

## SAMPLE COURSE OUTLINE

### Course Code, Number, and Title:

ANTH 1400: Forensic Anthropology

### Course Format:

[Course format may vary by instructor. The typical course format would be:]

Lecture 3 h + Seminar 0 h + Lab 1 h

**Credits:** 3

**Transfer credit:** For information, visit [bctransferguide.ca](http://bctransferguide.ca)

### Course Description, Prerequisites, Corequisites:

Forensic Anthropology deals with human remains resulting from unexplained deaths, including skeletal and fossil remains from the archaeological and paleontological records. This course focuses primarily on the recovery and analysis of skeletal human remains, explaining methodologies by which they can provide data for the medico-legal system (the courts). Foci of the course emphasize field recovery and laboratory analysis.

Prerequisites: None

Corequisites: None

### Learning Outcomes:

- identify individual bones of the human skeleton
- understand and explain the role that forensic anthropologists play in crime scene analysis
- discuss and employ the techniques used to reconstruct identity from skeletal remains
- employ the skills of objective observation, critical thinking, logical analysis, and oral and written communication at an appropriate post-secondary level

**Instructor(s):** TBA

**Office:** TBA      **Phone:** 604 323 XXXX      **Email:** TBA

**Office Hours:** TBA

## **Textbook and Course Materials:**

[Textbook selection may vary by instructor. An example of texts and course materials for this course might be:]

For textbook information, visit [https://mycampusstore.langara.bc.ca/buy\\_courselisting.asp?selTerm=3|8](https://mycampusstore.langara.bc.ca/buy_courselisting.asp?selTerm=3|8)

*Note: This course may use an electronic (online) instructional resource that is located outside of Canada for mandatory graded class work. You may be required to enter personal information, such as your name and email address, to log in to this resource. This means that your personal information could be stored on servers located outside of Canada and may be accessed by U.S. authorities, subject to federal laws. Where possible, you may log in with an email pseudonym as long as you provide the pseudonym to me so I can identify you when reviewing your class work.*

## **Assessments and Weighting:**

**Final Exam 25%**

**Other Assessments %**

**(An example of other assessments might be:) %**

Midterm: 20%

Quizzes/Tests: 20%

Lab work: 20%

Project: 15%

Number and variety of writing assignments: laboratory work and critical analysis of a case study

Proportion of individual and group work:

Individual: 80%

Group: 20%

**Grading System:** Letter grade

Specific grading schemes will be detailed in each course section outline.

Passing grade: C-

## **Topics Covered:**

Introduction

History and nature of the discipline, Forensic Anthropology and medico-legal issues, Ethics of the discipline and Case studies

Human Osteology

The human skeleton (cranial and post-cranial skeleton), Odontology (dentition), and anatomy of bone growth

*This generic outline is for planning purposes only.*

## The Forensic Context

Bone versus other materials, human versus nonhuman remains, contemporary versus historic/ancient/fossil, body modifications, associated cultural materials and types of interment

## Recovery Scene Methodology

Recovery scene integrity, locating and recording human remains, mapping and excavation, curation and cataloguing, single versus multiple remains and mass disasters

## Estimating Time Since Death

Decomposition, animal scavenging, forensic entomology, forensic botany, and deterioration of material items

## Analysis

The laboratory: preparation of remains; reconstruction, sorting and reassembly; and inventory of remains; ancestral attribution: sexing, establishing age at time of death, stature, and establishing cause of death; variable causes of death: timing of injury, projectile versus blunt trauma, sharp and miscellaneous trauma; antemortem factors: pathologies, skeletal anomalies, occupational stress markers, cranial and other skeletal element deformation; postmortem factors: dismemberment, animal scavenging, fire damage, weathering, burial damage, water transport damage, and other factors; establishing identity: facial reconstruction, assessing handedness, estimating body weight, radiography, photographic superposition, forensic odontology and other methods of analysis.

## Writing Reports and the Courts

Ethical considerations, writing the final report and courtroom testimony.

As a student at Langara, you are responsible for familiarizing yourself and complying with the following policies:

### **College Policies:**

[E1003 - Student Code of Conduct](#)

[F1004 - Code of Academic Conduct](#)

[E2008 - Academic Standing - Academic Probation and Academic Suspension](#)

[E2006 - Appeal of Final Grade](#)

[F1002 - Concerns about Instruction](#)

[E2011 - Withdrawal from Courses](#)

### **Departmental/Course Policies:**

*This generic outline is for planning purposes only.*