10 quizzes, and 10 discussions for this course.

Grading

Exams	80%			A	100-93	A-	90-92
Discussions	10%	B+	87-89	B	83-86	B-	80-82
Quizzes	10%	C+	77-79	C	73-76	C-	70-72
		D+	67-69	D	60-66	F	< 60

Contacting the instructor

Email is the best way to get in touch with me, though I will be in my office most days and can be

contacted by phone or fax (see above).

Cheating

Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated in any form. Your student catalog provides an explanation of such dishonesty, but anytime you represent someone else’s ideas as your own without giving appropriate credit will be considered cheating. If you are unclear, ask me. Anyone intentionally representing other’s work as their own will receive an F for the course and will be dealt with as outlined in the university handbook.

Make up policy

Late work will only be accepted with instructor’s approval and a documented valid excuse, such as serious illness, death in the family, etc.

Accessibility

Any student with a special need for an accommodation in course activities should make arrangements with disability services. I am happy to accommodate all needs as determined by ETSU disability services.

Faculty Bio

I am chair and professor of anthropology at ETSU. I study human remains from archaeological sites, primarily in Mesoamerica. I study ritual violence and biological distance relationships among the Maya, Mixtec, and Zapotec. I also study dental traits in living populations forensic biohistory.

Now for the actual content!

Module 1

General Course Information

Open all semester

Unit 1 – Human Anatomy, Osteology, Forensic Archaeology

1/19-2/4

Reading

Byers 1-6

Quizzes

1 and 2

Discussions

1 and 2

Test

2/5

Module 2 – Introduction to forensic anthropology

Module 3 – Basic bone biology

Module 4 – Human anatomy and osteology

Module 5 – Establishing the forensic context, identifying bones as human

Module 6 – Establishing the forensic context

Module 7 – Forensic archaeology

Module 8 – Establishing time since death

Unit 2 – Baseline individuation (sex, age, stature, ancestry)

2/6-3/7

Reading

Byers 7-10

Quizzes

3, 4, and 5

Discussions

3, 4, and 5

Test

3/8

Module 9 – Sex assessment

Module 10 – Subadult age assessment

Module 11 – Adult age assessment

Module 12 – Stature estimation

Module 13 – Assessing population affinity

Unit 3 - Crime scene analysis and trauma

3/9-4/8

Reading	Byers 11-14, 16
Quizzes	6, 7, and 8
Discussions	6, 7, and 8
Test	4/9

Module 14 – Basics of trauma analysis
Module 15 – Projectile trauma
Module 16 – Blunt force trauma
Module 17 – Sharp force trauma
Module 18 - Taphonomy

Unit 4 – Positive identification and applications of forensic anthropology

Reading	4/10-5/3
Quizzes	Byers 15, 17-19
Discussions	9 and 10
Test	9 and 10
	5/4

Module 19 - Pathology
Module 20 – Occupational stress markers
Module 21 – Additional aspects of individuation
Module 22 – Forensic odontology
Module 23 – Facial reconstruction
Module 24 – Human rights investigations
Module 25 – Historical case studies