Course Description- Fall 2010

Course Overview/Objectives
Forensic anthropology is a specialized field of physical anthropology concerned with the application of the techniques of physical anthropology (and human osteology) to matters dealing with the law and the medico-legal professions. This course is intended to provide students with an introduction to the methods and theories of forensic anthropology. This will be accomplished through a combination of brief lectures, discussion of the assigned readings, case studies, and laboratory assignments. A field trip to the JPAC Central Identification Laboratory (CIL) at Hickham AFB is planned. A list of the topics and assigned readings are provided in Schedule-at-a-Glance.

Required Texts

Readings
Students are expected to have read all the required assigned reading prior to each class meeting and all students are expected to participate in the general class discussion. Specific readings will be assigned to individual students who will be responsible for leading the discussion of that assigned reading/topic. Students will prepare a short written annotated bibliography of the reading(s) they are assigned for dissemination to the rest of the class. The frequency of these assignments will be determined by the number of readings assigned that week and class size. Lectures, which will be given sparingly, will serve primarily as an introduction to the week’s topic. The instructor will assess the work load periodically throughout the semester and make whatever adjustments might be necessary to adjust the quantity/quality of the assigned reading and laboratory assignments.

Readings Outside the Assigned Texts:
A complete list of the assigned reading, taken from the required texts and other sources, is provided in this document. Assigned reading outside the assigned texts will be made available through Electronic Reserves at Sinclair Library as PDF files.

Lab assignments:
Eight laboratory assignments are to be completed during the semester. The first lab will cover basic human osteology. The remaining labs will concentrate on methods (age, sex, stature, ancestry, etc.) and analysis of human remains in a forensic setting. One lab assignment will involve an actual forensic case which will require extra time to complete. All lab assignments are to be typed and submitted for a grade. Unless otherwise indicated, the lab assignments are due one week following the day they are set.
Grade Evaluation
The final grade for this course will be calculated based on the following distribution: Midterm exam = 20%; Final exam (includes written and practical = 30%; 8 Lab assignments = 40%, Discussion/Attendance = 10%. Letter grades will be assigned using the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Score Range</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A+</td>
<td>97-100+</td>
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<td>A</td>
<td>94-96</td>
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<td>A-</td>
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<td>B+</td>
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<td>B</td>
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<td>B-</td>
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<td>C+</td>
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<td>D-</td>
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Prerequisites: Students should have successfully completed a course in human osteology or skeletal biology (Anth 384/384L) before taking this course. Exceptions to this rule can be made through the consent of the instructor. Auditors are discouraged from taking this course.

Lab Monitor Work: In order to facilitate the operation of the lab and to maintain this facility in a clean environment, each student will be required to sign up for one hour (per semester) of lab monitor work. Tasks will be assigned as required throughout the semester. Your cooperation in this matter is greatly appreciated and essential for the normal functioning of these labs.

The web pages for this course are at:
http://www.anthropology.hawaii.edu/People/Faculty/Pietrusewsky/anth458/
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Lecture Topic</th>
<th>Reading from Byers’ Text&lt;sup&gt;1&lt;/sup&gt;</th>
<th>Reading from Byers’ Lab Manual&lt;sup&gt;2&lt;/sup&gt;</th>
<th>Lab Worksheets from Byers’ Lab Manual&lt;sup&gt;2&lt;/sup&gt;</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aug.</td>
<td>Introduction, organization</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1,2</td>
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<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>Lab 1: Skull &amp; teeth</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1.1,1.2,2.1A-E, 2.5</td>
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<tr>
<td>31</td>
<td>Lab 1: Infracranial skeleton</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2.3A-D, 2.4A-C</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sept.</td>
<td>2 Forensic context</td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Recovery scene; mass disasters</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>Lab 2: human vs. animal</td>
<td>3</td>
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<td>14</td>
<td>Time since death</td>
<td>5</td>
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<td>16</td>
<td>Initial treatment: preparation</td>
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<td>21</td>
<td>Ancestry</td>
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<td>23</td>
<td>Lab 3: Ancestry</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>Lab 3 [7.1-7.3]</td>
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<td>28</td>
<td>Sex determination</td>
<td>8</td>
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<td>30</td>
<td>Lab 4: Sex</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>Lab 4 [8.1-8.5]</td>
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<td>Oct.</td>
<td>5 Age determination methods</td>
<td>9</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>Lab 5: Age determination</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>Lab 5 [9.5-9.8]</td>
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<td>12</td>
<td>Mid-term Exam</td>
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<td>14</td>
<td>Stature</td>
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<td>19</td>
<td>Lab 6: Stature</td>
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<td>Lab 6 [10.1-10.3]</td>
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<td>21</td>
<td>Cause and manner of death</td>
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<td>26</td>
<td>Antemortem changes</td>
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<td>28</td>
<td>JPAC fieldtrip</td>
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<td>Nov.</td>
<td>2 Holiday: Election Day</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>Postmortem changes</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>Lab 7: Trauma</td>
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<td>11-14</td>
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<td>16</td>
<td>Forensic odontology</td>
<td>18:430-442</td>
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<td>18</td>
<td>Lab 8: John Doe</td>
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<td>23</td>
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<td>25</td>
<td>Holiday: Thanksgiving</td>
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<td>30</td>
<td>Reconstruction of identity</td>
<td>17; 18:423-430</td>
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<td>Dec.</td>
<td>2 Ethics, expert witness</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>Human rights</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>Final Practical Exam</td>
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<td>14</td>
<td>Final Exam (Written)</td>
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http://www.anthropology.hawaii.edu/People/Faculty/Pietrusewsky/anth458/
Schedule of Topics, Readings, Laboratories & Exams: Anth 458: Forensic Anthropology: Fall 2010

Aug 24 Introduction, forensic sciences, forensic anthropology, brief history
Byers (2008a) Ch. 1

Aug 26 Lab 1: Review of osteology: skull and teeth
Byers (2008a) Ch. 2; Byers (2008b) Ch. 2

Aug 31 Lab 1: Review of osteology: infracranial skeleton
Byers Ch. 2 and Byers (2008b) Ch. 2

Sept 2 Forensic context: human vs. nonhuman; contemporary vs. non-contemporary
Byers Ch. 3

Sept 7 Crime scene investigation, forensic archaeology
Byers (2008a) Ch. 4
**Sept 9 Lab 2: Animal vs. human; contemporary vs. non-contemporary**  
Byers (2008b) Ch. 3

**Sept 14 Forensic taphonomy, estimating time since death**  
Byers (2008a) Ch. 5  

**Sept 16 Initial treatment: preparation, inventory, commingling, developing a biological profile**  
Byers (2008a) Ch. 6  

**Sept 21 Ancestry**  
Byers (2008a) Ch. 7  

**Sept 23 Lab 3 Ancestry**  
Byers (2008b) Ch. 7

**Sept 28 Sex estimation, childbirth**  
Byers (2008a) Ch. 8.  


**Sept 30 Lab 4: Sex estimation**
Byers (2008b) Ch. 8

**Oct 5 Age estimation**
Byers (2008a) Ch. 9


**Oct 7 Lab 5: Age estimation**
Byers (2008a,b) Ch. 9

**Oct 12 Mid-term**

**Oct 14 Stature estimation**
Byers (2008a) Ch. 10.


**Oct 19 Lab 7: Stature estimation**
Byers (2008a,b) Ch. 10

**Oct 21 Cause and manner of death, trauma**
Byers (2008a) Ch. 11

Oct 26 Antemortem changes: paleopathology, occupational markers
Byers (2008a) Ch. 15

Oct 28 Fieldtrip: JPAC-Central Identification Laboratory

Nov 2 Holiday: Election Day

Nov 4 Postmortem changes: animal scavenging, fire, etc.
Byers (2008a) Ch. 16.

Nov 9 Lab 7: Trauma

Nov 11 Holiday: Veterans Day

Nov 16 Forensic odontology
Byers (2008a) Ch. 18.

Nov 18 Lab 9: Forensic case: Jane/John Doe
Nov 23 Lab 9: Forensic case: Jane/John Doe

Nov 25 Thanksgiving

Nov 30 Personal identification: facial reconstruction, antemortem records, photographic superimposition, DNA
Byers (2008a) Ch. 17 and 18

Dec 2 Ethics, expert witness, legal matters
Byers (2008a) Ch. 19

Dec 7 Mass death and investigation of human rights violations

Dec 9. Final Practical [1:30-2:45]
Dec 14 Final Written [12-2 PM]