

Saint Mary's University
Department of Anthropology
923 Robie St, Halifax, NS B3H 3C3, Canada

Introduction to Forensic Anthropology



ANTH 2282

Instructor: Dr. Daniel Gaudio

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Rules for emailing me (I will not read your message unless you follow these rules):

1. The subject line must contain your first and last name, followed by "ANTH 2282".
2. Address me as "Dr. Gaudio", and clearly word your message so I can understand what you need.
3. You must use proper grammar and punctuation, and do not use texting language (do not abbreviate).

Office hours: Monday & Wednesday 09:30-12:30 or by appointment

Time & location: Tuesday, Thursday 1:00 pm - 2:15 pm, McNally Main Theatre Auditorium.

Credits: 3.000 Credits

Prerequisite: none

Introduction to Forensic Anthropology:

The purpose of this course is to provide students with a general overview of multidisciplinary nature of forensic anthropology. It covers therefore a wide range of interrelated topics dealing with forensic anthropology. That will allow students to understand of realities and myths of the human remains analysis in legal contexts. The main examination methods in forensic anthropology analysis will be illustrated, as well as the role of forensic anthropologists from the crime scenes to the courtroom. The specific role of forensic anthropologists during the identification process of missing persons, homicide investigations, war and genocide scenario and mass fatality incidents will be described.

Forensic anthropology is a fascinating discipline but also challenging, by this course it will be provided food for thought to those students who want to pursue a career as a forensic expert.

Course Format:

Class meetings will consist of lectures, videos, and in-class exercises (in particular using Mentimeter). To get the most out of the sessions and to facilitate interesting discussions, assigned readings should be read before the day for which they are listed.

Required Texts:

Silent Witness: How Forensic Anthropology is Used to Solve the World's Toughest Crimes by Roxana Ferllini.

- *Both 1st and 2nd edition of this book is fine for this course.*
- *Lecture notes are NOT available for students who miss class. Please always remember that Audiotaping and/or videotaping are not allowed during class unless under my written permission. Should you miss any information from the power point slides during class, you may come see me during my office hours and I may show specific lecture slides (I am not going to show you them all though).*

Course evaluation:

5 quizzes (5 x 5%) = 25%

5 assignments (5 x 10%) = 50%

2 tests (1 x 15%) (1x 10%) = 25%

(multiple choice/true false/ short answer/ fill in the blank/matching/ /definitions).

- **No make-up quizzes will be organized.** In case you miss a quiz because of illness, the next quiz will be counted double (10%) ONLY if you provide me with a doctor's note within 7 calendar days from the date of the missed quiz, else you will receive no point for the missed quiz. This accommodation can be used just once.
- **I do not accept late assignments**
- Students who are tardy for class and who use their phones during class will be penalized by losing a percentage point on their final grade for each offense, without exception.
- Curve grades will not be considered. The only exception will be admitted in case you get (for example) 89.5% then a round up to 90% will be applied. On the contrary, the grade you earn is the grade you will see on your final transcript. Again, should your final mark be (for example) 49.4% no round ups will be possible, and you will receive an "F" in this course. There are NO exceptions.

Your grade will be assessed based on the following scale:

A+ 90-100%

A 85-89%

A- 80-84%

B+ 77-79%

B 73-76%

B- 70-72%

C+ 67-69%

C 63-66%

C- 60-62%

D 50-59%

F 0-49%

How to Succeed:

- Attend class and study!
- Complete the study guides and in-class exercises.
- Ask questions about the material we cover in class and keep up with the readings.
- Communicate with me about my expectations of you, your progress, or any difficulties you may be having.

Attendance Policy:

Follow the SMU academic regulations

Academic Misconduct:

Students **must be** respectful and polite. All students should become familiar with the rules governing academic misconduct and what constitutes academic misconduct, especially as it applies to plagiarism and test taking, please refer to SMU Academic Calendar, “Examples of Academic Offences”.

Ignorance of the rules governing academic misconduct or what constitutes academic misconduct is not an acceptable defense. Alleged cases of academic misconduct are referred to the proper university committees.

COURSE OUTLINE (*the schedule is tentative and subject to change*):

September

- 06 -11 Course Introduction, Introduction to Forensic Anthropology (*Ch.1 Ferllini*)
- 13 Human Anatomy and overview of the Human Skeleton (*Ch.1 Ferllini and slides*)
- 18 Assignment#1
- 18 Biological profiling (*Ch.2 Ferllini and slides*)
- 20 Quiz #1
- 20 Forensic Archaeology (*Ch.3 Ferllini*)
- 25 Assignment #2
- 25 Forensic Taphonomy (*Ch.4 Ferllini*)
- 27 Quiz #2
- 27 Decomposition (*Slides*)

October

- 2 Application of Forensic Anthropology (*Slides*)
- 4 Assignment#3
- 4 Mummies (*Slides*)
- 9 Quiz#3
- 9 Forensic Odontology and Radiology (*Slides*)
- 11 **TEST #1**
- 16 Skeletal Trauma (*Ch.5 Ferllini*)
- 18 Assignment #4
- 18 Facial Approximation (*Ch.5 Ferllini*)
- 23 Pathology on Human bones (*Slides*)
- 25 Identification process part 1 (*Ch. 6, 7 Ferllini*)
- 30 Assignment#5
- 30 Identification process part 2 (*Ch. 6,7 Ferllini*)

November

- 1 Forensic Anthropology and Forensic Pathology (*Slides*)
- 6 Quiz #4
- 6 Forensic Anthropology and War part 1 (*Slides*)
- 8 Forensic Anthropology and War part 2 (*Slides*)
- 8 A forensic anthropologist in courtroom (*Slides*)

13 NO LECTURE

15 NO LECTURE

20 Quiz #5

20 Mass Disaster and Human Rights in Forensic Anthropology (*Ch.6, 7, 8 Ferllini*)

22 DNA and Forensic Anthropology (*Slides*)

27 **TEST #2**

29 Myths and reality and closure (*Slides*)