

Forensic Anthropology

Archaeology 442

Section: D100

Term: 2003 Fall

Instructor: Professor Mark Skinner

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Day course at Burnaby campus

Discussion Topics: Forensic anthropology is the application of archaeological and osteological expertise to the identification, recovery and analysis of skeletal related evidence from crime scenes and other unexplained deaths with more or less skeletonised remains. The purpose of this course is to introduce students with a background in human skeletal analysis to methods for recognising and recovering evidence that allow determinations of elapsed time since death, manner and cause of death, and individual identification from bones and teeth.

Course objectives:

The student will develop a critical appreciation of the strengths and weaknesses of field methods, laboratory analysis and decision making process in this forensic science.

Course content:

The course is divided into three operationally consecutive components: field work, lab analysis, reporting to Court; whose emphases reflect the instructor's particular areas of expertise gained over 25 years as a forensic anthropologist in Canada. Archaeological techniques for recovery of surficial or cremated skeletons are emphasised. Discussion of laboratory techniques for determination of ancestry, sex, stature and age at death will concentrate on the last especially gleaned information from immature remains. The role of the forensic anthropologist in investigation of mass graves and human rights abuses is evaluated from experience in Afghanistan, East Timor, Serbia and Bosnia. This is a Group II Laboratory course.

Teaching methods:

Lectures from personal case history slides plus seminars based on assigned readings and some practical labs.

Grading: a) 5 bi-weekly exams each worth 10% = 50%

b) research paper (library and/or practical) = 30%

c) lab exercises = 20%

Required Texts: Burns, Karen R 1999 Forensic Anthropology Training Manual Pearson
Education Canada ISBN 0 13 01576 7 and
Byers, S N 2002 Introduction to Forensic Anthropology. Pearson Education Canada ISBN 0
205 32181 X

Recommended Texts: none

Materials/Supplies: none

Prerequisite/Corequisite: ARCH 373-5

Notes: Labs will be held the first week of classes.

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

This outline is derived from a course outline repository database that was maintained by SFU

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Student Services and the University's IT Services Department. The database was retired in 2014 and the data migrated to SFU Archives in 2015.