

ANTHROPOLOGY 4R03

Advanced Bioarchaeology and Skeletal Biology

McMaster University
Winter 2019



Dr. Rebecca Gilmour
gilmourj@mcmaster.ca
Office and Office Hours:
Chester New Hall (CNH) Room 536
TBA



COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is designed for students interested in skeletal biology and the analysis of human skeletal and dental remains. We will discuss the nature of skeletal samples, the information we can gain from the human skeleton, and some of the limitations of skeletal analysis. We will then investigate the methods used in the study of skeletal and dental remains, and critically evaluate the strengths and limitations of these methods. It is expected that students will have previous training in osteology or skeletal anatomy, but this course is not necessarily limited to those pursuing advanced degrees in biological anthropology. This course is designed to develop skills in research, skeletal analysis, and written communication that are relevant in both academic and professional settings.

There are weekly readings and students are expected to come to class prepared to discuss these readings and apply them during class. The course is a blend of lecture and seminar formats, and there will be practical laboratory sessions that form part of the learning experience.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

By the end of this course you will be able to:

- Discuss and evaluate techniques used to investigate the skeletal biology of past populations.
- Communicate new bioarchaeological research and methods to a broad (public) audience
- Develop an independent research project, and present the results of the analysis to your peers in a poster conference at the end of the term.
- Identify major themes in bioarchaeological research.

Lab Supervisor:

Bonnie Kahlon
Office: CNH Room 407

Email:
kahlonh@mcmaster.ca

Readings:

Selected readings from various published sources. Information forthcoming in class and on Avenue to Learn.

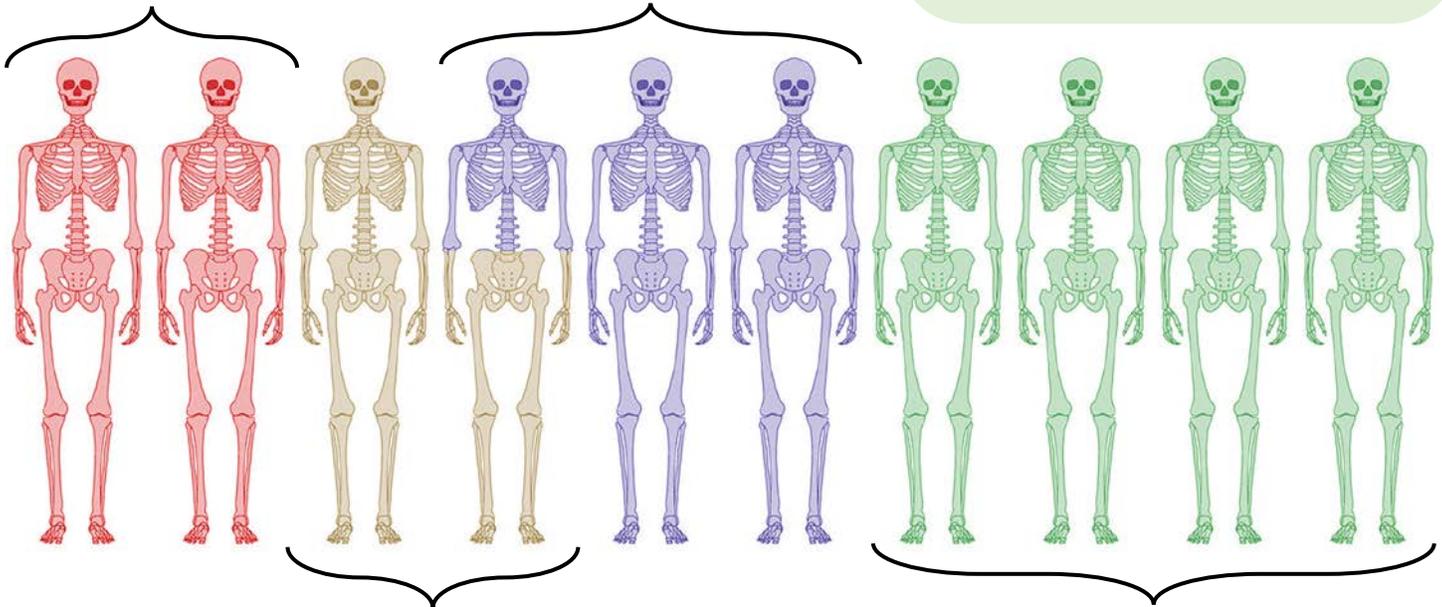
ASSESSMENT BREAKDOWN:

Project Proposal – 20%

Propose & justify a practical, creative, & innovative bioarchaeological project

Annotated Bibliography – 25%

Critical annotations of a breadth of published work related to your individual project



Seminar Facilitation –15%

You will be assigned to a week and asked to facilitate the critical discussion. This will be a *group grade* assigned based on the discussion's thoroughness and successfulness.

Please familiarize yourself with the Avenue to Learn (A2L) system.
An abbreviated version of lecture PowerPoints will be posted with other course materials on A2L. In some cases, especially when we have guest speakers, I will not be able to post the PowerPoint content.
Grades will be posted using A2L.
You can access A2L at: <http://avenue.mcmaster.ca>

Poster & Poster Presentation – 40%

This grade will be allocated as:

- 5% for peer-review
- 30% for poster
- 10% for short presentation

Missed Exams/Assignments

Students are responsible for arranging make-up exams or assignments with the instructor. Late assignments without appropriate documentation will be penalized **15% per day late** (including weekend days). Grades for missed exams will not be re-weighted. You must complete a make-up exam or assignment.

No accommodations will be provided unless written certification, approved by your Faculty office, is provided. Please see the NEW MSAF (McMaster Student Absence Forms) website: <http://www.mcmaster.ca/msaf/>.

If you submit an MSAF and are granted permission for relief for written work, my **strict policy** is to provide a 48h extension from the time the MSAF is received. Due to the nature of the facilitation grade, it is not possible to apply an MSAF to this assignment/assessment.

ANTH 4R03 – Skeletal Biology and Bioarchaeology

Guest speakers will be featured throughout term.

		Topic	Assessmen]ts
1	Jan 9	Intro & Biocultural Approach	
2	Jan 16	Review of the Skeleton	
3	Jan 23	Sex & Gender	
4	Jan 30	Children, Childhood, & Bioarch Implications of DOHaD	Project Proposal (20%)
5	Feb 6	Age & the Elderly – Bone Loss & Sample Bias	
6	Feb 13	Biochemical Analyses - Isotopes – Diet & Migration	
7	Feb 20	Reading Week	
8	Feb 27	Biochemical Analyses - aDNA	
9	March 6	Activity – Enthesophytes, Biomechanics	Annotated Bibliography (25%)
10	March 13	Palaeopathology – Microscopy & Histology	
11	March 20	Injury & Violence – Fractures, Risk, Life course?	
12	March 27	<i>Online week & poster peer review</i>	
13	April 3	Poster Presentations	Presentations & Posters (40%)

COURSE MODIFICATION

The instructor and university reserve the right to modify elements of the course during the term. The university may change the dates and deadlines for any or all courses in extreme circumstances. If either type of modification becomes necessary, reasonable notice and communication with the students will be given with explanation and the opportunity to comment on changes. It is the responsibility of the student to check their McMaster email and course websites weekly during the term and to note any changes.

Online elements:

In this course we will be using Avenue to Learn. Students should be aware that, when they access the electronic components of this course, private information such as first and last names, user names for the McMaster e-mail accounts, and program affiliation may become apparent to all other students in the same course. The available information is dependent on the technology used. Continuation in this course will be deemed consent to this disclosure. If you have any questions or concerns about such disclosure please discuss this with the course instructor.

Student Behaviour and Responsibilities:

Your learning – it is your responsibility to **keep up with the readings** – do not leave them until the night before the exams. Attendance in this class (both lectures and labs) is **essential** if you want to do well in this course. You are expected to think about the readings and integrate them into the information and concepts presented during lecture.

Classroom behavior – Please **do not be afraid to ask questions** or provide constructive comments! If you do not understand something, or if I have gone over a concept too fast, stop me and ask a question. Chances are if you do not understand something, other people in the class are in the same position.

Please ensure that cell phones are turned off (including text messaging, Facebook, Twitter, etc...) and **arrive on time for class**. If you have to leave class early, please sit near one of the exits.

Laptop computers may be used in class for taking notes, but students using their computers for any other purpose (e.g., checking Facebook) will be asked to turn their computers off.

Please be polite to your neighbours and **keep conversation to a minimum**.

Policy on late/missed exams and assignments:

You are responsible for completing all the learning assessments on the dates for which they are scheduled.

Late Penalties: Late assignments will be penalized at 15% per day. Late assignments will not be accepted after 5 days (including weekends) beyond the original deadline.

In the event of missed course work and/or exam(s) for medical or other reasons, the student must review and follow the Academic Regulation in the Undergraduate Calendar “Requests for Relief for Missed Academic Term Work”. <https://www.mcmaster.ca/msaf/>

Rules governing the MSAF are as follows:

- The timeframe within which the MSAF is valid has been reduced from 5 days to 3 days.
 - The upper limit for when an MSAF can be submitted has been reduced from ‘less than 30%’ to ‘less than 25%’ of the course weight.
 - The ‘one MSAF per term’ limit is retained.
 - As per the policy, an automated email will be sent to the course instructor, who will determine the appropriate relief. **Students must immediately follow up with their instructors.**
- Failure to do so may negate the opportunity for relief.**
- If you submit an MSAF and are granted permission for relief, my strict policy is to provide a 48 hour extension from the time the MSAF is received. Grades will **not** be reweighted.

All work in this class must be completed. **GRADES IN THIS COURSE WILL NOT BE RE-WEIGHTED.**

Faculty of social sciences e-mail communication policy:

Effective September 1, 2010, it is the policy of the Faculty of Social Sciences that all e-mail communication sent from students to instructors (including TAs), and from students to staff, must originate from the student's own McMaster University e-mail account. This policy protects confidentiality and confirms the identity of the student. It is the student's responsibility to ensure that communication is sent to the university from a McMaster account. **If an instructor becomes aware that a communication has come from an alternate address, the instructor may not reply at his or her discretion.**

Email Forwarding in MUGSI: <http://www.mcmaster.ca/uts/support/email/emailforward.html>

*Forwarding will take effect 24-hours after students complete the process at the above link
(Approved at the Faculty of Social Sciences meeting on Tues. May 25, 2010)

I will check my email throughout the work-week and will strive to respond within approximately **48 hours**. Please put **4R03 in the subject line** of your email and **include your name and student number** at the end of all correspondence.

Academic dishonesty:

You are expected to exhibit honesty and use ethical behaviour in all aspects of the learning process. Academic credentials you earn are rooted in principles of honesty and academic integrity.

Academic dishonesty consists of misrepresentation by deception or by other fraudulent means and can result in serious consequences, e.g., the grade of zero on an assignment, loss of credit with a notation on the transcript (notation reads: "Grade of F assigned for academic dishonesty"), and/or suspension or expulsion from the university.

It is your responsibility to understand what constitutes academic dishonesty. For information on the various kinds of academic dishonesty please refer to the Academic Integrity Policy, Appendix 3, www.mcmaster.ca/senate/academic/ac_integrity.htm

The following illustrates only three forms of academic dishonesty:

1. Plagiarism, e.g., the submission of work that is not one's own for which other credit has been obtained. (Insert specific course information, e.g., style guide)
2. Improper collaboration in group work. (Insert specific course information)
3. Copying or using unauthorized aids in tests and examinations.

Academic accommodation for religious, indigenous or spiritual observances (RISO)

Students requiring academic accommodation based on religious, indigenous or spiritual observances should follow the procedures set out in the RISO policy. Students requiring a RISO accommodation should submit their request to their Faculty Office normally within 10 working days of the beginning of term in which they anticipate a need for accommodation or to the Registrar's Office prior to their examinations. Students should also contact their instructors as soon as possible to make alternative arrangements for classes, assignments, and tests.

Academic accommodation of students with disabilities:

Academic Skills Counselling and Services for Students with Disabilities are available through the Student Accessibility Services (SAS)

Tel: 905-525-9140 x28652

Email: sas@mcmaster.ca

Website: <http://sas.mcmaster.ca>

Students who require academic accommodation must contact Student Accessibility Services (SAS) to make arrangements with a Program Coordinator. Academic accommodations must be arranged for each term of study. Student Accessibility Services can be contacted by phone 905-525-9140 ext. 28652 or e-mail sas@mcmaster.ca. For further information, consult McMaster University's Policy for Academic Accommodation of Students with Disabilities.

AODA:

If you require this information in an alternate/accessible format, please contact Marcia Furtado at 905-525-9140 extension 24423 or email furtam1@mcmaster.ca