

Washtenaw Community College Comprehensive Report

ANT 265 Introduction to Forensic Anthropology Effective Term: Winter 2021

Course Cover

Division: Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences

Department: Social Sciences

Discipline: Anthropology

Course Number: 265

Org Number: 11700

Full Course Title: Introduction to Forensic Anthropology

Transcript Title: Intro to Forensic Anthro

Is Consultation with other department(s) required: No

Publish in the Following: College Catalog , Time Schedule , Web Page

Reason for Submission: Three Year Review / Assessment Report

Change Information:

Consultation with all departments affected by this course is required.

Course description

Rationale: An assessment of ANT265 was conducted WI19; alterations to the course are based on that assessment.

Proposed Start Semester: Fall 2020

Course Description: In this course, students will explore the role of the Forensic Anthropologist, the legal implications of applying scientific scrutiny to death investigation, the theory and methods used to interpret dental and skeletal data, and the strategies necessary for identifying human remains. The application of scientific methods in the investigation of homicides, mass disasters, and human rights cases means that the Forensic Anthropologist plays a crucial role in the analysis of evidence and the communication of these results to members of law enforcement.

Course Credit Hours

Variable hours: No

Credits: 3

Lecture Hours: Instructor: 45 **Student:** 45

Lab: Instructor: 0 **Student:** 0

Clinical: Instructor: 0 **Student:** 0

Total Contact Hours: Instructor: 45 **Student:** 45

Repeatable for Credit: NO

Grading Methods: Letter Grades

Audit

Are lectures, labs, or clinicals offered as separate sections?: NO (same sections)

College-Level Reading and Writing

College-level Reading & Writing

College-Level Math

No Level Required

Requisites

General Education

MACRAO

MACRAO Social Science

General Education Area 5 - Social and Behavioral Science

Assoc in Applied Sci - Area 5

Assoc in Science - Area 5

Assoc in Arts - Area 5

Michigan Transfer Agreement - MTA

MTA Social Science

Request Course Transfer

Proposed For:

Eastern Michigan University

Michigan State University

Oakland University

Wayne State University

Western Michigan University

Student Learning Outcomes

1. Identify what Forensic Anthropology is, the role of the Forensic Anthropologist within death investigation, and how the contributions by Forensic Anthropologists to medicolegal investigation, mass disasters, and human rights investigations differ from those of other forensic scientists.

Assessment 1

Assessment Tool: Exam

Assessment Date: Fall 2022

Assessment Cycle: Every Three Years

Course section(s)/other population: All sections

Number students to be assessed: All students

How the assessment will be scored: Rubric

Standard of success to be used for this assessment: 75% of students will provide correct responses on 75% or more of the exam questions.

Who will score and analyze the data: Department faculty

2. Describe the legal and scientific implications of death investigation, including (but not limited to) estimating time since death, the handling of evidence, the differences between coroner and medical examiner systems, and scene investigations/recovery.

Assessment 1

Assessment Tool: Semester project

Assessment Date: Fall 2022

Assessment Cycle: Every Three Years

Course section(s)/other population: All sections

Number students to be assessed: All students

How the assessment will be scored: Rubric

Standard of success to be used for this assessment: 75% of students will score 75% or higher on the semester project

Who will score and analyze the data: Department faculty

3. Apply methods used by Forensic Anthropologists to the identification of human skeletal and dental materials, documentation of skeletal and dental variation, production of a biological profile, and communication of results to law enforcement and the general public.

Assessment 1

Assessment Tool: Lab activities

Assessment Date: Fall 2022

Assessment Cycle: Every Three Years

Course section(s)/other population: All sections

Number students to be assessed: All students

How the assessment will be scored: Rubric

Standard of success to be used for this assessment: 75% of students will score 75% or higher

Who will score and analyze the data: Department faculty

Course Objectives

1. Define Forensic Anthropology.
2. Identify the differences between the role of the Forensic Anthropologist and other individuals working in death investigation.
3. Define medicolegal and explain how a medicolegal investigation differs from other types of investigations.
4. Describe how Forensic Anthropology can aid in death investigation.
5. Describe the five (5) stages of the post-mortem interval.
6. Explain how indicators from each post-mortem stage can be used to estimate time since death.
7. Explain the importance of physical evidence to death investigation.
8. Differentiate between Coroner and Medical Examiner Death Investigation systems.
9. Describe the sequence of steps that a Forensic Anthropologist would take when executing a scene investigation.
10. Identify the majority of human skeletal and dental elements.
11. Identify the instruments used by Forensic Anthropologists to document metric and morphological features of human bone and teeth.
12. Differentiate human skeletal and dental elements from non-human elements.
13. Demonstrate the use of confidence intervals for explaining the relevance of estimates.
14. Apply methods used by Forensic Anthropologists for the construction of a Biological Profile: minimum number of individuals (MNI), determination of sex, estimation of age, estimation of stature, estimation of ancestry, and interpretation of trauma and pathology.
15. Communicate conclusions reached through methods utilized by Forensic Anthropologists to the scientific community, the court system and law enforcement.
16. Describe the role of the Forensic Anthropologist in mass disaster and human rights investigations.

New Resources for Course

One (1) disarticulated human skeleton

Course Textbooks/Resources

Textbooks

White, Tim; Folkens, Pieter. *The Human Bone Manual*, ed. Burlington: Elsevier, 2005, ISBN: 0120884674.

Langley, Natalie; Tersigni-Tarrant, MariaTeresa. *Forensic Anthropology: A Comprehensive Introduction*, 2nd ed. Boca Raton: CRC, 2017, ISBN: 9781498736121.

Manuals

Periodicals

Software

Equipment/Facilities

Level III classroom

Reviewer

Faculty Preparer:

Christopher Barrett

Department Chair/Area Director:

Gregg Heidebrink

Action

Faculty Preparer

Recommend Approval

Date

Jun 02, 2020

Jul 15, 2020

Dean:*Scott Britten**Recommend Approval**Jul 16, 2020***Curriculum Committee Chair:***Lisa Veasey**Recommend Approval**Oct 30, 2020***Assessment Committee Chair:***Shawn Deron**Recommend Approval**Nov 04, 2020***Vice President for Instruction:***Kimberly Hurns**Approve**Nov 09, 2020*