ANTH 452-A01
Advanced Topics: Introduction to Forensic Human Osteology

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Ranald Donaldson

Course Description and Objectives
This applied osteology course builds strongly upon the osteology foundation material presented in Anthropology 352, Introduction to Modern Human Osteology, which is a mandatory prerequisite for this course. Anthropology 452 is not a general forensic anthropology survey course, but rather is a specific applied osteology course. The basic biomechanics of bone injury will be presented, both theoretically and practically. A variety of topics will then be reviewed, primarily traumatic injury to bone by various mechanisms (ballistic, blade, blunt, and burn). Taphonomy and skeletal aspects of child abuse will also be reviewed. Human and non-human bone, whole and fragmentary, will be studied. The primary objective of this course is to introduce students to an understanding of skeletal trauma mechanisms that may aid in the analysis of bone injury in both archaeological and modern human skeletal remains.

Skills Development
Students will be afforded the opportunity to avail themselves of a large collection of forensic osteology specimens, in order to familiarize themselves with the most commonly seen types of bone trauma. Students will learn pattern recognition techniques for the basic skeletal trauma types. Students will learn to apply basic biomechanical principles underlying the production of the various bone trauma patterns. Active participation in class discussions is expected of all students.