

San José State University
COSS/ANTH
ANTH156, Bioarchaeology, Section 01, Spring 2022

Course and Contact Information

Instructor(s): Professor Elizabeth Weiss
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Office Hours: T, R 1200-1300
Class Days/Time: T, R 1030-1145
Classroom: WSQ004

Course Description

Study of human skeletal remains from archaeological setting to aid in reconstructing the biological and cultural past. Current theoretical and methodological issues in bioarchaeology. Emphasis on potential of skeletal analysis for uncovering disease and trauma, subsistence patterns, biological relatedness, physical activity and diverse reactions to stressors. Hands-on labs will be integrated into the regular class sessions.

Course Learning Outcomes (CLO)

Anth 156 has several specific learning objectives. By the completion of this course, students should be able to:

- Think critically about issues regarding skeletal material in the archaeological record;
- Recognize a testable hypothesis;
- Recognize the difficulties in reconstructing past lifestyles;
- Understanding methodologies used in interpreting skeletal remains;
- Understand complexities of separating causes and correlations;
- Understand the biology and culture of human diversity as seen in skeletal materials.

Required Texts/Readings

You will be reading from four texts.

The Archaeology of Human Bones (Second Edition) by Simon Mays.

Can be purchased through SJSU Spartan Bookstore, various online stores (e.g., Amazon.com) or read online via the SJSU library.

Through the library: <https://ebookcentral.proquest.com/lib/sjsu/detail.action?docID=168621>

This is a no cost ebook; you must be logged in using your SJSU ID.

Note: This ebook has a limited number of concurrent users; if you see a message that the limit for the ebook has been reached, you will need to wait until one of the users finishes with the ebook before you can access it.

There is a waiting list function that will send a notification when the book becomes available.

Bioarchaeology: An Integrated Approach to Working with Human Remains by Debra L. Martin et al.

Can be purchased through various online stores (e.g., Amazon.com) or read online via the SJSU library.

Through the library: <https://link-springer-com.libaccess.sjlibrary.org/book/10.1007%2F978-1-4614-6378-8>

This is a no cost ebook; you must be logged in using your SJSU ID.

Reading the Bones: Activity, Biology, and Culture by Elizabeth Weiss.

Can be purchased through SJSU Spartan Bookstore, various online stores (e.g., Amazon.com), directly through the publisher (upf.com), or read online via the SJSU library.

Through the library: <https://ebookcentral.proquest.com/lib/sjsu/detail.action?docID=5087794>

This is a no cost ebook; you must be logged in using your SJSU ID.

Repatriation and Erasing the Past by Elizabeth Weiss and James W. Springer

Can be purchased through SJSU Spartan Bookstore, various online stores (e.g., Amazon.com), directly through the publisher (upf.com), or read online via the SJSU library:

<https://www-jstor-org.libaccess.sjlibrary.org/stable/j.ctv15vwjv4>

This is a no cost ebook; you must be logged in using your SJSU ID.

*Publishers may have discounts.

Course Requirements and Assignments

- Read the assignments before class and ask questions when something is unclear.
- Make sure to come to class; in class activities are essential to preparation for quizzes and the final.
- There are three quizzes and a final exam.

“Success in this course is based on the expectation that students will spend, for each unit of credit, a minimum of 45 hours over the length of the course (normally three hours per unit per week) for instruction, preparation/studying, or course related activities, including but not limited to internships, labs, and clinical practica. Other course structures will have equivalent workload expectations as described in the syllabus.”

Final Examination or Evaluation

There will be a comprehensive final exam at the scheduled final time.

Grading Information

Your grade will be based on three quizzes and a final: each is 25% of the grade.

There will be extra credit opportunities, which will be based on preparedness for the review sessions.

Grade	Percentage
A plus	96 to 100%
A	93 to 95%
A minus	90 to 92%
B plus	86 to 89 %
B	83 to 85%
B minus	80 to 82%
C plus	76 to 79%
C	73 to 75%
C minus	70 to 72%
D plus	66 to 69%
D	63 to 65%
D minus	60 to 62%

University Policies

Per [University Policy S16-9](#), relevant university policy concerning all courses, such as student responsibilities, academic integrity, accommodations, dropping and adding, consent for recording of class, etc. and available student services (e.g. learning assistance, counseling, and other resources) are listed on [Syllabus Information web page](https://www.sjsu.edu/curriculum/courses/syllabus-info.php) (<https://www.sjsu.edu/curriculum/courses/syllabus-info.php>). Make sure to visit this page to review and be aware of these university policies and resources.

ANTH156/ Bioarchaeology, Spring 2022, Course Schedule

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
1	1/27	Introduction to the class
2	2/1	Understanding Bones and Teeth <u>Readings:</u> Mays Chapter 1; Weiss Chapter 1
	2/3	Excavations: What One May Find <u>Readings:</u> Mays Chapters 2
3	2/8	Estimating Sex: A Useful Toolset for All Physical Anthropologists <u>Readings:</u> Mays Chapter 3
	2/10	Estimating Age: A Useful Toolset for All Physical Anthropologists <u>Readings:</u> Mays Chapter 3
4	2/15	Estimating Height: Living Up to a Standard <u>Readings:</u> Mays Chapter 5 (pp. 126-137) Activity 1: Estimating Sex, Age, and Height
	2/17	Reconstructing Activities: Cross-Sections – Geometry in Anthropology? <u>Readings:</u> Mays Chapter 5 (pp. 137-152); Weiss Preface & Chapter 2
5	2/22	Reconstructing Activities: Enteseal Changes – Flexing One’s Muscles <u>Readings:</u> Weiss Chapter 3
	2/24	Reconstructing Activities: Stress Fractures – Not All Stress is Emotional <u>Readings:</u> Weiss Chapter 5; Mays Chapter 9 (pp. 258-263)
6	3/1	Reconstructing Activities: Activity Indicator Facets – Finding Squatters <u>Readings:</u> Weiss Chapters 6; Mays Chapter 6 (pp. 170-175) Activity 2: Reconstructing Past Activities
	3/3	Quiz 1 Review
7	3/8	Quiz 1
	3/10	Diseases: Patterns and Individuals – Healthy Bones, Dead Body <u>Readings:</u> Mays Chapter 7 (pp. 177-200)
8	3/15	Infectious Diseases: Before and After Contact – Primitive Biological Warfare? <u>Readings:</u> Springer and Weiss Chapter 4 (pp. 110-119); Mays Chapter 7 (pp. 200-206; 209-216)
	3/17	Diseases of Aging: Osteoporosis and Osteoarthritis – Evolutionary Baggage <u>Readings:</u> Mays Chapter 7 (pp. 206-209); Weiss Chapter 4 Activity 3: Identifying Disease
9	3/22	Dental Disease and Diet: Life Before Floss <u>Readings:</u> Mays Chapters 8

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
		Activity 4: Identifying Dental Disease
	3/24	Diet, Migration, and Isotopes: Stable Elements <u>Readings:</u> Mays Chapter 10
10	3/29	SPRING BREAK
	3/31	SPRING BREAK
11	4/5	Quiz 2 Review
	4/7	Quiz 2
12	4/12	Injuries: Violence and Culture – Picking a Fight <u>Readings:</u> Mays Chapter 9 (pp. 236-257); Martin et al. Chapter 9; Weiss and Springer Chapter 4 (pp. 99-110) Activity 4: Examining Trauma
	4/14	Culture: Treatment of the Ill and the Dead – Friends, Enemies, and Frenemies <u>Readings:</u> Mays Chapter 12; Martin et al. Chapter 5; Weiss and Springer Chapter 9
13	4/19	Who is related to whom: Family Trees? <u>Readings:</u> Mays Chapters 4 & 6 (pp. 153-170) Activity 5: Biological Relatedness
	4/21	DNA: A Better Tool for Finding Fathers? <u>Readings:</u> Mays 11; Martin et al. Chapter 8 (pp. 200-203, 208)
14	4/26	The First Americans: Traveling from Afar Over a Land Bridge? <u>Readings:</u> Weiss and Springer Chapters 1 & 3
	4/28	Quiz 3 Review
15	5/3	Quiz 3
	5/5	Understanding Reburial Laws: It's Complicated! <u>Readings:</u> Weiss and Springer Chapters 5, 7 & 8
16	5/10	Effects of Repatriation Ideology: A Collection is Forever, or Not? <u>Readings:</u> Mays Chapter 13; Martin et al. Chapter 2 & 10 Weiss and Springer Weiss Introduction, Chapter 10 & Conclusions
	5/12	Review Day - Last Day of Class
Final Exam	5/20	Friday, May 20 th , in WSQ004, 0900-1200