

San José State University
College of Social Sciences/Anthropology
ANTH155: Forensic Osteology, Fall 2022

Course and Contact Information

Instructor(s):	Elizabeth Weiss
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Office Hours:	MW 1045-1145
Class Days/Time:	MW 1630-1745
Classroom:	WSQ004
Prerequisites:	ANTH012 or Instructor's Approval

Course Description

The human skeletal system for forensic identification. Lab experience in identification of osteological material to answer questions regarding sex, age, ethnicity and cause of death.

Course Learning Outcomes (CLO)

Upon successful completion of this course, students should have increased:

1. Understanding of culture as the distinguishing phenomenon of human life, and the relationships of human biology and cultural processes in human behavior and evolution.
2. Knowledge of the significant findings of archaeology, cultural anthropology, and physical anthropology, and familiarity of the important issues in each sub-discipline.
3. Knowledge of the history of anthropological thought and its place in modern intellectual history.
4. Knowledge of the research methods of the sub-disciplines of anthropology, and ability to apply appropriate research methods in at least one sub-discipline.
5. Ability to present and communicate anthropological knowledge and the results of anthropological research to different audiences.

Required Texts/Readings

Textbooks

Christensen, Angi M, Passalacqua, Nicholas V, and Bartelink, Eric J. Forensic Anthropology. San Diego: Elsevier Science & Technology, 2019. Web.

[https://csu-sjsu.primo.exlibrisgroup.com/permalink/01CAL\\$SJO/tu4ck5/alma991013921917602919](https://csu-sjsu.primo.exlibrisgroup.com/permalink/01CAL$SJO/tu4ck5/alma991013921917602919)

White, Tim D, Black, Michael T, and Folkens, Pieter A. Human Osteology. San Diego: Elsevier Science & Technology, 2011. Web.

[https://csu-sjsu.primo.exlibrisgroup.com/permalink/01CAL\\$SJO/tu4ck5/alma991010951219702919](https://csu-sjsu.primo.exlibrisgroup.com/permalink/01CAL$SJO/tu4ck5/alma991010951219702919)

These books are available at the SJSU bookstore, through Amazon (or other online sellers), and available for free on the SJSU Library website – the links above should help you locate them; you may have to log on with your SJSU ID, password, and Duo number.

Course Requirements and Assignments (Required - Delete the word “Required” in final draft)

“Success in this course is based on the expectation that students will spend, for each unit of credit, a minimum of 45 hours over the length of the course (normally three hours per unit per week) for instruction, preparation/studying, or course related activities, including but not limited to internships, labs, and clinical practica. Other course structures will have equivalent workload expectations as described in the syllabus.”

Quizzes: Since this is a hands-on course, grades are based on quizzes (involving identification of skeletal material and forensic questions revolving around topics of ancestry, sex, age, human/nonhuman, homicide/accident, etc.) and the final exam. There will be seven quizzes, which is about one every other week; each quiz is cumulative. Each quiz is worth 10% of your final grade. There will be a comprehensive final quiz, which is worth 30% of your final grade and will be held during final’s week and cannot be taken earlier.

Procedures for taking the quizzes: students will have a set amount of time at each bone station, they will not compare stations by going back and forth to stations or moving bones. Students may visit each station only once. Spelling counts. After all students have completed the quiz, lecture will resume. More information regarding quiz procedures will be provided on the quiz or exam days!

Final Examination or Evaluation

“Faculty members are required to have a culminating activity for their courses, which can include a final examination, a final research paper or project, a final creative work or performance, a final portfolio of work, or other appropriate assignment.”

There will be a cumulative final exam.

Attendance and Participation

Since this is a hands-on course with emphasis on identification skeletal materials, attendance and participation are essential. I highly recommend students attend class as often as possible; and, it is important to arrive on time and attend the entire class period. I will not hold extra hours for those who missed class.

Make-up Work

Make-up quizzes will not be possible. With a valid, documented excuse, I will weigh other quizzes slightly higher (e.g., each quiz is normally 10%, but if you have only 6 quizzes, each will be worth 11.67%). This re-weighting is only for students with a valid documented excuse. Please note that it is not possible to make up class time or re-schedule the final exam.

Grading Information

The final semester grade will be based on the following:

Quizzes:	7 X 10%	70%
Final Exam	1 X 30%	30%
Course Grade:		100%

There may be opportunities for extra credit on the quizzes in which an extra question is asked and must be answered correctly.

Grading is as followed:

A	B	C	D	F
97-100% = A plus	87-89% = B plus	77-79% = C plus	67-69% = D plus	Below 60% = F
91-96% = A	81-86% = B	71-76% = C	61-66% = D	
90% = A minus	80% = B minus	70% = C minus	60% = D minus	

I do not use Canvas for a multitude of reasons. Yet, I always provide students with prompt feedback, you will receive your graded assignments the next class period. Using simple arithmetic, you can keep track of your progress to ensure that you are not at risk of failing. If you have trouble calculating your grade, I will be happy to help you.

University Policies

Per [University Policy S16-9](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S16-9.pdf) (<http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S16-9.pdf>), relevant university policy concerning all courses, such as student responsibilities, academic integrity, accommodations, dropping and adding, consent for recording of class, etc. and available student services (e.g. learning assistance, counseling, and other resources) are listed on [Syllabus Information web page](https://www.sjsu.edu/curriculum/courses/syllabus-info.php) (<https://www.sjsu.edu/curriculum/courses/syllabus-info.php>). Make sure to visit this page to review and be aware of these university policies and resources.

ANTH155 / Forensic Osteology, Fall 2022, Course Schedule

Course Schedule

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
2	8/22	Introduction to Forensic Anthropology Christensen et al. Chapter 1
	8/24	Introduction to Bones and Terminology White et al. Chapters 1 and 2
3	8/29	Bone or Not; Human or Not; Modern or Not Christensen et al. Chapter 4
	8/31	Hyoid & Vertebrae White et al. Chapter 6
4	9/5	Labor Day – No Class
	9/7	Vertebrae Cont. White et al. Chapter 6
5	9/12	Sternum and Ribs White et al. Chapter 7
	9/14	Ribs Cont. White et al. Chapter 7
6	9/19	Quiz 1; Shoulder White et al. Chapter 8
	9/21	Shoulder and Arm White et al. Chapters 8 and 9
7	9/26	Arm White et al. Chapter 9

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
	9/28	Quiz 2; Hand White et al. Chapter 10
8	10/3	Hand Cont. White et al. Chapter 10
	10/5	Hand Cont. White et al. Chapter 10
9	10/10	Quiz 3; Pelvis White et al. Chapter 11
	10/12	Pelvis Cont. and Sex and Age White et al. Chapter 18 (sections 18.1-18.4); Christensen et al. Chapters 8 and 10
10	10/17	Leg White et al. Chapter 12
	10/19	Leg Cont. and Stature Estimation White et al. Chapters 12 and Chapter 18 (section 18.5); Christensen et al. Chapter 11
11	10/24	Quiz 4; Foot White et al. Chapter 13
	10/26	Foot Cont. White et al. Chapter 13
12	10/31	Quiz 5; Cranium White et al. Chapter 4
	11/2	Cranium Contin. and Ethnicity White et al. Chapters 4 and 18 (section 18.6); Christensen et al. Chapter 9
13	11/7	Cranium Cont. and the Individual White et al. Chapters 4 and 18 (section 18.7); Christensen et al. Chapters 12 and 14
	11/9	Quiz 6; Teeth White et al. Chapter 5 and Appendix 2
14	11/14	Teeth Cont. White et al. Chapter 5 and Appendix 2
	11/16	Teeth Cont. White et al. Chapter 5 and Appendix 2
15	11/21	Quiz 7; Forensic Taphonomy White et al. Chapter 20; Christensen et al. Chapter 5
	11/23	Thanksgiving – No Class
16	11/28	Homicide or Accident White et al. Chapters 23 and 24; Christensen et al. Chapter 13
	11/30	REVIEW for FINAL
17	12/5	REVIEW for FINAL
Final Exam	12/14	Wednesday, 12/14: 1445-1700, in WSQ004