Course Outline for Anthropology 13
FORENSIC ANTHROPOLOGY

Catalog Description:

ANTH 13 - Forensic Anthropology
3.00 units
Introduction to the recovery and interpretation of human physical remains within the medico-legal context. Major topics include identification of human skeletal and dental remains, sex determination, age at death, ancestry, stature, analysis and identification of different types of trauma and pathologies, post-mortem alteration, time since death, recovery techniques, and legal and ethical issues pertaining to the treatment of human remains in a forensic context.

Strongly Recommended: Eligibility for ENGL 1A or ENGL 1

Grading Option: Optional

Discipline:

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<th>Type</th>
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<th>Inside of Class Hours</th>
<th>Outside of Class Hours</th>
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Prerequisite Skills:
None

Measurable Objectives:

Upon completion of this course, the student should be able to:
1. distinguish human from non-human remains;
2. follow proper recovery, ethical, and legal procedures;
3. determine minimum and maximum number of individuals in a sample;
4. estimate age at death, determine sex, assess stature and ancestry;
5. analyze different types of pathologies and identify their causes;
6. estimate time since death, and cause and manner of death.

Course Content:

1. Introduction to forensic anthropology; background and methods
2. Scientific death investigation: recovery of human remains; ethical and legal procedures
3. Identification of human osteological and dental remains
4. Assessment of ancestry based on various skeletal indicators
5. Estimation of sex based on various osteological indicators
6. Reconstruction of stature based on osteological indicators
7. Estimation of age at death based on dental and osteological indicators
8. Analysis of pathologies and traumas, and identification of their causes
9. Identification of pre- versus post-mortem damage
10. Estimation of time since death
11. Determination of cause and manner of death

Methods of Presentation

1. Lecture/Discussion
2. Presentation of audio-visual materials
3. Hands-on Activities
4. Field Trips
5. Case Study
6. Group Activities

Assignments and Methods of Evaluating Student Progress

1. Typical Assignments
   A. You are called to a scene where 14 different bones have been found (Exhibit A). Determine whether any or all the bones should be treated as forensic cases. Determine the minimum and maximum number of individuals at the scene.
B. Write a one-page protocol explaining how human specimens should be treated, according to proper forensic procedure. Imagine that this protocol will be used by someone who does not know anything about the proper treatment of human remains.

C. You are called upon to determine the sex and age of this skull (Exhibit B). First explain which criteria in general you would use to determine the sex and age of a skull, then apply these criteria to determine the sex and age of your subject.

D. Explain three criteria that work well in the sex determination of a pelvis. Apply these criteria to Exhibit C to determine its sex.

E. Exhibit D is a skull with a piece of bone missing. You are told that the skull is human, and that the damage is pre-mortem. First confirm that the skull is human, and explain why the trauma is indeed pre-mortem. Then analyze the trauma, determine its cause, and whether it is likely that the person survived it.

2. Methods of Evaluating Student Progress
   A. Exams/Tests
   B. Group Projects
   C. Class Participation
   D. Final Examination or Project
   E. Class Work
   F. Field Trips

3. Student Learning Outcomes
   Upon the completion of this course, the student should be able to:
   A. Demonstrate an understanding of the methodology used in Forensic Anthropology by using proper archaeological techniques, and following the Forensic Anthropology protocol.
   B. Determine cause and manner of death, and time since death, using proper Forensic Anthropology methodology.
   C. Establish a decedent's identity (sex, age, ancestry, stature, etc.), using proper Forensic Anthropological methodology.

Textbooks (Typical):

Special Student Materials
1. Forensic specimens, as needed.

Abbreviated Class Schedule Description:

Introduction to the recovery and interpretation of human physical remains within the medico-legal context.

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