

WEEK 1: INTRODUCTION TO FORENSIC ANTHROPOLOGY NOTES

What is forensic anthropology? How is it different from the more general biological anthropology?

Who is the “Father of Forensic Anthropology in the United States”? What did he do to earn this title?

What are some of the professional forensic anthropology organizations? What is their purpose?

Why are skeletal collections essential for forensic anthropology research?

In what ways does forensic anthropology interact with the legal system?

What is a Daubert Hearing? What are the Daubert Guidelines?

Ethics in forensic anthropology:

What do forensic anthropologists do?

Skeletal remains as evidence:

What are the major components of forensic anthropology? What do forensic anthropologists do with the remains and how is their work applied to “real life”?

TERMS:

Forensic Anthropology:

Anthropology:

Biological Anthropology:

Artifact:

Biological Profile:

Comparative Morphology:

Medicolegal Significance:

Evolution:

Evidence:

Interdisciplinary:

Primates:

Paleopathology:

WEEK 2
Human Skeleton I
Notes

What is osteology?

What is odontology?

What is the skeleton?

Functions of the skeletal system:

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

What is Standard Anatomical Position?

What is the cranial skeleton?

What is the postcranial skeleton?

What is the axial skeleton?

What is the appendicular skeleton?

Planes of Reference:

Directional Terms:

Superior:

Inferior:

Distal:

Proximal:

Medial:

Lateral:

Endocranial:

Ectocranial:

Mesial:

Lingual:

Labial:

Buccal:

Occlusal:

Motions of the skeleton:

Flexion:

Extension:

Adduction:

Abduction:

Circumduction:

Pronation:

Supination:

Dorsiflexion:

Plantarflexion:

WEEK 3

Notes: Week #3 – The Scientific Method

What are the steps of the scientific method?

Step	Description/Definition

Practice in the reading:

WEEK 4

Forensic Anthropology – Bone Biology and Variation Notes

What are the types of skeletal variation/what causes it?

Musculoskeletal System Components:

- Anatomy of a Joint:

Gross Anatomy of Bones/Types of Bone:

Histology of Bones:

Bone Growth/Development:

Bone Repair:

Week 5 Notes
Skull and Dentition

Elements of the Skull:

Skull:

Mandible:

Cranium:

Calvaria:

Calotte:

Splanchnocranium:

Neurocranium:

Wormian bones:

Growth and Architecture:

Bones of the Skull and what they Articulate with:

Frontal

Parietal:

Temporal:

Occipital:

Zygomatic:

Maxilla:

Mandible:

Nasal:

Dental Terminology:

Buccal:

Lingual:

Occlusal:

Distal:

Mesial:

Labial:

Nomenclature of Teeth:

Anatomy of a Tooth:

Dentine:

Enamel:

Crown:

Root:

Pulp chamber:

Root canal:

Pulp:

Cusp:

Supernumerary teeth:

Caries:

Shovel-shaped incisors:

Types of Teeth:

WEEK 6

Human Skeleton IV Notes

Vertebral Column:

What are the sections of the vertebral column? How many of each are there? What do each of them articulate with?

Draw or describe in great detail each of the types of vertebrae:

What are vertebral discs composed of and what is their function?

Pelvic Girdle:

What bones make up the pelvic girdle? Are they fused? What do they articulate with?

What are the functions of the pelvic girdle?

Thorax:

What are the bones of the thorax? What is its function? What do they articulate with?

Leg:

What are the bones of the leg? What is their function?

WEEK 7

Note-Taking Guide

Skeletal Examination and documentation methods:

Macroscopic analysis vs metric analysis

What is Fordisc? What is it used for?

Statistics:

Regression analysis:

Discriminant function analysis:

Error:

Practitioner error:

Instrumental error:

Statistical error:

Technique:

Bayesian:

What are statistical analyses used for in forensic anthropology?

Radiology:

Radiography:

Computed topography:

Histology:

How are radiology and histology used in forensic anthropology?

Elemental analysis:

Isotopes:

How are elemental analysis and isotopes used in forensic anthropology?

Medicolegal significance:

In order to declare medicolegal significance, what 3 questions must be answered?

Skeletal vs non skeletal material

Human vs nonhuman skeletal material

Recent vs nonrecent human remains

WEEK 8

Forensic Taphonomy

Principles of forensic taphonomy

Decomposition and postmortem soft tissue changes

Postmortem skeletal changes

Estimating postmortem interval

WEEK 9

Forensic Archaeology

Principles of forensic archaeology

Recovery scenes

Archaeological methods and theory

Detection and recovery methods

Evidence collection and packaging

WEEK 9

Age Estimation

What are the goals of age estimation?

What are the different subadult aging methods? How do they work?

What are the adult aging methods? How do they work?

WEEK 10

Stature Estimation Note-Taking Guide

What is stature?

What are the different methods used to estimate stature?

What different variables do we need to consider when assessing stature? Why do we need to consider them?

Complete the Practice activity here:

WEEK 11

Sex Estimation Note-Taking Guide

Sex vs. Gender

Morphoscopic vs Metric Estimation

Morphoscopic Methods

Metric Methods

Sex Estimation in Subadults

Terms:

Sexual dimorphism:

Phenotypic:

Androgeny:

Intersex:

Genotype:

Locomotion:

WEEK 12

Ancestry Estimation

What is ancestry?

Why is ancestry estimation important?

Ethnicity vs. Race vs. Ancestry

Craniometric ancestry estimation methods:

Dental metric ancestry estimation methods:

Postcranial ancestry estimation methods:

WEEK 13

Skeletal Variation & Trauma Note-Taking Guide

Idiosyncrasies:

4 categories of individual skeletal variation:

What is considered “normal skeletal variation”?

What are skeletal anomalies? Examples?

What are pathological conditions? How are they different from other variations?

What is trauma?

What are timing categories of trauma?

What are the different kinds of forces to bone? How do they affect the bone? Be specific.

What are the different kinds of trauma?

What evidence do they leave on bone?

WEEK 14

Forensic Genetics and Humanitarian Efforts Note-Taking Guide

Terms:

Humanitarian:

Human Rights:

Mass Graves:

Mass Disaster:

Mass Fatality Incident:

Disaster Victim Identification:

What organizations are involved in humanitarian work? What do they do?

What is the difference between an open population and a closed population?

How is genetics used in forensics?