

## **Forensic Anthropology**

Archaeology 442

Section: D100

Term: 2012 Fall

Instructor: Dr. Ana Boza

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### Discussion Topics:

This course will explore the role and contribution of anthropologists in forensic death investigations from the dual perspectives of anthropology and forensic science. The course will begin with a short introduction to the legal aspects and terminologies related to the investigation of suspicious deaths, a key theme of Forensic Anthropology. Then we will overview the general history of the discipline so that the student develops an understanding on the important stance of the discipline today. The core of the course will deal in explaining and critically analyzing the methods of recovery and osteological examination used in the laboratory. These will include, among others, explanations on taphonomy, determination of time elapsed since death, differentiation between animal and human remains and other relevant issues related to the study of human remains. We will examine different topics during the course: relevant real case studies from national and international contexts will be presented and critically analyzed. Laboratory tasks, parallel to the theory coursework, will help the students develop first hand experience in the study of human remains and learn to recognize the different patterns of age, sex, trauma, disease and all other manifestations on pertinent organic tissues important to the study of human remains. We will conclude by reviewing the ethical standards that forensic anthropologists should uphold in the practice of the discipline.

Grading: Bi-weekly quizzes (10% each): 50%

Research paper and presentation: 30%

Laboratory exercises in oral format: 20%

## **Forensic Anthropology**

Required Texts: Steven N. Byers. 2011. Introduction to Forensic Anthropology: a Textbook, 4th edition. Pearson.

Additional reading will be assigned for lectures.

Recommended Texts:

Materials/Supplies:

Prerequisite/Corequisite: ARCH 373

Notes:

Some of the material presented during lectures might contain disturbing images. Laboratory exercises will require handling of human remains.

Students requiring accommodations as a result of a disability must contact the Centre for Students with Disabilities 778.782.3112 or [csdo@sfu.ca](mailto:csdo@sfu.ca).

All students are expected to read and understand SFUs policies with regard to academic honesty and student conduct (S10). These policies are available at the following web address: <http://www.sfu.ca/policies/Students/index.html>

Deferred grades will be given only on the basis of authenticated medical disability.

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