

Anth 410 / 510

Fall 2009

Bioarchaeology

Reconstructing Past Behavior from Human Remains

Instructor: John Lukacs (irlukacs@uoregon.edu)

Office: 355 Condon Hall (phone: 346-5112)

Office hrs: 10:00 - 11:30 UH, or by appointment

Learn how ***BIOLOGICAL ANTHROPOLOGISTS***
reconstruct human behavior from clues
preserved in human skeletal and dental remains.

Class Meeting: 8:30 - 9:50 UH; 313 Condon Hall

Lectures, exams, Article Reviews, discussion

Course Prerequisite: Students must have completed

Either:

Anth 366: Human Osteology **OR** a one year, college-level Biology
course in human anatomy. ***(Strictly enforced)!!***

Course Goals & Objectives: This course will explain how anthropologists recognize and interpret evidence from the human skeleton that can be used to reconstruct patterns of human behavior in prehistoric times. The fundamentals of human skeletal and muscular anatomy are **NOT** covered here; they should be familiar to you from prior courses in anthropology or biology.

Reading information from human skeletal remains includes traces of evidence left during life, as well as marks and modifications of bone that occur after death. This course will include examples of how to differentiate between these kinds of evidence and discover what these data can and cannot tell us about ancient human behaviors.

Course Structure & Requirements: The class meets twice a week on Tues and Thurs for 1 hour and 20 - 50 minutes. Tuesdays will be devoted to orientation lectures on topics listed below (page 3) on the reading & lecture schedule. On Thursday, class will be devoted to a seminar-structured discussion of required and outside readings. Attendance at both lecture and seminar meeting is critical to your success in the course, as Tuesday's lecture and the assigned reading provide the basis for Thursday's seminar discussions.

Beginning in week students will be sign-up to lead the seminar discussion each Thursday. Each student must serve as discussion leader at least twice during the term. Participation in seminar discussions, as leader or as seminar participant, constitutes an important portion of your grade.

In addition to leading the discussion students will prepare an essay on the topic of the week. Essays can be based on the required reading, on a journal article devoted to the topic of the week, or to a comparison of lecture content, and different required or independent readings. Essays are to be double spaced, minimum of 3, maximum of 5 pages (not including bibliography), and should show that the you have read and thought about the topic of the week.

Number of essays required during the term: **Grad Students:** 8 essays
Undergrads: 5 essays

<<<Essays are required on the weeks you elect to serve as seminar leader>>>

Exams: An in class mid-term and take home final exam will contribute to your course grade. The mid-term focuses on terminology and fundamental concepts from the first half of the course. The final is more integrative and synthetic asking questions that rely on lectue content, as well as required and elective readings over the term. Questions will be distributed during the last week of class and will be due the day and time of the final exam (see page 3).

Course Grade Determination:

Seminar Participation	15%
Mid-term (in class)	15%
Critical Essays	50%
Final Exam (take home)	20%

Bioarchaeology: Reconstructing Behavior from the Human Skeleton.

Required Reading List:

Jurmain, Robert (1999) *Stories from the Skeleton: Behavioral Reconstruction in Human Osteology*. Amsterdam: Gordon & Breach Publ. (Required; ISBN: 90-5700-541-7).

Larsen, CS (1998) *Bioarchaeology*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. (Required, ISBN: 0-521-65834-9).

Larsen, CS (2000) Reading the bones of La Florida. *Scientific American*. 282(6): 80-85 (June)

Recommended Reading:

Capasso, L, Kennedy, KAR, and Wilczak, CA (1999) *Atlas of Occupational Markers on Human Remains*. Teramo (Italy): Edigrafital S.p.A. (Recommended).

Larsen, CS (2000) *Skeletons in Our Closet: Revealing Our Past through Bioarchaeology*. Princeton: Princeton University Press. (Recommended).

For Critical Review (select chapters from the following books):

Lewis, ME (2007) *The Bioarchaeology of Children: Perspectives from Biological & Forensic Anthropology*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Martin, DL & Frayer, DW (1997) *Troubled Times: Violence and Warfare in the Past*. War & Society, Volume 3. Amsterdam: Gordon & Breach Publishers. (ISBN: 90-5699-533-2)

Oxenham, M and Tayles, N (2006) *The Bioarchaeology of Southeast Asia*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Turner, CG II and Turner, J (1999) *Man Corn: Cannibalism and Violence in the American Southwest and Mexico*. Salt Lake City: University of Utah Press. (ISBN: 0-874-80-566X)

White, TD (1992) *Prehistoric Cannibalism at Mancos 5 MTUMR 2346*. Princeton: Princeton University Press. (ISBN: 0-691-094-675).
