

**SP6505 Forensic Osteology  
SYLLABUS  
Fall, 2008**

**LEAD INSTRUCTORS:**

**Robert Walker, Ph.D.**  
**Dean, Clinical Anatomy**  
Office: LL19, Anatomy Center  
E-mail: [rwalker@nycc.edu](mailto:rwalker@nycc.edu)  
Office hours: MTW 7-9 p.m.

**COURSE OBJECTIVES:**

Upon completion of this course, the student should have an understanding of the following:

1. How skeletal morphology varies with stature, sex, ethnic background, and individuality.
2. How the skeleton changes with age in infants, children, adolescents and adults.
3. How the above information can be assessed and used to try to identify skeletal remains.

**ATTENDANCE POLICY:**

Students are expected to attend all lectures and laboratories, and to complete all assignments and required readings pertinent to each course as it is the College's belief that attendance, participation, and classroom interaction are vital to the professional educational process.

**Attendance in all lectures and laboratories is mandatory and excessive absence in these particular settings will impact a student's grades as follows:**

**Greater than 20% absence from total class hours or 20% of lecture or 20% of laboratory will result in the administrative grade of XF (failure due to excessive absences).** In such a circumstance, the student will be required to repeat the course in its entirety. The grade of XF will carry 0.0 quality points and can impact a student's academic and financial aid status. Upon successful completion of the course in a subsequent trimester, the new passing grade will replace the XF grade for a cumulative GPA calculation, but the XF will remain on the student's academic transcript as a component of his/her academic history.

## GRADING AND EXAMINATIONS:

A = 90 - 100%	Consistently exceeds performance standards.
B = 80 - 89.9%	Meets and occasionally exceeds performance standards.
C = 70 - 79.9%	Meets performance standards.
Fail = BELOW 70%	Fails to meet minimal performance standards. Student will be required to repeat the course in its entirety.

Your final grade for the course will be determined from a combination of your midterm and final examination scores.

Your grade for Forensic Osteology will be based on the following:

Midterm exam I	Indicators of sex, stature & age (subadult, pubis, ilium)	50%
Midterm exam II	Additional indicators of age, ethnicity, individuality & trauma	50%

*The two exams will concentrate on the topics listed, but will be cumulative, including questions from the previous parts of the course.* Examinations will be open-book take-home format.

Make-up examinations will be given for excused absences only, when the student has notified the instructor of his/her absence no later than the day of the exam before the exam has begun. Failure to notify the instructor will result in a zero on the missed exam. The format and timing of make-up examinations will be at the discretion of the instructor. Make-up exams should be taken within a reasonable amount of time of the missed exam, and the midterm exam must be taken before the final exam.

Students needing special testing arrangements need to speak to the instructor as soon as possible and should remind the instructor of the situation one week before each exam.

**TEXTBOOKS:** There are NO REQUIRED textbooks for this course. There will be handouts.

### **ADDITIONAL REFERENCES that you may find of interest:**

#### **Textbooks:**

Krogman, Wilton M. & Mehmet Yasar Iscan 1986 *The Human Skeleton in Forensic Medicine*. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. Springfield, Illinois: Charles C. Thomas

Byers, Steven N. 2002 *Introduction to Forensic Anthropology: A Textbook*. Boston: Allyn & Bacon.

Walker, R.A., C.O. Lovejoy, M.E. Bedford, and W. Yee (2007) *Skeletal and Developmental Anatomy, Second Edition*. Linus Publications, New York.

#### **General introductory books:**

Nafté, Myriam 2000 *Flesh and Bone: An Introduction to Forensic Anthropology*. Durham, NC: Carolina Academic Press

Rhine, Stanley 1998 *Bone Voyage: A Journey in Forensic Anthropology*. Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press

Ubelaker, Douglas, and Henry Scammell 1992 *Bones: A Forensic Detective's Casebook* New York: M. Evans and Company

### **DISCLAIMER STATEMENT:**

This syllabus is a representation of the course content, organization and evaluation processes. The faculty teaching this course reserve the right to reasonably alter the sequence of activities, evaluation and assignment dates, and evaluation and assignment methods or styles. Every effort will be made to inform the class members in advance of such changes. Students are responsible for following the syllabus and any changes instituted by the faculty.

### **HEALTH CLEARANCE POLICY:**

New York Chiropractic College considers it in the best interest of students to obtain appropriate and periodic health screenings. NYCC provides such health clearance examinations to all students through the Campus Health Center at no charge.

All first trimester students are required to receive a complete physical examination, which will include diagnostic imaging and laboratory examinations when clinically warranted. Based upon this information a clinician will clear the student for full, limited, or no participation in the practical/clinical classes.

During the fourth trimester, the student must make an appointment and have a reevaluation and an update of their case history.

Students are required to report to the Health Center for the purpose of updating their records if any change occurs between examinations, including any formal referrals made by clinical faculty in the course of a laboratory class.

If any condition is revealed during the health clearance process that may affect a student's ability to participate fully as a patient in technique or diagnosis laboratories, the student must sign a release of information allowing appropriate disclosure of information to all concerned parties, including: Class Instructors, Clinician, Dean of Chiropractic Education, Registrar, and Associate Provost. Refusal to sign such a release will result in the temporary or permanent suspension of participation privileges in practical clinical classes.

The Health Center will notify the Registrar the Friday prior to registration day of all students cleared for participation. Failure to meet the health clearance requirements will prevent the student from registering for the following trimester.

If the student is not cleared for participation as per the technical standards of the College the student must withdraw from the course and/or the program.

Policy Effective: January 4, 2000

Revision: July 24, 2000

## **Forensic Osteology Tentative Schedule**

- Wk 2 – Sept 15: Introduction
- Wk 3 – Sep 22: Human vs. non-human & skeletal indicators of sex
- Wk 4 – Sep 29: Estimation of stature
- Wk 5 – Oct 6: Estimating age-at-death in subadults
- Wk 6 – Oct 13: Changes with age in the pubic symphysis
- First take-home exam posted**
- Wk 7 – Oct 20: Changes with age in the auricular surface of the ilium
- Wk 8 – Oct 27: Midterm (written: multiple choice, true/false, and/or short answer, short essay, etc.)
- Wk 9 – Nov 3: Estimating age from radiographs and bone sections
- Wk 10 – Nov 10: Other skeletal indicators of age, and multifactorial techniques
- Wk 11 – Nov 17: Estimating ethnic background
- Wk 12 – Nov 24: Use of radiography and skeletal anomalies to help identify individuals
- Wk 13 – Dec 1: Facial reconstruction
- Second take-home exam posted**
- Wk 14 – Dec 8: Evidence of trauma
- Wk 15 – Dec 15: Review