

ANTH 384

Forensic Anthropology Field Methods

Instructor: Dr. Stephanie E. Calce

COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES:

This course is an introduction to the field of forensic anthropological field techniques and crime scene interpretation. This outdoor field course combines two methodological approaches to excavation and recovery from both forensic science and archaeology with a focus on documentation and collection of relevant data and is offered over a four-week period in the summer semester. This course will combine in-class instruction and outdoor processing of clandestine burials and will cover topics on: crime-scene protocols and record-keeping; establishing secure scene perimeters; mapping methods (high and low technologies); establishing an excavation grid; excavation techniques (horizontal vs. bisect approaches); stratification; collecting soils, tool marks, and other evidence from the grave; casting soil imprints; taphonomy and taphonomic inference; photography; collecting evidence; maintaining chain of evidence; and crime scene interpretation to reconstruct activities relating to a death event and body deposition.

Limited enrolment: 24 students

SKILLS DEVELOPMENT:

Students will learn how to think critically, gaining hands-on experience of forensic field techniques that will require group decision-making and collaboration. Students will acquire skills in spatial data analysis from mapping exercises that will be an essential component of this course, as well as to learn new software related to 3D mapping and photogrammetry. Students will develop essential skills in areas such as deductive reasoning, collection, analysis, interpretation, and presentation of quantitative data, as well as be trained in areas beyond archaeology that includes knowledge of medical and legal terminology and procedures necessary to communicate with other medicolegal professionals in a forensic context. Students will develop their problem solving, communication, and presentation skills, as well as practical field experience in excavation methods that may be applied in finding employment in anthropological settings, for example, cultural resource management.

MATERIALS FEE:

\$60.00 (Summer 2022). Exact cash amount required.

Due by the 1st day of class (Monday July 4, 2022).

Pay in the Anthropology office Cornett B228.