

**HUMAN OSTEOLOGY**  
**Anthropology 3300, Fall 2011**  
**Class time: 12:30-2pm Tues, Thurs**  
**401 Sanford Hall**

**Instructor:** Gwendolyn Robbins  
**Classroom and office:** 401 Sanford Hall  
**Phone:** 828-262-7505; 336-207-2744 for appointments  
**Office hrs:** 11-12:30; 2-3:30; 10-11 Fri by email; by appointment, or anytime my door is open

**ANT 3310. Human Osteology/(3). Fall.**

This course is designed to provide students with an in-depth knowledge of the human skeleton and dentition. This course will examine bones and teeth as dynamic elements that grow, develop, and degenerate throughout the lifespan. Topics covered include bone and tooth biology, microstructure, and gross anatomy including important features and landmarks of each element. Some time will also be devoted to practical issues of applying osteology to estimate age at death, sex, stature, and osteobiography. (Prerequisite: A grade of C+ or better in ANT 2230).

**Specific Goals of the Course:**

- (1) To understand anatomical terms, lab procedures, and standard osteological practice
- (2) To become thoroughly grounded in the anatomy and morphology of human skeletal and dental elements
- (3) To become comfortable with identifying skeletal and dental elements based on features and landmarks, even in cases of fragmentary, burned, or poorly preserved remains
- (4) To learn how skeletal and dental development proceeds throughout the lifespan
- (5) To understand how age at death and sex are estimated in human skeletal and dental material and to become familiar with established methods and standards
- (6) To understand bone and tooth microstructure- e.g. determining whether or not a bone is human, examining functional morphology, and establishing age at death

**Required texts:**

- White, T. (2000) Human Osteology. Academic Press.
- Baker, B., Dupras, T., Ducheri, M. (2005) Osteology of Infants and Children. Texas A and M University Press.

**Recommended optional texts**

- Burns, K.R. (2006) Forensic Anthropology Training Manual. Prentice Hall.
- Schwartz, J.H. (1995) Skeleton Keys. Oxford University Press.

**Grading:** Your grade will be based on quizzes and 2 exams using the following point system:

Quizzes (10 quizzes x 10 pts each = 100 pts)  
Midterm (100 pts)  
Final Exam (100 pts)

total of 300 points

(1) LABORATORY EXERCISES: Each week we will be working on identifications in the lab. This time is designed to provide you with experience in osteology at a practical level. It is very difficult to learn osteology without hands-on experience. Therefore, it is important that students attend class.

(2) QUIZZES: We will have a short quiz at the beginning of class (Thursday), which will consist of definition of terms, bone identifications, and short answer questions about concepts covered in class the previous week. Each quiz will be worth 10 points. Make-ups will not be provided unless you have a real emergency or University approved excuse.

(3) MIDTERM AND FINAL EXAMS: There will be two major exams during the term, one at mid-semester and one at the end of the term. The exams will require one class period to complete and will have a mixed format but primarily consist of practical identification of bones and fragments.

I will use the following scale (any partial points will be rounded to the nearest whole number):

A	93 - 100%
A-	90 - 92%
B+	87 - 89%
B	83 - 86%
B-	80 - 82%
C	70 - 79%
D	60 - 69%
F	< 60%

### **Make-up Exam Policy**

Make up exams will be given in the case of a severe illness, injury, or family emergency, in which case you are required to notify me by telephone, by email, or in person prior to the scheduled time. An acceptable excuse is a signed statement from a physician or some evidence of a personal or family crisis. If for some legitimate reason you are unable to take an exam, all make-up exams will be given in essay format.

### **Office Hours**

I have 6 office hours per week and you are welcome to come by my office. If my regular office hours are not compatible with your schedule, please make an appointment. I encourage students to meet with me. I feel that professor-student contact and communication are very important and allow for more detailed discussion. Please come see me to talk about any questions you might have about reading or lecture material, to discuss plans/questions you might have about becoming an anthropology major/graduate student, or to evaluate ideas you might have about research in biological anthropology.

### **Academic Integrity Code**

Appalachian State University's Academic Integrity Code is designed to create an atmosphere of

trust, respect, fairness, honesty, and responsibility. The Academic Integrity Code outlines “user-friendly” procedures and mechanisms for resolving alleged violations of academic integrity. The Academic Integrity Code is the result of cooperation among Appalachian’s faculty, students, and administrators, and promotes a campus dialogue about academic integrity. All members of the Appalachian State University community are responsible for promoting an ethical learning environment.

When applying for admission to Appalachian State University, students agree to abide by the following Code:

- Students will not lie, cheat, or steal to gain academic advantage.
- Students will oppose every instance of academic dishonesty.

### **Disability Services**

Appalachian State University is committed to making reasonable accommodations for individuals with documented qualifying disabilities in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. If you have a disability and may need reasonable accommodations in order to have equal access to the University’s courses, programs and activities, please contact the Office of Disability Services (828.262.3056 or [www.ods.appstate.edu](http://www.ods.appstate.edu)). Once registration is complete, individuals will meet with ODS staff to discuss eligibility and appropriate accommodations."

### **Attendance Policy**

5.5.1.1 It is the policy of Appalachian State University that class attendance is an important part of a student's educational experience. Students are expected to attend every meeting of their classes and are responsible for class attendance. Since attendance policies vary from professor to professor, students should refer to the course syllabus for detailed information. Regardless of what reasons there may be for absence, students are accountable for all academic activities, and faculty may require special work or tests to make up for the missed class or classes.

In addition, faculty members are required to make reasonable accommodations for students requesting to miss class due to the observance of religious holidays. All ASU students are allowed a minimum of two absences per year for religious observances. Up to two absences for such observances will be excused, without penalty to the student, provided that the student has informed the instructor in the manner specified in the syllabus. Notice must be given by the student to the instructor before the absence occurs and no later than three weeks after the start of the semester in which the absence(s) will occur. Arrangements will be made to make up work missed by these religious observances, without penalty to the student. For the purposes of this policy, ASU defines the term “religious observance” to include religious holidays, holy days, or similar observances associated with a student’s faith that require absence from class.

Faculty, at their discretion, may include class attendance as a criterion in determining a student's final grade in the course. On the first day of class, faculty must inform students of their class attendance policy and the effect of that policy on their final grade; both policies must be clearly stated in the class syllabus. In this course, attendance is not recorded. If you do not come to class, you cannot do well in the course but I will not be including attendance as part of your final grade.

### **Statement on Student Engagement with Courses**

In its mission statement, Appalachian State University aims at “providing undergraduate students a rigorous liberal education that emphasizes transferable skills and preparation for professional careers” as well as “maintaining a faculty whose members serve as excellent teachers and scholarly mentors for their students.” Such rigor means that the foremost activity of Appalachian students is an intense engagement with their courses. In practical terms, students should **expect to spend two to three hours of studying for every hour of class time.** Hence, a fifteen hour academic load might reasonably require between 30 and 45 hours per week of out-of-class work.

Please see website for course schedule.

[http://www.appalachianbioanth.org/syllabi\\_fall.html](http://www.appalachianbioanth.org/syllabi_fall.html)