

1. Proposal Summary

(Summary is generally less than one page. Briefly: state what is proposed with a summary of rationale and highlights. Additional rationale may be attached.)

With the continuing popularity of *CSI* and other forensic programs on television and in the popular print media, more students want to pursue careers in forensics. Currently, Ferris State University offers a Bachelor of Science Degree in Applied Biology with a concentration in Forensic Science. The forensic biology degree offers solid foundation of biology and chemistry, with unique core courses in forensic biology, forensic chemistry, forensic human pathology and forensic DNA analysis. What is lacking are the human social and cultural aspects of forensics which I propose to teach in this new course, Forensic Anthropology. This course will introduce students to the essentials of forensic anthropology and explore archeological techniques used to search for and recover evidence from a variety of crime scenes as well as apply skeletal analysis and ethnographic methods to reconstruct the life history of the human victims. The target audience for this course will be undergraduate students interested in applied biology and criminal justice.

2. Summary of All Course Action Required*

a. Newly Created Courses to FSU:

Prefix	Number	Title
ANTH	390	Forensic Anthropology

b. Courses to be Deleted From FSU Catalog:

Prefix	Number	Title
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c. Existing Course(s) to be Modified:

Prefix	Number	Title
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d. Addition of existing FSU courses to program

Prefix	Number	Title
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e. Removal of existing FSU courses from program

Prefix	Number	Title
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*Contact Senate Secretary or UCC Chair if spaces for additional courses are needed.

NEW COURSE INFORMATION FORM*See Sample – Limit to Two Pages Please***Course Identification:**

Prefix:	Number	Title
Anth	390	Forensic Anthropology

Course Description:

This course will introduce students to the essentials of forensic anthropology and explore archeological techniques used to search for and recover evidence from a variety of crime scenes, as well as apply skeletal analysis and ethnographic methods to reconstruct the life history of the human victims. The focus of the course will be to apply skeletal and biological principles and techniques to the positive identification of skeletal and badly decomposed human remains. A major portion of the course will be devoted to details in understanding the human skeleton to estimate the age, sex, race/ethnicity and stature to identify unknown individuals from skeletal remains. Additional emphasis will be given to the various effects on the bone from outside influences during the antemortem, perimortem and postmortem interval and to determine cause and manner of death based upon various forms of trauma as evidence on the human skeleton.

Course Outcomes and Assessment Plan:

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES FOR PROPOSED COURSE

1. Understand the role of anthropology plays in the forensic sciences and legal investigations,
2. Learn the basic principles of the methods used by forensic anthropologists to identify human remains. Establish the identity (biological) profile of unknown individuals from the skeleton (decomposed, mummified, burned, or otherwise unrecognizable bodies)--age at death, sex, stature (height), ancestry, pathology; also includes time since death estimations and skeletal trauma analyses to determine the manner of death.
3. Gain knowledge about how to locate, excavate and examine human remains
4. Become familiar with the problems and controversies associated with evidence collection, preservation, and presentation of evidence.
5. Become aware of human rights violations and political issues in references to mass disaster and crimes against humanity

EVALUATION OF STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

1. Library assignment is designed to introduce students to the role of anthropology and anthropological methods in forensic sciences.
2. Every week there will be a short 15 minute quiz before the class begins. Weekly quizzes are intended to underscore and review the information and its applications in the field of forensic anthropology.

3. There will be three examinations during the semester. The first examination will assess students' basic understanding of forensic anthropology and its methods. The second examination will cover forensic archeology and its applications. The third examination will highlight the problems and controversies associated with evidence collection, preservation, and presentation of evidence.
4. There will 5 Laboratory assignments during the semester. The laboratory sessions will entail developing a biological profile for unknown human remains. Each session will cover a different aspect of the profile—age at death, stature, ancestry, gender, or any identifiable anomaly etc.
5. Class Participation will facilitate critical and reflective thinking about scientific methods and its application by human beings.

The grade for the course will be based on individual performances on weekly quizzes (20%), exams (30%) and other assignments (30%). Furthermore, attendance and class participation will count towards 20% of the final grade.

COURSE EVALUATION STRATEGIES (How will course successes be measured?)

The method for course evaluation will involve a class session following any examinations, devoted to going over the exam answers and receiving feedback from students about their interpretation of questions. This class session will highlight how each of the questions was devoted to particular objectives of the text chapters covered and objectives for the course. With this an inventory is produced for each examination, the questions are classified as difficult, challenging, confusing or simply bad. The questions that are deemed confusing or bad are tossed out and recommendations are elicited from students for making those questions more understandable and challenging. Overall, the feedback sessions following examinations are geared towards evaluating whether or not the achievement of students were consistent with course and section (if the course is divided into sections) objectives and goals. Midterm evaluations will be conducted where the students assess the student learning outcome and their own achievement. Students are also asked to rate their own achievement for the course as compared to the grade received and argue for their own evaluation

Course Outline including Time Allocation:

Week I	Introduction to Forensic Anthropology and History of forensic anthropology
Week II	The Human Skeleton: Basics
Week III	The Forensic context (Human vs Non-human)
Week IV	Bone as Tissue
Week V	The Skull and Teeth, human remains in Lab
Week VI	The Post-cranial skeleton
Week VII	Attribution of Sex and Ancestry
Week VIII	Estimation of Age
Week IX	Calculation of Stature
Week X	Forensic archaeology
Week XI	Time since death
Week XII	Cause and manner of death
Week XIII	Trauma analysis
Week XIV	Timing of Skeletal trauma: antemortem, perimortem and postmortem
Week XV	Forensic Image Analysis
Week XVI	Positive Identification, DNA based ID from bone

CREATE NEW COURSE
Course Data Entry Form

FORM F

Create New Course
Rev. 07/23/07

I. ACTION TO BE TAKEN: CREATE A NEW COURSE

Notes

1. Complete each item in Section I and Section II.
2. If this course is to be used as a prerequisite for other university courses, Form Fs that reflect the prerequisite change must be submitted for those courses as well.

Term Effective (6 digit code only): 200801 Examples: 200801(Spring), 200805(Summer), 200808(Fall)
Note: The first four digits indicate year, the next two digits indicate month in which term begins.

II. PROPOSED FOR NEW COURSE: Complete all sections a through r. See manual for clarification.

a. Course Prefix

ANTH

b. Number

390

c. Enter Contact Hours per week in boxes.

LECture 3 LAB INDEPENDENT Study – Check (x)

Practicum: Seminar:

d. Course Title: Forensic Anthropology

(Limit to 30 characters/spaces.)

e. College Code: CAS

f. Department Code: SOCS

Credit Hours: Check (x) type and enter maximum and minimum hours in boxes.

g. Type: Variable Fixed h. Minimum Credit Hours 3 i. Maximum Credit Hours 3

j. May Be Repeated for Added Credit: Check (x) Yes No

k. Levels: Check (x) Undergraduate Graduate Professional

l. Grade Method: Check (x) Normal Grading Credit/No Credit only (Pass/Fail)

m. Does proposed new course replace an equivalent course? Check (x) Yes No

n. Equivalent course: Prefix Number See instructions on Replacement courses.

o. CATALOG DESCRIPTION – Limit to 75 words – PLEASE BE CONCISE.

This course will introduce students to the essentials of forensic anthropology and explore anthropological principles techniques used to search for and recover evidence from a variety of crime scenes as well as reconstruct the life history of the human victims. The students will also learn to apply biological principles and techniques to the positive identification of unknown human remains and to determine their cause and manner of death.

p. Term(s) Offered: (See instructions for listing.) q. Max. Section Enrollment:

r. Prerequisites/Co-requisites/Restrictions: (If none, leave blank.) Limited to 100 spaces. Junior status or instructor permission.

UCC Chair Signature/Date:

_____ / /

Academic Affairs Approval Signature/Date:

Donald Fisher 02/19/07

To be completed by Academic Affairs Office: - Standard & Measures Coding and General Education Code

Basic Skill (BS) General Education (GE) Occupational Education (OC) G.E. Codes

Office of the Registrar use ONLY

Date Rec'd: ___ Date Completed: ___ Entered: SCACRSE ___ SCADETL ___ SCARRES ___ SCAPREQ ___

2007 OCT 17 2007

Anthropology 390
Forensic Anthropology

Krishnakali Majumdar

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Office hours: Tuesday and Thursdays 10am to 12 pm, Tuesdays, 4:30-6:00pm, and by appointment.

Course Description:

This course will introduce students to the essentials of forensic anthropology and explore archeological techniques used to search for and recover evidence from a variety of crime scenes, as well as apply skeletal analysis and ethnographic methods to reconstruct the life history of the human victims. The focus of the course will be to apply skeletal and biological principles and techniques to the positive identification of skeletal and badly decomposed human remains. A major portion of the course will be devoted to details in understanding the human skeleton to estimate the age, sex, race/ethnicity and stature to identify unknown individuals from skeletal remains. Additional emphasis will be given to the various effects on the bone from outside influences during the antemortem, perimortem and postmortem interval and to determine cause and manner of death based upon various forms of trauma as evidence on the human skeleton.

Course Description:

Students will become competent in:

- 1) bone identification and analysis
- 2) Creating a biological profile (human or non-human, age, sex, race/ethnicity, and stature)
- 3) interpreting taphonomic factors, and skeletal trauma.
- 4) archaeological techniques in search and recovery of any forensic scene,
- 5) ethical guidelines currently in place in the discipline of forensic anthropology.

Required Reading:

Steven N. Byers 2007 Introduction to Forensic Anthropology (3rd Edition)

Steven N. Byers 2007 Forensic Anthropology Laboratory Manual (2nd Edition)

Bill Bass and Jon Jefferson 2007 Beyond the Body Farm: A Legendary Bone Detective Explores Murders, Mysteries, and the Revolution in Forensic Science

Evaluation and Grading:

You are expected to attend all classes, do the required readings on time and take active part in class discussions. I believe in an active learning approach and prefer to run the course in a discussion format whenever possible. Taking notes on each reading assignment will help you prepare you to actively engage with the ideas raised in or by the course. Since we bring different perspectives to the readings, we can all learn from one another; consider your peer's perspective thoughtfully.

1. Library assignment is designed to introduce students to the role of anthropology and anthropological methods in forensic sciences. (5% of the total grade)
2. Every week there will be a short 15 minute quiz before the class begins. Weekly quizzes are intended to underscore and review the information and its applications in the field of forensic anthropology. (15%)
3. There will be three examinations during the semester. The first examination will assess students' basic understanding of forensic anthropology and its methods. The second examination will cover forensic archeology and its applications. The third examination will highlight the problems and controversies associated with evidence collection, preservation, and presentation of evidence. (Total 45%, 15% each exam)
4. There will 5 Laboratory assignments during the semester. The laboratory sessions will entail developing a biological profile for unknown human remains. Each session will cover a different aspect of the profile—age at death, stature, ancestry, gender, or any identifiable anomaly etc. (25%)
5. Class Participation will facilitate critical and reflective thinking about scientific methods and its application by human beings. (10%)

The grade for the course will be based on individual performances on weekly quizzes (15%), exams (45%), Library assignment (5%) and Lab assignments (25%). Furthermore, attendance and class participation will count towards 10% of the final grade.

Percentages	Grade
90-100%	A range (A+ = 97-100%, A = 93-96%, A- = 90-92%)
80- 89%	B range
70-79%	C range
60-69%	D
59% and below	F

Grades will not be curved. Students will be permitted to take a make-up exam only under very unusual circumstances. In order to take a make-up, the student must provide a written excuse for the absence from the scheduled exam.

Students will be responsible for all lectures, assigned readings, discussions, videotapes, handouts and announcements. There will be no extra credit assignments in this course.

Course Outline:

Course Outline including Time Allocation:

Week I	Introduction to Forensic Anthropology and History of forensic anthropology
Week II	The Human Skeleton: Basics
Week III	The Forensic context (Human vs Non-human)
Week IV	Bone as Tissue
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Week VIII	Estimation of Age
Week IX	Calculation of Stature
Week X	Forensic archaeology
Week XI	Time since death
Week XII	Cause and manner of death
Week XIII	Trauma analysis
Week XIV	Timing of Skeletal trauma: antemortem, perimortem and postmortem
Week XV	Forensic Image Analysis
Week XVI	Positive Identification, DNA based ID from bone

How will the course be taught and assessed ?

The course will be delivered in a variety of traditional and innovative ways - including lectures, Laboratory assignments, study exercises, films, mock excavations, student presentations and guest lectures. Recovery methodologies will be addressed through mock excavations. Mid term and final examinations will have both a written and a laboratory component.