Course Outline for Anthropology 13L
FORENSIC ANTHROPOLOGY LABORATORY

Catalog Description:

ANTH 13L - Forensic Anthropology Laboratory 1.00 units
The Forensic Anthropology Laboratory simulates field and laboratory conditions in ANTH 13 (Forensic Anthropology). Students will conduct field work, using proper archaeological methods. They will also work with casts of human skeletal and dental specimens and follow the Forensic protocol to identify a decedent, and help determine cause and manner of death.

Strongly Recommended: Eligibility for ENGL 1 or Eligibility for ENGL 1A

Prerequisite: ANTH 13 (completed with a grade of "C" or higher) (may be taken concurrently)

Grading Option: Optional

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Prerequisite Skills:
None

Measurable Objectives:
Upon completion of this course, the student should be able to:
1. Use anatomy to identify human remains;
2. follow recovery, ethical, and legal procedures as established in standard archeological methodology, and the forensic protocol;
3. identify minimum and maximum number of individuals in a sample;
4. identify age at death and sex, and estimate stature and ancestry, following forensic guidelines;
5. analyze different types of pathologies and identify their causes, following forensic guidelines;
6. measure time since death, and identify cause and manner of death, using forensic guidelines.

Course Content:
1. Forensic Anthropology methodology
2. Identification of Human Skeletal and Dental Remains
3. Ethical and Legal Considerations
4. Identification of a Decedent:
   A. Assessment of Time Since Death
   B. Attribution of Sex
   C. Attribution of Age at Death
   D. Attribution of Ancestry
   E. Assessment of Stature
   F. Identification of Individuals Markers
5. Pathologies and traumas
   A. Identification
   B. Causes
6. Identification of Pre- versus Post-Mortem Damage
7. Determination of cause of death
8. Determination of manner of death

Methods of Presentation
1. Case Study
2. Demonstration/Exercise
3. Group Activities
4. Hands-on Activities
5. Laboratory exercises
6. Research Report

Assignments and Methods of Evaluating Student Progress

1. Typical Assignments
   A. You are called to a scene where you are directed to a badly damaged skeleton. What do you do first? Think about proper archaeological and forensic methods.
   B. You are called to help in the recovery of bodies after a plane crash. How do you apply the standard forensic anthropological protocol to a mass disaster?
   C. You examine a human cranium that has 32 teeth, a prominent nuchal area and a long mastoid process. What do you conclude about age at death and sex?
   D. You recover a femur bone with the following: the head (top) of the bone is missing and there is evidence of false-start kerfs next to the missing part; the wall of the cut is smooth; the striations on the side of the cut are regular and flat. You notice puncture marks on one side of the shaft, while there are scoring marks on the opposite side; there also are narrow parallel tracks over the scoring marks. Describe, in sequence, what likely happened to this specimen.
   E. You examine a skull and notice it has a cracked forehead, and missing nasal bones. What do you conclude about cause and manner of death?

2. Methods of Evaluating Student Progress
   A. Class Participation
   B. Final Examination or Project
   C. Critical thinking exercises
   D. Lab Activities
   E. Practical Examination

3. Student Learning Outcomes
   Upon the completion of this course, the student should be able to:
   A. Apply archaeological and forensic anthropology methodology to the study of human remains.
   B. Help law enforcement and medico-legal personnel to identify a decedent.
   C. Help law enforcement and medico-legal personnel to establish cause and manner of death.

Textbooks (Typical):

Special Student Materials

Abbreviated Class Schedule Description:
The Forensic Anthropology Laboratory is a hands-on adjunct to the Forensic Anthropology lecture course. Students will have the opportunity to conduct fieldwork, and work with casts of human bones and teeth to figure out the identity of a person, and cause and manner of death.

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Prerequisite: ANTH 13 (completed with a grade of "C" or higher) (may be taken concurrently)