

ANTH 454

Approaches to Human Bioarchaeology

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Helen Kurki

COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES

Bioarchaeology is the study of human remains from archaeological contexts, with the goal of reconstructing the life histories of past populations and individuals. As the only direct biological evidence of past humans, skeletal remains provide a unique opportunity to understand past lifeways and human experiences. In this course, we will examine the methodological, theoretical, and ethical issues at the centre of this growing field, with a particular emphasis on the reconstruction of health, diet, disease, activity, and demographic characteristics of past populations. Practical skills development will focus on the application of osteological methods, reading and synthesizing academic research articles, and evolving skills related to the design of research projects. The examination of current literature will help foster critical reading and writing skills.

SKILLS DEVELOPMENT

Methods of skeletal analysis; communication through in class and online discussion; research design; critical thinking and writing.