Modesto Junior College
Course Outline of Record

ANTHR 107

I. OVERVIEW
The following information will appear in the 2009 - 2010 catalog

ANTHR 107 Forensic Anthropology Introduction 3 Units

Introduction to forensic anthropology as an applied field of physical anthropology; the methods of solving crimes with anthropological data and applying techniques designed for the analysis of human skeletal remains (personal identification, the determination of population, cause of death, DNA analysis, and issues of collection of physical evidence). Interaction between anthropologists and law enforcement agencies and human rights issues. Field trips might be required. Course is applicable to the associate degree.

II. LEARNING CONTEXT
Given the following learning context, the student who satisfactorily completes this course should be able to achieve the goals specified in Section III, Desired Learning:

A. COURSE CONTENT

1. Required Content:

   a. Introduction to the Field of Forensic Anthropology
      i. Definition and Historical Background
      ii. Methods in Forensic Anthropology

   b. Establishing the Forensic Context
      i. Materials Found: Bone vs. Non-Bone
      ii. Species: Human vs. Non-Human
      iii. Context: Contemporary vs. Non-Contemporary

   c. Human Osteology and Odontology
      i. Determination of Ancestry
      ii. Determination of Sex
      iii. Determination of Age at Death
      iv. Determination of Personal Identification Features

   d. Death, Trauma and the Skeleton
      i. Projectile and Blunt Trauma
      ii. Antemortem and Postmortem Effects on the Skeleton
e. Human Rights and Ethical Issues

f. Role of the Forensic Anthropologist in Law Enforcement
   i. Recovery Scene Methods
   ii. Estimating Time Since Death
   iii. Chain of Evidence

B. HOURS AND UNITS

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C. METHODS OF INSTRUCTION (TYPICAL)
Instructors of the course might conduct the course using the following method:

1. Lecture, discussion, reading, group work, and writing projects.
2. Multimedia, skeletal material, computer software and instructor handouts to supplement lecture discussion and reading.

D. ASSIGNMENTS (TYPICAL)

1. EVIDENCE OF APPROPRIATE WORKLOAD FOR COURSE UNITS
   Time spent on coursework in addition to hours of instruction (lecture hours)
   1. Weekly readings of textbook, other assigned readings, and readings of extra source materials provided in class.
   2. Per term writing assignments emphasizing descriptive, analytical and evaluative skills.
   3. Weekly review of notes, diagrams, readings, and preparations for exams using study guides, textbook summary, and self-quizzes, and the following activities:
      A. Exposure to and discussion of various source materials, both primary and secondary.
      B. Discovery and discussion of current forensic case studies.
      C. Analysis and evaluation of forensic scenarios as developed by instructor.

2. EVIDENCE OF CRITICAL THINKING
   Assignments require the appropriate level of critical thinking
   Typical assignments/prompts:
   1. Prepare a report that evaluates the analysis of forensic remains as presented in this scenario...
   2. Assess the ethical issues facing forensic anthropologists as presented in the video "Human Tragedy: The Faces of Kosovo."

E. TEXTS AND OTHER READINGS (TYPICAL)


### III. DESIRED LEARNING

**A. COURSE GOAL**

*As a result of satisfactory completion of this course, the student should be prepared to:*

Understand the process of analyzing human remains and apply concepts from anthropology to solve medical and/or legal questions of human identification.

**B. STUDENT LEARNING GOALS**

*Mastery of the following learning goals will enable the student to achieve the overall course goal.*

1. **Required Learning Goals**

   *Upon satisfactory completion of this course, the student will be able to:*

   a. Define and describe the variety of areas researched by forensic anthropologists;

   b. Identify the techniques used in determining sex, age, and ethnicity from human skeletal remains;

   c. Identify the techniques used in determining trauma and/or pathological conditions of the human skeleton;

   d. Examine the steps necessary to establish a positive identification from human skeletal remains;

   e. Assess the role of the forensic anthropologist in relationship to law enforcement officials;

   f. Understand ethical and human rights issues;

   g. Analyze and critically assess current forensic case studies, media representations, and web sites.

### IV. METHODS OF ASSESSMENT (TYPICAL)

**A. FORMATIVE ASSESSMENT**

1. Short essays.

2. Individual case reports.

3. In class discussions.

**B. SUMMATIVE ASSESSMENT**

1. Essay exams (required).

2. Objective testing.

3. Practical identifications.