

Course Outline

COURSE: ANTH 15 **DIVISION:** 10 **ALSO LISTED AS:**

TERM EFFECTIVE: Summer 2026 **CURRICULUM APPROVAL DATE:** 05/12/2026

SHORT TITLE: FORENSIC ANTHROPOLOGY

LONG TITLE: Forensic Anthropology

<u>Units</u>	<u>Number of Weeks</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Contact Hours/Week</u>	<u>Total Contact Hours/Units</u>
3	18	Lecture:	3	54 / 3 Units of Lecture
		Lab:	0	0
		Other:	0	0
		Total:	3	54

Out of Class Hrs: 108.00

Total Learning Hrs: 162.00

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Introduction to the application of anthropology as a science to the medical-legal process and its emphasis on the identification of human skeletal remains. Uses the scientific methodology to cover cell biology, population genetics, natural selection, human variation, evolution, basic human osteology and odontology, assessment of age at time of death, sex, ancestry, trauma analysis, pathology, crime scene analysis, animal scavenging, and identification procedures. Focuses on the varying applications of science in the modern world in which forensic anthropology is utilized, ranging from crime scene investigation, missing person identification, human rights, and humanitarian investigations.

CREDIT STATUS: D - Credit - Degree Applicable

GRADING MODES

L - Standard Letter Grade

REPEATABILITY: N - Course may not be repeated

SCHEDULE TYPES:

- 02 - Lecture and/or discussion
- 05 - Hybrid
- 71 - Dist. Ed Internet Simultaneous
- 73 - Dist. Ed Internet Delayed LAB

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:

By the end of this course, a student should:

1. Practice and apply understandings of forensic anthropology.
2. Critically analyze and interpret forensic anthropological data.
3. Apply anthropological principles for solving human problems on the local, regional and world scales.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

By the end of this course, a student should:

1. Assess contemporary theories and approaches in the forensic sciences.
2. Assess how forensic approaches are influenced by geographical, environmental, geological, archaeological, cultural, social, political and historical contexts and conditions.
3. Evaluate, use, and communicate scientific data as it relates to forensic science.
4. Apply concepts of natural selection and human evolution to the study of human osteology.
5. Identify key features within cellular biology to explain bone formation.
6. Identify the bones of the human body.
7. Identify appropriate methods for preparation and reconstruction of remains in the laboratory.
8. Determine the cause of death due to trauma by assessing different types of ante-, peri-, and postmortem changes to bone, including pathology, trauma, and natural anomalies.
9. Apply forensic frameworks of analysis to interpret age, ancestry, sex, trauma, mode of death, and postmortem intervals.
10. Explain taphonomic processes and apply archaeological protocols.

COURSE CONTENT:

Curriculum Approval Date: 05/12/2026

3 hours: Introduction to Forensic Anthropology

3 hours: Osteology

3 hours: Searching for Human Remains

3 hours: Recovering Human Remains

3 hours: Processing and Examining Human Remains

2 hours: Midterm Exam

4 hours: Establishing the Postmortem Interval and Forensic Taphonomy

6 hours: Morphological Variation of the Human

3 hours: Identifying Human Skeletal Remains

4 hours: Estimating Sex in Human Skeletal Remains

3 hours: Estimating Ancestry in Human Skeletal Remains

3 hours: Estimating Stature in Human Skeletal Remains

3 hours: Estimating Age in Human Skeletal Remains

3 hours: Analysis of Skeletal Pathology

3 hours: Analysis of Skeletal Trauma

3 hours: Ethics, Mass Disasters, Humanitarian and Human Rights Investigations

2 hours: Final Exam

METHODS OF INSTRUCTION:

Weekly lectures (narrated and closed captioned) - Weekly readings - Instructional videos - Video tutorials and lectures - Discussion forums - Group work - Research projects

OUT OF CLASS ASSIGNMENT:

Required Outside Hours 30

Assignment Description

Reading assignments: Weekly textbook chapters and topical articles. Please read critically and take notes. Please be sure to do the required reading, listen to my lectures, and view the films each week. After completing this work, take your corresponding quizzes and participate in our discussions. Be sure to visit our course site throughout the week to keep up with regular announcements and participate in our learning community.

Required Outside Hours 20

Assignment Description

Writing Assignments and Quizzes: Weekly multiple-choice quizzes and response papers are assigned throughout the course.

Required Outside Hours 20

Assignment Description

Interactive Discussion Forums: You are required to participate in each forum, engaging substantively with your colleagues. To get full credit for your forum participation, you must post your own contribution in addition to engaging with two colleagues. Your participation in discussion forums is equivalent to ?showing up? for a face-to-face class session; your presence is important and expected!

Required Outside Hours 20

Assignment Description

Film and Video Tutorial Viewing: Documentary films provide historical context and current examples of course threshold concepts.

Required Outside Hours 18

Assignment Description

Research Project: You will research and write about a topic exploring a case study in forensic anthropology. You will participate in a discussion with your classmates.

METHODS OF EVALUATION:

Objective examinations

Evaluation Percent 50

Evaluation Description

Multiple choice and essay quizzes and exams

Writing assignments

Evaluation Percent 30

Evaluation Description

Essays, response papers, research projects, discussion forums

Problem-solving assignments

Evaluation Percent 10

Evaluation Description

Quizzes, exams

Skill demonstrations

Evaluation Percent 10

Evaluation Description

Research presentations

REPRESENTATIVE TEXTBOOKS:

Introduction to Forensic Anthropology: An Open Resource Textbook, Laura Bailey and Sandi Harvey, Creative Commons Attribution, 2025 or a comparable textbook/material.

Rationale: This zero-cost textbook is written by community college professors for community college students.

12 Grade Verified by: Dr. Debbie Klein

RECOMMENDED MATERIALS:

Byers, Steven N., and Chelsey A. Jaurez. (2023). Introduction to Forensic Anthropology (6th ed.). Routledge. ISBN: 978-1032255590

Burns, Karen R. (2012). Forensic Anthropology Training Manual (3rd ed.). Routledge. ISBN: 978-0205022595 Justification: Although first published in 2012, the manual remains a standard laboratory training resource in forensic anthropology courses and continues to be widely used because of its practical, method-based approach to skeletal identification.

ARTICULATION and CERTIFICATE INFORMATION

GAV GE:

GAV Area 1B

GAV Area 4

GAV Area 5

GAV Area 6

GAV Area 7

CSU TRANSFER:

Transferable CSU

UC TRANSFER:

Transferable UC

SUPPLEMENTAL DATA:

Basic Skills: N

Classification: Y

Noncredit Category: Y

Cooperative Education: N

Program Status: 1 Program Applicable

Special Class Status: N

Prior to College Level: Y

Non Credit Enhanced Funding: N

Funding Agency Code: Y

In-Service: N

Occupational Course: E

Course Control Number: CCC000660551

Sports/Physical Education Course: N

Taxonomy of Program: 220200

CIP: 450201