UNSW Course Outline

ANAT2521 Forensic Anthropology: Principles and Practices - 2024

Published on the 12 May 2024

General Course Information

Course Code : ANAT2521
Year : 2024
Term : Term 2
Teaching Period : T2
Is a multi-term course? : No
Faculty : Faculty of Medicine and Health
Academic Unit : School of Biomedical Sciences
Delivery Mode : In Person
Delivery Format : Standard
Delivery Location : Kensington
Campus : Sydney
Study Level : Undergraduate
Units of Credit : 6

Useful Links

Handbook Class Timetable

Course Details & Outcomes

Course Description

This course introduces you to the field of forensic anthropology, and the role of a forensic anthropologist in death investigations. You will explore the techniques used by forensic anthropologists to assist with identifying human remains and establishing circumstances of

death. You will learn how to analyse dental and skeletal material to estimate the age, biological sex, ethnicity and stature of an individual, and to interpret traumatic injury and pathology of bone. You have the opportunity to develop the analytical and critical thinking skills needed to perform a thorough anthropological investigation, and the expertise required to present the results in a forensic context.

Course Aims

1. To introduce you to the field of forensic anthropology and the role, knowledge and skills of a forensic anthropologist.
2. To provide you with fundamental knowledge of the human skeleton and dentition.
3. To assist you with developing an appreciation for the biological variability of humans and how biological variation can assist with the identification of human remains.
4. To provide you with the fundamental skills necessary to perform a basic anthropological analysis and to apply the results in a forensic context.

Relationship to Other Courses

Assistance with progression checking:

If you are unsure how this course fits within your program, you can seek guidance on optimising your program structure from staff at the Nucleus Student Hub.

- Progression plans for UNSW Medicine and Health programs can be found on the UNSW Medicine & Health website.
- Progression plans for UNSW Science programs can be found on the UNSW Science website.

Course Learning Outcomes

Course Learning Outcomes
CLO1 : Explain the fundamental concepts, methods and ethical principles of forensic anthropology.
CLO2 : Identify the teeth, bones and major anatomical features of the human skeleton.
CLO3 : Distinguish and apply the procedures involved in the initial treatment of remains; determining human from non-human bones and estimating the minimum number of individuals represented in a skeletal assemblage
CLO4 : Describe and apply metric and non-metric techniques to assess human remains, and interpret the findings to create a biological profile.
CLO5 : Communicate findings of an anthropological investigation in written and oral form, and in the context of the scientific literature.
CLO6 : Explain the scientific and ethical role of a forensic anthropologist in the gathering and analysis of forensic evidence in an Australian legal context.

Course Learning Outcomes	Assessment Item
CLO1 : Explain the fundamental concepts, methods and ethical principles of forensic anthropology.	• Final Theory Examination • Forensic Case Assignment
CLO2 : Identify the teeth, bones and major anatomical features of the human skeleton.	• Spot Test 2 • Spot Test 1 • Final Theory Examination • Forensic Case Assignment
CLO3 : Distinguish and apply the procedures involved in the initial treatment of remains; determining human from non-human bones and estimating the minimum number of individuals represented in a skeletal assemblage	• Spot Test 2 • Spot Test 1 • Final Theory Examination • Forensic Case Assignment
CLO4 : Describe and apply metric and non-metric techniques to assess human remains, and interpret the findings to create a biological profile.	• Spot Test 2 • Spot Test 1 • Final Theory Examination • Forensic Case Assignment
CLO5 : Communicate findings of an anthropological investigation in written and oral form, and in the context of the scientific literature.	• Forensic Case Assignment
CLO6 : Explain the scientific and ethical role of a forensic anthropologist in the gathering and analysis of forensic evidence in an Australian legal context.	• Final Theory Examination • Forensic Case Assignment

Learning and Teaching Technologies

Moodle - Learning Management System | Microsoft Teams

Learning and Teaching in this course

This course delivers its content through lectures, tutorials, laboratories and assessment tasks. The lectures present essential concepts and theoretical details on specific topics throughout the course.

Tutorials provide a more informal learning environment than a lecture. During tutorials you will be encouraged to participate in discussions with your peers. These discussions provide you with the opportunity to apply your knowledge and build your Forensic Case Report with your group.

Laboratory classes involve the study of bones and models. During practical classes you will learn how to identify bones and teeth and how to collect and document evidence from skeletal remains. You will also be given the opportunity to practice common techniques used by forensic

anthropologists to build a biological profile.

All course materials and course announcements are provided on the course learning management system, Moodle.

By accessing and using the ICT resources provided by UNSW, you are agreeing to abide by the 'Acceptable Use of UNSW ICT Resources' policy particularly on respect for intellectual property and copyright, legal and ethical use of ICT resources and security and privacy.

Assessments

Assessment Structure

Assessment Item	Weight	Relevant Dates
Final Theory Examination Assessment Format: Individual	40%	Start Date: Not Applicable Due Date: During Exam period
Forensic Case Assignment Assessment Format: Group	20%	Start Date: Not Applicable Due Date: 30/07/2024 11:59 PM
Spot Test 2 Assessment Format: Individual	20%	Start Date: Not Applicable Due Date: During Exam period
Spot Test 1 Assessment Format: Individual	20%	Start Date: Not Applicable Due Date: Week 5

Assessment Details

Final Theory Examination

Assessment Overview

The final theory examination will be held during the formal exam period. It will include a mixture of multiple-choice and short answer questions. You will be assessed on your recollection, understanding and application of the course content studied in weeks 1-10. Generalised cohort feedback will be provided via the learning management system.

Course Learning Outcomes

- CLO1 : Explain the fundamental concepts, methods and ethical principles of forensic anthropology.
- CLO2 : Identify the teeth, bones and major anatomical features of the human skeleton.
- CLO3 : Distinguish and apply the procedures involved in the initial treatment of remains; determining human from non-human bones and estimating the minimum number of individuals represented in a skeletal assemblage
- CLO4 : Describe and apply metric and non-metric techniques to assess human remains, and interpret the findings to create a biological profile.
- CLO6 : Explain the scientific and ethical role of a forensic anthropologist in the gathering and

analysis of forensic evidence in an Australian legal context.

Detailed Assessment Description

A detailed description of the format, structure and timing of all assessment items will be provided on the course Moodle page.

Assessment Length

2 hours 15 minutes

Submission notes

No short extension is available for this assessment task. Refer to Moodle for submission information.

Assessment information

Use of Generative Artificial Intelligence (AI) in this assessment:

No assistance is permitted.

UNSW Pro-Vice Chancellor Education and Student Experience (PVCESE) provides guidance on the use of generative Artificial Intelligence in assessments.

It is prohibited to use any software or service to search for or generate information or answers. If such use is detected, it will be regarded as serious academic misconduct and subject to the standard penalties, which may include 00FL, suspension and exclusion.

Assignment submission Turnitin type

Not Applicable

Forensic Case Assignment

Assessment Overview

You will be placed into a team and required to conduct an anthropological investigation by performing an analysis of skeletal remains. You will be assessed on the accuracy of your investigation and your ability to communicate your findings through a) a written report; and b) an oral presentation. You will also be asked to evaluate the performance of your group members through a peer review. The weighting is 12.5% for the written report, 5% for the peer review and 2.5% for the oral presentation, giving a total of 20% of the final course mark. For the written report and oral presentation you will be assessed as a group (i.e., everyone in the group receives the same mark) and required to submit the report/perform your presentation at the end of term. For the peer review aspect you will receive an individual grade and this review will also be

completed at the end of term.

Feedback process: Verbal feedback is provided to each group during the presentation. A marking rubric is provided for the oral presentation, written report and peer review. Written feedback is provided on the presentation and report.

Course Learning Outcomes

- CLO1 : Explain the fundamental concepts, methods and ethical principles of forensic anthropology.
- CLO2 : Identify the teeth, bones and major anatomical features of the human skeleton.
- CLO3 : Distinguish and apply the procedures involved in the initial treatment of remains; determining human from non-human bones and estimating the minimum number of individuals represented in a skeletal assemblage
- CLO4 : Describe and apply metric and non-metric techniques to assess human remains, and interpret the findings to create a biological profile.
- CLO5 : Communicate findings of an anthropological investigation in written and oral form, and in the context of the scientific literature.
- CLO6 : Explain the scientific and ethical role of a forensic anthropologist in the gathering and analysis of forensic evidence in an Australian legal context.

Detailed Assessment Description

A detailed description of the format, structure and timing of all assessment items will be provided on the course Moodle page.

Assessment Length

6 A4 pages

Submission notes

No short extension is available for this assessment task. Refer to Moodle for submission information.

Assessment information

Use of Generative Artificial Intelligence (AI) in this assessment:

Simple editing assistance is permitted.

UNSW Pro-Vice Chancellor Education and Student Experience (PVCESE) provides guidance on the use of generative Artificial Intelligence in assessments.

For this assessment task, you may use AI-based software to research and prepare prior to completing your assessment. You are permitted to use standard editing and referencing

functions in word processing software in the creation of your submission. You must not use any functions that generate or paraphrase passages of text, whether based on your own work or not.

Please note that your submission will be passed through an AI-generated text detection tool. If your marker has concerns that your answer contains passages of AI-generated text you may be asked to explain your work. If you are unable to satisfactorily demonstrate your understanding of your submission you may be referred to UNSW Conduct & Integrity Office for investigation for academic misconduct and possible penalties.

Assignment submission Turnitin type

Not Applicable

Spot Test 2

Assessment Overview

Spot test 2 will be worth 20% and will be held in the examination period. It will cover the practical classes from the second half of the term. Spot test 2 will assess your ability to identify human bones and their major anatomical features, and to apply metric and non-metric techniques to analyse human skeletal remains in the forensic context. Generalised cohort feedback will be provided via the learning management system.

Course Learning Outcomes

- CLO2 : Identify the teeth, bones and major anatomical features of the human skeleton.
- CLO3 : Distinguish and apply the procedures involved in the initial treatment of remains; determining human from non-human bones and estimating the minimum number of individuals represented in a skeletal assemblage
- CLO4 : Describe and apply metric and non-metric techniques to assess human remains, and interpret the findings to create a biological profile.

Detailed Assessment Description

A detailed description of the format, structure and timing of all assessment items will be provided on the course Moodle page.

Assessment Length

1 hour

Submission notes

No short extension is available for this assessment task. Refer to Moodle for submission information.

Assessment information

Use of Generative Artificial Intelligence (AI) in this assessment:

No assistance is permitted.

UNSW Pro-Vice Chancellor Education and Student Experience (PVCESE) provides guidance on the use of generative Artificial Intelligence in assessments.

It is prohibited to use any software or service to search for or generate information or answers. If such use is detected, it will be regarded as serious academic misconduct and subject to the standard penalties, which may include 00FL, suspension and exclusion.

Assignment submission Turnitin type

Not Applicable

Spot Test 1

Assessment Overview

Spot test 1 will be worth 20% and will be held in the middle of the term. It will cover the practical classes from the first half of the term. Spot test 1 will assess your ability to identify human bones and their major anatomical features, and to apply metric and non-metric techniques to analyse human skeletal remains in the forensic context. Individual and generalised cohort feedback will be provided via the learning management system.

Course Learning Outcomes

- CLO2 : Identify the teeth, bones and major anatomical features of the human skeleton.
- CLO3 : Distinguish and apply the procedures involved in the initial treatment of remains; determining human from non-human bones and estimating the minimum number of individuals represented in a skeletal assemblage
- CLO4 : Describe and apply metric and non-metric techniques to assess human remains, and interpret the findings to create a biological profile.

Detailed Assessment Description

A detailed description of the format, structure and timing of all assessment items will be provided on the course Moodle page.

Assessment Length

1 hour

Submission notes

No short extension is available for this assessment task. Refer to Moodle for submission

information.

Assessment information

Use of Generative Artificial Intelligence (AI) in this assessment:

No assistance is permitted.

UNSW Pro-Vice Chancellor Education and Student Experience (PVCESE) provides guidance on the use of generative Artificial Intelligence in assessments.

It is prohibited to use any software or service to search for or generate information or answers. If such use is detected, it will be regarded as serious academic misconduct and subject to the standard penalties, which may include 00FL, suspension and exclusion.

Assignment submission Turnitin type

Not Applicable

General Assessment Information

Detailed instructions regarding assessments for this course are provided on the course Moodle page (or Open Learning).

For student information on results, grades, and guides to assessment see: https://student.unsw.edu.au/assessment

Grading Basis

Standard

Requirements to pass course

In order to pass this course students must:

- Achieve a composite grade of at least 50 out of 100
- Meet any additional requirements specified in the assessment details section and on Moodle.

Course Schedule

Teaching Week/Module	Activity Type	Content
Week 1 : 27 May - 2 June	Topic	Fundamentals of Forensic Anthropology
Week 2 : 3 June - 9 June	Topic	Forensic Osteology 1
Week 3 : 10 June - 16 June	Topic	Forensic Osteology 2 and Forensic Odontology
Week 4 : 17 June - 23 June	Topic	Human vs Non-human, MNI and Modern Human Bone
Week 5 : 24 June - 30 June	Topic	Disaster Victim Identification and Mass Graves
Week 6 : 1 July - 7 July	Other	Flexi Week
Week 7 : 8 July - 14 July	Topic	Ancestry and Biological Sex
Week 8 : 15 July - 21 July	Topic	Age and Stature
Week 9 : 22 July - 28 July	Topic	Trauma and Pathology
Week 10 : 29 July - 4 August	Topic	The Expert Witness and Future Directions

Attendance Requirements

Students are strongly encouraged to attend all classes and review lecture recordings.

General Schedule Information

The times and locations of classes can be found on myUNSW under Class Timetable.

The expected engagement for all UNSW 6UOC courses is 150 hours per term. This includes lectures, tutorials, readings, and completion of assessments and exam preparation (if relevant).

Course Resources

Prescribed Resources

In addition to the **Course Manual** *(available online via the course Moodle page)*, you should have one of the following textbooks **AND** an atlas of human anatomy for this course.

- Langley N.R., & Tersigni-Tarrant A. (2017) **Forensic Anthropology: A Comprehensive Introduction**. 2nd ed. CRC Press (available through the library); **OR**
- Byers S.N., & Juarez, C.A. (2023). **Introduction to Forensic Anthropology**. 6th ed. Routledge.

***One** of the following anatomical atlases:*

- Abrahams, PH, Spratt, JD, Loukas M, and van Schoor A-N (2019) **McMinns & Abrahams' Clinical Atlas of Human Anatomy**. 8th ed. Elsevier (available through the library) **OR**
- Netter, F.H. (2014) **Atlas of Human Anatomy.** 6th ed. Elsevier (available through the library).

Recommended Resources

Textbooks

- Byers, S.N. (2016). **Forensic Anthropology Laboratory Manual**. 4th ed. Taylor and Francis

Online Resources

- Acland's anatomy videos – accessed via the UNSW Library **(strongly recommended)**
- Arnold's Glossary of Anatomical Terms - available via the course Moodle page

Additional Costs

There are no additional costs associated with this course.

Course Evaluation and Development

Student feedback is taken seriously, and continual improvements are made to the course based, in part, on such feedback.

We use student feedback from myExperience surveys to develop and make improvements to the course each year. We do this by identifying areas of the course that require development from both the rating responses and written comments. Please spare a few minutes to complete the myExperience surveys for this course posted at the top of the Moodle page at the end of term.

Details of how previous myExperience feedback has been used to enhance the current course is detailed on the course Moodle page.

Staff Details

Position	Name	Email	Location	Phone	Availability	Equitable Learning Services Contact	Primary Contact
Convenor	Dilan Seckiner				Please email to request an appointment	No	No
	Rachel Berry			02 9065 4401	Please email to request an appointment	Yes	Yes

Other Useful Information

Academic Information

As a student of UNSW Medicine & Health you are expected to familiarise yourself with the contents of this course outline and the UNSW Student Code and policies and procedures related to your studies.

Student Code of Conduct

Throughout your time studying at UNSW Medicine & Health, you share a responsibility with us for maintaining a safe, harmonious and tolerant University environment. This includes within the courses you undertake during your degree and your interactions with the UNSW community, both on campus and online.

The UNSW Student Code of Conduct website provides a framework for the standard of conduct expected of UNSW students with respect to both academic integrity and your responsibility as a UNSW citizen.

Where the University believes a student may have breached the code, the University may take disciplinary action in accordance with the Student Misconduct Procedure.

The Student Conduct and Integrity Office provides further resources to assist you to understand your conduct obligations as a student at UNSW.

Academic Honesty and Plagarism

Academic integrity

UNSW has an ongoing commitment to fostering a culture of learning informed by academic integrity. All UNSW staff and students have a responsibility to adhere to the principle of academic integrity, and ethical scholarship of learning is fundamental to your success at UNSW Medicine & Health.

Plagiarism, contract cheating, and inappropriate use of generative AI undermine academic integrity and are not tolerated at UNSW. For more information see the Academic Integrity and Plagiarism toolkit.

In addition to the information you are required to review in your ELISE training, UNSW Medicine & Health strongly recommends that you complete the Working with Academic Integrity module before submitting your first assessment task.

Referencing

Referencing is a way of acknowledging the sources of information that you use to research your assignments. Preferred referencing styles vary among UNSW Medicine & Health disciplines, so check your course Learning Management System (e.g. Moodle or Open Learning) page for information on preferred referencing styles.

For further information on referencing support and styles, see the Current Student Referencing page.

Academic misconduct and plagiarism

At UNSW, academic misconduct is managed in accordance with the Student Misconduct Procedure. Allegations of plagiarism are generally handled according to the UNSW Plagiarism Management Procedure. Plagiarism is defined in the UNSW Plagiarism Policy and is not tolerated at UNSW.

Use of Generative AI and other tools in your assessment

UNSW has provided guiding statements for the use of Generative AI in assessments. This will differ, depending on the individual assessment task, your course requirements, and the course stage within your program.

Your course convenor will outline if and how you can use Generative AI in each your assessment tasks. Options for the use of generative AI include: (1) no assistance; (2) simple editing assistance; (3) planning assistance; and (4) full assistance with attribution.

You may be required to submit the original generative AI responses, or drafts of your original work. Inappropriate use of generative AI is considered academic misconduct.

See your course Moodle (or Open Learning) page for the full instructions for individual assessment tasks for your course.

Submission of Assessment Tasks

Special Consideration

In cases where illness, misadventure or other circumstances beyond your control will prevent you from submitting your assessment by the due date and you require an extension, you need to formally apply for Special Consideration through myUNSW.

UNSW has a **Fit to Sit/Submit rule**, which means that by sitting or submitting an assessment on the scheduled assessment date, you are declaring that you are fit to do so and cannot later apply for Special Consideration.

Timed online assessment tasks

If you experience a technical or connection problem during a timed online assessment, such as a timed quiz, you can apply for Special Consideration. To be eligible to apply you need to contact the Course Convenor and advise them of the issue immediately. You will need to submit an application for Special Consideration immediately, and upload screenshots, error messages or other evidence of the technical issue as supporting documentation. Additional information can be found on: https://student.unsw.edu.au/special-consideration

Examinations

Information about the conduct of examinations in your course is provided on your course Moodle page.

Other assessment tasks

Late submission of assessment tasks

UNSW has standard late submission penalties as outlined in the UNSW Assessment Implementation Procedure, with no permitted variation. All late assignments (unless extension or exemption previously agreed) will be penalised by 5% of the maximum mark per calendar day (including Saturday, Sunday and public holidays).

Late submissions penalties are capped at five calendar days (120 hours). This means that a student is not permitted to submit an assessment more than 5 calendar days (120 hours) after the due date for that assessment (unless extension or exemption previously agreed).

Failure to complete an assessment task

You are expected to complete all assessment tasks for your courses. In some courses, there will be a minimum pass mark required on a specific assessment task (a “hurdle task”) due to the need to assure clinical competency.

Where a hurdle task is applicable, additional information is provided in the assessment information on your course Moodle page.

Feedback on assessments

Feedback on your performance in assessment tasks will be provided to you in a timely manner. For assessment tasks completed within the teaching period of a course, other than a final assessment, feedback will be provided within 10 working days of submission, under normal

circumstances.

Feedback on continuous assessment tasks (e.g. laboratory and studio-based, workplace-based, weekly quizzes) will be provided prior to the midpoint of the course.

Any variation from the above information that is specific to an assessment task will be clearly indicated in the course and assessment information provided to you on your course Moodle (or Open Learning) page.

Faculty-specific Information

Additional support for students

The university offers a wide range of support services that are available for students. Here are some links for you to explore.

- The Current Students Gateway: https://student.unsw.edu.au
- Academic Skills and Support: https://student.unsw.edu.au/academic-skills
- Student support: https://www.student.unsw.edu.au/support
- Student Wellbeing, Health and Safety: https://student.unsw.edu.au/wellbeing

Mind Smart Guides are a series of mental health self-help resources designed to give you the psychological flexibility, resilience and self-management skills you need to thrive at university and at work.

- Mind Smart Guides: https://student.unsw.edu.au/mindsmart
- Equitable Learning Services: https://student.unsw.edu.au/els
- Guide to studying online: https://www.student.unsw.edu.au/online-study

Most courses in UNSW Medicine & Health use Moodle as your Learning Management System. Guidance for using UNSW Moodle can be found on the Current Student page. Difficulties with Moodle should be logged with the IT Service Centre.

- Moodle Support: https://student.unsw.edu.au/moodle-support

The IT Service Desk is your central point of contact for assistance and support with remote and on-campus study.

- UNSW IT Service Centre: https://www.myit.unsw.edu.au/services/students

Course evaluation and development

At UNSW Medicine & Health, students take an active role in designing their courses and their overall student experience. We regularly seek feedback from students, and continuous improvements are made based on your input. Towards the end of the term, you will be asked to participate in the myExperience survey, which serves as a source of evaluative feedback from students. Your input to this quality enhancement process is valuable in helping us meet your learning needs and deliver an effective and enriching learning experience. Student responses are carefully considered, and the action taken to enhance educational quality is documented in the myFeedback Matters section of your Moodle (or Open Learning) course page.

School-specific Information

Laboratory or practical class safety.

For courses where there is a laboratory or practical-based component, students are required to wear the specified personal protective equipment (e.g., laboratory coat, covered shoes, safety glasses) indicated in the associated student risk assessments. The student risk assessments will be provided on the course Moodle page and must be read and acknowledged prior to the class.

Master of Science in Health Data Science courses

Courses in the Master of Science in Health Data Science are hosted through Open Learning. Additional resources are available on the Health Data Science Student Hub.

Recording of lectures, tutorials and other teaching activities (MSc. HDS only)

Lectures, tutorials and other teaching activities may be recorded. Students should be advised that they are consenting to the recording by their enrolment in the course or participation in the activity. The purpose of audio and video recordings is to enhance the student experience by

supporting engaged learning in an online teaching environment and ensure equitable access to all course resources for our students. If you have concerns about accessing course recordings, or being recorded, please contact the Course Convenor.

School Contact Information

School guidelines on contacting staff:

Course questions

All questions related to course content should be posted on Moodle (or Open Learning) or as directed by your Course Convenor.

In cases where email communication with course convenors is necessary, we kindly request the following:

- Use your official email address for any correspondence with teaching staff.
- We expect a high standard of communication. All communication should avoid using short-hand or texting language.
- Include your full name, student ID, and your course code and name in all communication.

Our course convenors are expected to respond to emails during standard working hours of Monday to Friday, 9am-5pm.

Administrative questions

If you have an administrative question about your program of study at the School please submit your enquiry online at UNSW Ask Us.

Complaints and appeals

Student complaints and appeals: https://student.unsw.edu.au/complaints

If you have any grievances about your studies, we invite you to address these initially to the Course Convenor. If the response does not meet your expectations, you may then contact:

School Grievance Officer, Prof Nick Di Girolamo (n.digirolamo@unsw.edu.au)

Health Data Science programs: School Grievance Officer, Dr Sanja Lujic (s.lujic@unsw.edu.au)