

ANTHROPOLOGY 352 – Lecture & Lab

HUMAN OSTEOLOGY

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Ranald Donaldson

Course Description and Objectives

Anthropology 352 is an intensive introduction to the study of modern human osteology through both lectures and laboratory studies. Topics will include: primary morphology of the entire human skeleton; human variation; relevant musculoskeletal anatomy, physiology, and histology. Human bone, both whole and fragmentary, will be studied. This course provides a foundation for advanced osteology courses such as bioarchaeology, forensic osteology, palaeopathology, and palaeoanthropology. This course is a prerequisite to the Anthropology 452 series of courses such as Bioarchaeology, Introduction to Human Forensic Osteology, and Selected Topics in Human Skeletal Disease.

This course builds upon the osteology foundation presented in Anthropology 250. EPHE 141 (University of Victoria) is also an acceptable pre-requisite for this course. Transfer courses in introductory physical anthropology and/or anatomy from other colleges or universities may be acceptable pre-requisites – please contact the instructor prior to the beginning of the course to discuss this. An introductory university or college level biology course will also prove useful. Assessment of the lecture portion of the course will be by way of short answer and multiple-choice questions.

Skills Development

Through weekly supervised sessions in the osteology laboratory, students will become familiar with the detailed macroscopic identification of both whole and fragmentary human bone material, and with the requisite descriptive and reporting skills. The functional anatomy of the skeleton and an appreciation for its variation will be emphasized, particularly as it may apply to biological anthropology, evolution, and musculoskeletal action. Students will acquire a large descriptive and functional osteology vocabulary. Laboratory assessment will be by way of timed short-answer practical questions, which will be held during scheduled laboratory sessions.

NOTE: Mandatory laboratory sessions are part of this course and must be enrolled in separately.