ARCL0119: Forensic Anthropology

MSc Core Module: 15 credits

Deadlines for coursework for this module: 24th January 2019
Target dates for return of marked coursework to students: 24th February 2020

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INTRODUCTION:

This course focuses on introducing students to the basic techniques and theory that form the framework of Forensic Anthropology. This will include biological profiling, analysis of trauma, the use of modern records (dental and medical) in identification, and understanding the legal framework in which the forensic anthropologist works. Further aims of this course are to provide students with a solid background in the function and role of forensic anthropological skills in both small scale forensic death inquiries and in larger mass-disaster events.

WEEK-BY-WEEK SUMMARY

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BASIC TEXTS

These are intended to provide only the most basic of introductions to the various topics discussed during lectures and seminars. A more comprehensive reading list for each week of the course is provided later in this handbook, however this is not exhaustive and it is expected that each student will expand upon these provided articles in their own time.


-Blau, S., and Ubelaker, D. (eds), 2009. Handbook of Forensic Anthropology and Archaeology. Walnut Creek, California: Left Coast Press. INST ARCH JF BLA


RELEVANT JOURNALS

-American Journal of Physical Anthropology
-Australian Journal of Forensic Sciences
-Forensic Science International
-Journal of Forensic Dental Science
-Journal of Forensic and Legal Medicine
-Journal of Forensic Sciences
-Journal of Trauma and Acute Care Surgery
-International Journal of Burns and Trauma
-JAMA (Journal of the American Medical Association)
-Science and Justice
-American Journal of Forensic Medicine and Pathology
METHODS OF ASSESSMENT
This course is assessed by means of:
(a) one essay of 2500 (range between 2375 - 2625) words, which will contribute 60% to the final grade for the course. This is due on the 24th of January, 2020.
(b) one practical examination, to be held on FRIDAY 13th December 2019, which will contribute 40% to the final grade for the course

TEACHING METHODS
The course is taught through lectures and practical sessions. All lectures will be held on TUESDAYS in room 209 of the Institute from 11.00 – 13.00. Practical sessions will be held on FRIDAYS from 10.00 – 17.00 (students will be assigned one session which run 2 hours) and are compulsory (all practicals will be held in room 308).

WORKLOAD
There will be 22 hours of lectures and 22 hours of practical sessions for this course. Students will be expected to undertake around 45 hours of reading for the course, plus 45 hours preparing for and producing the assessed work, and an additional 10 hours on revision for the examination. This adds up to a total workload of some 150 hours for the course.

PREREQUISITES
A good understanding of human osteology is required for this course.

AIMS, OBJECTIVES AND ASSESSMENT

Aims
The primary aim of this course is to introduce students to the wide range of circumstances whereby a Forensic Anthropologist is required. In addition, further aims of this course are as follows: to provide students with a solid background in the function and role of forensic anthropological skills at the scene and in the lab; to introduce students to the analysis and interpretation of trauma; to provide students with the basic legal framework in which the forensic anthropologist works; and introduce students to mass fatality incidents and the role of the forensic anthropologist therein.

Objectives
On successful completion of this course a student should:
- fully understand the varied role of the Forensic Anthropologist
- know what is expected of them at both the scene and the morgue/mortuary
- understand the importance of working within a multidisciplinary team
- recognise when the skills of human identification can assist in crime investigation
- have an understanding the limitations of profiling human remains
- have the ability to problem solve efficiently when confronted with human remains
Learning Outcomes
On successful completion of the course students should be able to demonstrate general skills of observation and inference, critical reflection, and the application of acquired knowledge.

Coursework
Assessment tasks
This course is assessed by means of an essay and practical examination. The titles (topic) for the essay will be provided in the first few weeks of term; student must ordinarily select one of these. Students may, if desired, choose to set their own title, but this must be agreed by the course co-ordinator before any writing begins.

Submission dates
Essay #1 – Must be submitted on or before the 24th of JANUARY 2020, with a hardcopy handed in by 5pm. If students are unclear about the nature of an assignment, they should discuss this with the Course Co-ordinator.

Students are not permitted to re-write and re-submit essays in order to try to improve their marks. However, students may be permitted, in advance of the deadline for a given assignment, to submit for comment a brief outline of the assignment. The course co-ordinator is willing to discuss an outline of the student’s approach to the assignment, provided this is planned suitably in advance of the submission date.

Please note that in order to be deemed to have completed and passed in any module, it is necessary to submit all assessments.

Word counts [For this essay: 2500 (range between 2375 – 2625)]
The following should not be included in the word-count: title page, contents pages, lists of figure and tables, abstract, preface, acknowledgements, bibliography, lists of references, captions and contents of tables and figures, appendices.
Penalties will only be imposed if you exceed the upper figure in the range. There is no penalty for using fewer words than the lower figure in the range: the lower figure is simply for your guidance to indicate the sort of length that is expected.

In the 2019-2020 session penalties for over-length work will be as follows:
• For work that exceeds the specified maximum length by less than 10% the mark will be reduced by five percentage marks, but the penalised mark will not be reduced below the pass mark, assuming the work merited a Pass.
• For work that exceeds the specified maximum length by 10% or more the mark will be reduced by ten percentage marks, but the penalised mark will not be reduced below the pass mark, assuming the work merited a Pass.
Coursework submission procedures

- All coursework must normally be submitted both as hard copy and electronically unless instructed otherwise (However, bulky portfolios and lab books are normally submitted as hard copy only).
- You should staple the appropriate colour-coded IoA coversheet (available in the IoA library and outside room 411a) to the front of each piece of work and submit it to the red box at the Reception Desk (or room 411a in the case of Year 1 undergraduate work).
- All coursework should be uploaded to Turnitin by midnight on the day of the deadline. This will date-stamp your work. It is essential to upload all parts of your work as this is sometimes the version that will be marked.
- Instructions are given below. Please note that the procedure has changed for 2019-20, and work is now submitted to Turnitin via Moodle.

1. Ensure that your essay or other item of coursework has been saved as a Word doc., docx. or PDF document. Please include the module code and your candidate number on every page as a header.
2. Go into the Moodle page for the module to which you wish to submit your work.
3. Click on the correct assignment (e.g. Essay 1).
4. Fill in the “Submission title” field with the right details: It is essential that the first word in the title is your examination candidate number (e.g. YGBR8 Essay 1), Note that this changes each year.
5. Click “Upload”.
6. Click on “Submit”.
7. You should receive a receipt – please save this.
8. If you have problems, please email the IoA Turnitin Advisers on ioa-turnitin@ucl.ac.uk, explaining the nature of the problem and the exact module and assignment involved.

One of the Turnitin Advisers will normally respond within 24 hours, Monday-Friday during term. Please be sure to email the Turnitin Advisers if technical problems prevent you from uploading work in time to meet a submission deadline - even if you do not obtain an immediate response from one of the Advisers they will be able to notify the relevant Module Coordinator that you had attempted to submit the work before the deadline.
SCHEDULE AND SYLLABUS

Teaching schedule
Lectures will be held **11.00 – 13.00 on Tuesdays in Room 209.** Practical sessions will be held from **10.00 – 17.00 on Fridays in room 308** (students will be assigned to one two-hour session).

Practical Groups
Students will be divided into groups for practical sessions (Fridays, one 2-hr session between 10.00 – 17.00), which will take place in room 308.
To keep practical groups small enough for effective discussion and learning, **it is essential that students attend the group to which they have been assigned.** If they need to attend a different group for a particular session, they should arrange to swap with another student from that group, and confirm this arrangement with the Course Co-ordinator.

Syllabus
The following is an outline for the course as a whole, and identifies essential readings relevant to each session. Information is provided as to where in the UCL library system individual readings are available; their location and Teaching Collection (TC) number, and status (whether out on loan) can also be accessed on the eUCLid computer catalogue system.
**Week 1: 1st & 4th October 2019**

**Introduction to Forensic Anthropology; Biological Profiling; Sexual Dimorphism in the skeleton**

Essential Readings:

Suggested readings:
- Archer, M., Bassed, R., Briggs, C., and Lynch, M., 2005. Social isolation and delayed discovery of bodies in houses: The value of forensic pathology,


**Week 2: 8th & 11th October 2019**

**Growth, Development and Senescence; Estimating Age in the Skeleton**

**Essential Readings:**


**Suggested Readings:**


Week 3: 15th & 18th October 2019

**Measurements, Stature & BMI; Estimating height in the skeleton**

Essential Readings:

Suggested readings:

Week 4: 22nd & 25th October 2019

**Understanding Race: Ancestry & Anthropology; Can we estimate ancestry from the skeleton?**

Essential Readings:

Suggested readings:

**INST ARCH JF BYE** (CHAPTER 7: Attribution of Ancestry)


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**Week 5: 29th October & 1st November 2019**

*Introduction to Trauma Analysis*

**Essential readings:**


**Suggested readings:**


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**Week 6: 4th November – 8th November 2019**

**READING WEEK - NO CLASSES!**
Week 7: 12th & 15th November 2019

Blunt Force Trauma: Classification and Biomechanics

Essential Readings:

Suggested readings:

Week 8: 19th & 22nd November 2019

Sharp Force Trauma

Suggested readings:


Week 9: 26th & 29th November 2019

Ballistic and Projectile Trauma

Suggested readings:


**Week 10: 3rd & 6th December 2019**

*Using antemortem records for identification; CT/Radiographs*

Suggested readings:


**Week 11: 10th December 2019**

**Dealing with Disaster & Disaster Victim Identification**

Suggested readings:


**13th December 2019**

**FINAL EXAM**

(During your normal practical sessions)
ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Libraries and other resources
In addition to the Library of the Institute of Archaeology, other libraries in UCL with holdings of particular relevance to this degree are: UCL Science Library, UCL Cruciform Library and UCL Main Library. Libraries outside of UCL which have holdings which may also be relevant to this degree are: Wellcome Institute Library, British Library.

Information for intercollegiate and interdepartmental students
Students enrolled in Departments outside the Institute should obtain the Institute’s coursework guidelines from Judy Medrington’s office (email j.medrington@ucl.ac.uk). These guidelines will also be available on Moodle under Student Administration.

Health and safety
The Institute has a Health and Safety policy and code of practice which provides guidance on laboratory work, etc. All work undertaken in the Institute is governed by these guidelines and students have a duty to be aware of them and to adhere to them at all times. **It should be noted that eating and drinking is not permitted in room 308 at any time.**

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APPENDIX A: POLICIES AND PROCEDURES 2019-20 (PLEASE READ CAREFULLY)

This appendix provides a short précis of policies and procedures relating to modules. It is not a substitute for the full documentation, with which all students should become familiar. For full information on Institute policies and procedures, see the IoA Student Administration section of Moodle: [https://moodle.ucl.ac.uk/module/view](https://moodle.ucl.ac.uk/module/view)
For UCL policies and procedures, see the Academic Regulations and the UCL Academic Manual:  
[http://www.ucl.ac.uk/srs/academic-regulations](http://www.ucl.ac.uk/srs/academic-regulations) ; [http://www.ucl.ac.uk/academic-manual/](http://www.ucl.ac.uk/academic-manual/)

GENERAL MATTERS

ATTENDANCE: A register will be taken at each class. If you are unable to attend a class, please notify the lecturer by email. Students are normally required to attend at least 70% of classes.

DYSLEXIA: If you have dyslexia or any other disability, please discuss with your lecturers whether there is any way in which they can help you. Students with dyslexia should indicate it on each coursework cover sheet.
COURSEWORK
LATE SUBMISSION: Late submission will be penalized in accordance with current UCL regulations, unless formal permission for late submission has been granted.

The UCL penalties are as follows:

- The marks for coursework received up to two working days after the published date and time will incur a 10-percentage point deduction in marks (but no lower than the pass mark).
- The marks for coursework received more than two working days and up to five working days after the published date and time will receive no more than the pass mark (40% for UG modules, 50% for PGT modules).
- Work submitted more than five working days after the published date and time, but before the second week of the third term will receive a mark of zero but will be considered complete.

GRANTING OF EXTENSIONS: Please note that there are strict UCL-wide regulations with regard to the granting of extensions for coursework. You are reminded that Module Coordinators are not permitted to grant extensions. All requests for extensions must be submitted on a the appropriate UCL form, together with supporting documentation, via Judy Medrington’s office and will then be referred on for consideration. Please be aware that the grounds that are acceptable are limited. Those with long-term difficulties should contact UCL Student Support and Wellbeing (SSW) to make special arrangements. Please see the IoA website for further information. Additional information is given here: http://www.ucl.ac.uk/srs/academic-manual/c4/extenuating-circumstances/

RETURN OF COURSEWORK AND RESUBMISSION: You should receive your marked coursework within one month of the submission deadline. If you do not receive your work within this period, or a written explanation, notify the Academic Administrator. When your marked essay is returned to you, return it to the Module Co-ordinator within two weeks. You must retain a copy of all coursework submitted.

CITING OF SOURCES and AVOIDING PLAGIARISM: Coursework must be expressed in your own words, citing the exact source (author, date and page number; website address if applicable) of any ideas, information, diagrams, etc., that are taken from the work of others. This applies to all media (books, articles, websites, images, figures, etc.). Any direct quotations from the work of others must be indicated as such by being placed between quotation marks. Plagiarism is a very serious irregularity, which can carry heavy penalties. It is your responsibility to abide by requirements for presentation, referencing and avoidance of plagiarism. Make sure you understand definitions of plagiarism and the procedures and penalties as detailed in UCL regulations: http://www.ucl.ac.uk/current-students/guidelines/plagiarism

RESOURCES
MOODLE: Please ensure you are signed up to the module on Moodle. For help with Moodle, please contact Charlotte Frearson (c.frearson@ucl.ac.uk)