

Department of Anthropology

ANTHRO 3311G - Bioarchaeology - Practice and Theory

BRIEF COURSE OUTLINE

Winter 2027

Date: July 13, 2026

Instructor and course information:

Instructor: Dr. Andrea Waters-Rist

Method of delivery: In person

Credit value: 0.5

Antirequisites: None

Prerequisites: Anthropology 2226A/B or Anthropology 2229F/G or permission of the instructor.

Course Description:

This course introduces students to the field of bioarchaeology. In North America, Bioarchaeology is defined as the study of human remains (skeletal and mummified) from archaeological sites. In the UK and other parts of the world, it is defined as the study of biological remains, plant, animal and human, from archaeological sites. Thus, to begin with, the history of the discipline and the derivation of the term will be explored in detail. Individual lecture topics will include ethics and Bioarchaeology, mortuary analysis, the osteobiography, how identity is expressed on the skeleton, the relationship between Bioarchaeology and forensics, and Bioarchaeology in the public realm. Both empirical and theoretical aspects of Bioarchaeology will be explored in every lecture. The interdisciplinary nature of the discipline is a key theme in the course, as is the fact that Bioarchaeology is firmly rooted in Anthropology writ large.

A full course schedule including a week-by-week breakdown of topics and assigned readings will be available on the course's OWL Brightspace site before the first day of class.

Course Materials:

Larsen, C.S. (2015). Bioarchaeology. Interpreting Behavior from the Human Skeleton, Second Edition. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

The textbook will be available in the bookstore. The price is yet to be determined but will likely be between \$90-\$110. You are welcome to purchase a used copy of the second edition of the book. Note, do NOT buy the first edition of the book.

Other required readings will be posted on the course site and accessible by the first day of class.

Evaluation:

Grades will be based on the following:

Weekly Participation	10%
Annotated Bibliography 1	15%
Annotated Bibliography 2	15%
Research Essay	30%
Final Exam	30%

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