

## ANTHROPOLOGY 305: HUMAN OSTEOLOGY

FALL 2009

Fridays, 1:00-4:40 p.m.

Stevenson 2065

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**Office location:** Stevenson 2054A

**Office hours:** Tuesdays and Fridays,  
10:30-12:00

### Course Description

An understanding of the anatomy and biology of the human skeleton is fundamental to a student's training in anthropology (especially biological anthropology, forensic anthropology, and bioarchaeology), paleontology, and biology. In the first two-thirds of this course, students will learn how to identify all of the bones and teeth of the human skeleton, as well as the landmarks that are used for osteological analyses. During the final one-third of the course, students will learn how morphological and metric analyses of bones and teeth can reveal aspects of an individual's identity, including sex, age-at-death, health and disease, trauma, ancestry, and activity patterns. We will also explore how all of these data are employed to reconstruct personal biographies and population histories, and discuss the ethical issues that are inherent to anthropological research on human skeletal remains (e.g., the concept of "race," NAGPRA and repatriation). Each of these topics will be introduced during lecture, after which students will engage with skeletal material hands-on in a laboratory setting. This is a methods course and fulfills the Biological Anthropology requirement. Prerequisites include Anthropology 201 for anthropology majors, Anthropology 201 or Biology 115 for non-majors, or consent of instructor and upper-division standing.

### Readings

The preferred text for this course is **Tim D. White and Pieter Arend Folkens, *Human Osteology, second edition*. Academic Press, 2000**. This book is available for purchase at the SSU bookstore and also is on reserve in the SSU library. Also acceptable is Tim D. White and Pieter Arend Folkens, *The Human Bone Manual*. Academic Press, 2005.

### Important Dates to Remember

Classes begin	Last day to add	Last day to drop with W notation on record	Classes end
August 26	September 9	September 22	December 11

### Assignments

1. Class attendance and participation (5%)
  - o Students are required to arrive on time to every class, participate in the entire lab session, and leave only when dismissed by me. Please show respect for me and for your fellow students by **not** talking or texting on a cell phone, surfing the Internet on a laptop, or listening to an iPod. Violations of this policy will result in a lowered participation grade.

2. Quizzes (3 x 5% = 15%)
  - There will be quizzes given mid-way through each of the first three units. The purpose of these quizzes is to help students assess their strengths and weaknesses with the identification of skeletal material prior to the upcoming exam.
3. Exams (3 x 20% = 60%)
  - There will be three exams, all of which will take place during the class period. The exams will cover material from the readings as well as from lectures. The majority of the exams will be comprised of a practical component, which will require working with materials at lab stations, with a shorter theoretical component that may include short-answer questions and diagramming.
4. Take-home final (20%)
  - This exam will be handed out at the last class meeting (12/11). It must be handed in no later than 4 p.m. on 12/18 (our Finals day).

### Grading Scale and Policies

A 100-94	B- 83-80	D+ 69-67
A- 93-90	C+ 79-77	D 66-64
B+ 89-87	C 76-74	D- 63-60
B 86-84	C- 73-70	F 59 or less

Because the practical components of quizzes and exams are difficult to create, make-ups will only be permitted in cases of extreme duress (e.g., personal or medical emergency), when I have been notified *before* the quiz/exam is given. A written excuse from an appropriate source (such as a doctor) *must* be provided. Each case will be decided at my discretion or at the discretion of college officials. No make-ups will be allowed once the quiz/exam has been returned to the rest of the class.

### Course Policies

- Please come to class prepared with your textbook, blank paper, pens and pencils, and a calculator to complete the lab exercises.
- Students are required to complete assigned readings *before* that day's lecture. Any information from the readings may appear on exams, regardless of whether it has been discussed during lecture.
- Requests for re-grades of quizzes and exams must be submitted *in writing* at least 24 hours, but no more than one week, after the assignment or exam has been handed back. After the one-week period, the grade will not be reevaluated.
- Plagiarism and cheating on assignments and exams, as well as other forms of academic dishonesty, are serious violations of SSU University Policy. Violation of these policies will result in an automatic zero grade for the assignment or exam, and the student may be reported to the Fairness Board. For further information on this and other University policies, such add/drop and grade appeal procedures, see <http://www.sonoma.edu/uaffairs/policies/studentinfo.shtml>.
- If a student has a documented learning disability and/or other special needs that require accommodation, please inform me *at the beginning of the course*. I will do everything possible to accommodate the student's needs, but I must be made aware of them as soon as possible. For additional resources, please contact Disability Services

for Students Center (<http://www.sonoma.edu/dss/>; Salazar Hall, Room 1049; Phone: (707) 664-2677; TTY/TDD: (707) 664-2958).

- o **If you have any questions or concerns about course readings, assignments, or exams, please contact me!!! We can communicate over email, talk on the phone, or chat during my office hours. I want every student to succeed in this course, but I can't help you if I don't know that you need help!**

### Rules for Handling Skeletal Material

- o In this class, we have the privilege of handling the remains of once living and breathing people, and we must always treat them with the respect that they merit.
- o No food or drink (*even in covered containers*) is allowed in the classroom.
- o Bones are never to be taken out of the classroom for any reason.
- o Only pencils may be used during the lab period, to avoid permanent defacement of the bones.

### Course Schedule

Week	Date	Topics	Reading
1	8/28	Course Introduction; Anatomical Terminology; Bone Biology; Joint Structure and Biomechanics	Ch. 2, 3
2	9/4	Skull: Bones, Sutures, Osteometric Points	Ch. 4
3	9/11	<b>Quiz 1</b> Skull: Features and Landmarks	Ch. 4
4	9/18	Dentition	Ch. 5
5	9/25	Review for Exam <b>Exam 1</b> Hyoid and Vertebrae	Ch. 6
6	10/2	Sternum and Ribs; Clavicle and Scapula	Ch. 7, 8
7	10/9	<b>Quiz 2</b> Arm: Humerus, Radius, Ulna	Ch. 9
8	10/16	Hand: Carpals, Metacarpals, Phalanges	Ch. 10
9	10/23	Review for Exam <b>Exam 2</b> Pelvic Girdle	Ch. 11
10	10/30	Leg: Femur, Patella, Tibia, Fibula	Ch. 12
11	11/6	Foot: Tarsals, Metatarsals, Phalanges	Ch. 12
12	11/13	<b>Quiz 3</b> Forensic Methods I	Ch. 17
13	11/20	Forensic Methods II	Ch. 17
14	11/27	THANKSGIVING BREAK: NO CLASS	
15	12/4	Review for Exam <b>Exam 3</b> Ethical Considerations in Skeletal Biology	Ch. 16
16	12/11	Paleopathology and Population History	Ch. 18
17	12/18	<b>Take-home final due at 4 p.m.</b>	