

## **Anthropology 175/275 & Human Biology 180**

### **Human Osteology**

*The identification and analysis of human skeletal remains*

#### **Description**

The study of human skeletal remains is a crucial part of biological anthropology, and has applications in archaeology, anatomy, paleontology, and forensics. This course is an intensive in-depth study of the human skeleton. Our primary focus is on the identification of isolated and fragmentary skeletal remains. The ability to accurately and precisely identify such remains is *the* fundamental skill in human osteology, as it is a prerequisite to all subsequent analysis. To acquire this skill, students will need to spend a significant amount of time in the laboratory (in addition to the scheduled lectures) working independently with the teaching collection. Beyond identification, students will be introduced to the analytical methods used in human osteology, including paleopathology, taphonomy, forensics, paleodemography, and ancient DNA.

#### **Course Information**

Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays 11:00am – 11:50am  
Building 500 (Stanford Archaeology Center), Room 101  
5 units  
Prerequisites: none  
Fulfills GER-DB Natural Science

#### **Instructor**

Prof. David DeGusta  
E-mail: [degusta@stanford.edu](mailto:degusta@stanford.edu)  
Phone: 724-6373 (e-mail is a much better way to contact me)  
Mailbox: Stanford Archaeology Center, Bldg 500, in kitchen area  
Office: Main Quad Building 80, Room 208  
Office Hours: Mondays and Wednesdays 1-2pm

#### **Teaching Assistant**

to be announced

#### **Required Text**

White, TD. 2000. *Human Osteology, Second Edition*. Academic Press: San Diego. 563 pages. ISBN #0127466126. approximately \$75.

## **Grading**

30% Quizzes (7 total, each worth 5% of grade, drop lowest score)

40% Midterms (2 total, each worth 20% of grade)

30% Final Exam

All exams are cumulative. No make-up quizzes will be given (instead, the lowest quiz score is dropped). Make-up midterms are only possible under extreme circumstances, and only then with *written* permission obtained from Prof. DeGusta *prior* to the exam.

## **Schedule & Readings**

All listed readings refer to the textbook (White, 2000) and students are expected to have completed the reading *before* the listed class session.

1/7 Wed	Course Introduction; Anatomical Directional Terms Chapter 1, Chapter 3
1/9 Fri	Introduction to Laboratory Facility; The Skull Part I Chapter 4
1/12 Mon	The Skull Part II
1/14 Wed	<i>Quiz #1</i>
1/16 Fri	The Dentition Chapter 5
1/19 Mon	holiday; no class
1/21 Wed	<i>Quiz #2</i> ; Sources of Skeletal Variation
1/23 Fri	Vertebrae, Ribs Chapter 6, Chapter 7
1/26 Mon	Recovering Skeletal Remains Chapter 14, Chapter 15
1/28 Wed	<i>Quiz #3</i> ; Hyoid, Sternum Chapter 6, Chapter 7
1/30 Fri	Clavicle, Scapula; Minimum Number of Individuals Analysis Chapter 8 and pgs 291-292 (MNI)
2/2 Mon	Ethics and Laws in Human Osteology Chapter 16
2/4 Wed	<i>Midterm #1</i>

2/6 Fri	Humerus; Bone Biology Chapter 9, Chapter 2
2/9 Mon	Radius, Ulna Chapter 9
2/11 Wed	<i>Quiz #4</i> ; Age Estimation Methods Chapter 17
2/13 Fri	The Hand Chapter 10
2/16 Mon	holiday; no class
2/18 Wed	<i>Quiz #5</i> ; Sacrum, Coccyx Chapter 11
2/20 Fri	Os Coxae Chapter 11
2/23 Mon	Sex Estimation Methods Chapter 17
2/25 Wed	<i>Midterm #2</i>
2/27 Fri	Femur, Patella Chapter 12
3/2 Mon	Tibia, Fibula Chapter 12
3/4 Wed	<i>Quiz #6</i> ; Stature Estimation Methods Chapter 17
3/6 Fri	The Foot Chapter 13
3/9 Mon	Paleopathology Chapter 18
3/11 Wed	<i>Quiz #7</i> ; Studying Bone Modification Chapter 19
3/13 Fri	Careers in Human Osteology and Related Fields
<i>Final Exam</i>	<i>Fri March 20, 8:30 – 11:30am      Osteology Lab (Bldg 500, room 101)</i>