Instructor:
Dr. Andrea Waters-Rist
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Course Information:
Credit value: 0.5 credit
Mode of delivery: This course is conducted online.

Requisites:
Antirequisite(s): None.
Prerequisite(s): None.

Course Description:
There are many TV shows, films, books, and other popular culture mediums that depict forensic science. Have you ever wondered if the depictions are accurate? Would you like to know more about what is and is not possible in a real forensic case? If so, this course is for you. We will focus on forensic anthropology, the study of human skeletal remains in medico-legal contexts. Think of the books by Kathy Reichs that led to the TV show "Bones". We will explore fact and fiction in the popular culture of forensic anthropology with the aim of understanding (a) core scientific principles, (b) common narrative devices, and (c) the effects of fictional forensic portrayals on public perception, technological standards, and ethical paradigms.

Learning Outcomes:
Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Summarize and critically evaluate literature from academic and popular sources.
- Detect similarities and differences between the presentation of forensic anthropology in popular culture and actual practice.
- Analyze contemporary issues by delineating scientific, narrative, and belief-based conceptual frameworks.
- Identify and reflect on personal and societal perceptions of death, dead bodies, and forensic science.
• Explain the effects of exaggerated forensic portrayals on public perception, technological standards, and ethical paradigms.

**Topics Covered:**
A full course schedule including a week-by-week breakdown of topics and assigned readings will be available on the course’s OWL site before the first day of class.

**Evaluation:**
Evaluation will consist of multimedia assignments, multiple choice tests, and online participation in various forums.