

Department of Anthropology
ANTHRO 3311G - Bioarchaeology - Practice and Theory
and
Anthro 9111B - Advanced Bioarchaeology
BRIEF COURSE OUTLINE
Winter 2025

Date: July 19, 2024

Instructor and course information:

Instructor: Dr. Nelson

Method of delivery: In person

Credit value: 0.5

Antirequisites: None.

Prerequisites: Anthropology 2226A/B or Anthropology 2229F/G or permission of the instructor.

Course Description:

This course introduces students to the field of *bioarchaeology*. In North America, Bioarchaeology is defined as the study of human remains (skeletal and mummified) from archaeological sites. In the UK and other parts of the world, it is defined as the study of biological remains, plant, animal and human, from archaeological sites. Thus, to begin with, the history of the discipline and the derivation of the term will be explored in detail. Individual lecture topics will include ethics and Bioarchaeology, mortuary analysis, the osteobiography, how identity is expressed on the skeleton, the relationship between Bioarchaeology and forensics, and Bioarchaeology in the public realm. Both empirical and theoretical aspects of Bioarchaeology will be explored in every lecture. The interdisciplinary nature of the discipline is a key theme in the course, as is the fact that Bioarchaeology is firmly rooted in Anthropology writ large.

The first two hours each week follow a traditional lecture format, while the last hour will turn into a discussion section, there topics can be explored in more detail. Thorough preparation is important for the discussion sections, to ensure an active exchange of ideas.

There is no better way to understand the people of the past than to learn about them from their mortal remains. Bioarchaeology gets to the very essence of life in the past and what it means to be human.

The lectures for this course will contain images of human remains and we will be discussing the detailed analysis of those remains. It is important that, at all times, we remember that these were once living people and as such they deserve our respect.

Weekly Lecture/Discussion Session Topics: A full course schedule including a week-by-week breakdown of topics and assigned readings will be available on the course's OWL Brightspace site before the first day of class.

Course Materials:

No textbook.

Required readings will be available through the Course Readings tool on the course site.

Evaluation:

Grades for Anthropology 3311G will be based on the following:

- participation in the discussion section – worth 10% of the final grade
- two annotated bibliographies
 - one on Mortuary Analysis – worth 15% of the final grade
 - one on Diet and Bioarchaeology – worth 15% of the final grade
- one 2,500 word research paper
- one final exam (taken during the final exam period)

~ End ~