

**PROBLEMS (SOLUTIONS) IN ANTHROPOLOGY: FORENSIC ART  
ANTH 4322.001, Spring 2010**

Instructor: Suzanne Baldon

Spring 2010

Class: M 4:00-6:50 p.m.

Room: 468UH(Lab)

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Dept: <http://www.uta.edu/anthropology>

**Required Text:**

*Forensic Art and Illustration* by Karen T. Taylor

Additional readings will be provided by the instructor.

**Suggested Text:  
(Not Required)**

*How to Draw the Human Head, Techniques and Anatomy* by

Louise Gordon

**Required Materials:** Include plastic skull model, modeling clay, materials for making sculpture stands, sculpture tools; drawing and layout paper, drawing supplies, and other items. There is a complete list in this syllabus and you may wait until after the first day of class, when I will show you the purposes for the supplies, before you buy most of them. Please see basic course outline.

**Course Description:** In this science-based Anthropology course, students will practice the forensic art reconstruction techniques that are used for the postmortem identification of persons and the identification/location of missing or wanted individuals, including age progressions, reconstructive and composite drawings, clay construction of a skull and muscles, and clay reconstruction of appearance on a plastic skull model. Students will use pencil and paper to create imagery in two-dimensions and modeling clay to reconstruct craniofacial appearance in three dimensions.

**Course Goals:** Students will explore methods that could aid in the identification of deceased persons whose physical remains are found in diverse conditions and how to apply these techniques for looking at human behavior and appearance, e.g., in criminal activity, accidents, historical research, and in displaying the human face and neck. They will demonstrate the techniques to reconstruct appearance from remains, use eye-witness reports, and project possibilities of appearance by means of making age progressions. This course should enhance the skills of the anthropologist and sociologist, serious portraitist and art student, bio-chemistry and biology student on the forensic investigations track, criminal investigator and those working for justice through the court system, as well as history, psychology, and interdisciplinary studies students. The hands-on practices should enable the students to *perceive* concepts that they study in various disciplines.

**Grading:** Grades will be based on the student's demonstrated use and understanding of the techniques, which will include a \*portfolio of drawings, practices, assignments, class work, and photos of clay projects (60%), occasional quizzes (10%), a \*\*term paper about forensic art

application instead of final exam (25%), and attendance (5%). Artistic talent may be useful, but is not necessary for successful application of these techniques. Therefore students with no artistic experience will begin the class with the same potential for success as students with prior art training. In the case of a missing face, effectiveness is more important than beauty.

**Letter Grade Equivalents:** A = 90 to 100%  
B = 80 to 89%  
C = 70 to 79%  
D = 60 to 69%  
F = 0 to 59%

**Attendance:** Be in class and be on time! Absences will jeopardize your successful completion of course goals and requirements. If you must be absent, contact your instructor with your excuse as soon as possible and arrange to stay current with assignments. It is the student's responsibility to get missed notes from your study buddies, complete missed assignments and to arrange with the instructor to make-up any missed exams, readings, videos, and work. You should ask the names, phone numbers and email addresses of classmates to establish a "study-buddy" network for notes, observations and teamwork.

The instructor will not drop you from the class for lack of attendance, so if you intend to drop, you must follow university procedures and deadlines to avoid failing the course. The first day of class is January 25, census date is February 3, and the **last drop date is April 2, 2010.**

**Policy:** Students are expected to conform to the university's policy on **academic honesty**. The policy is clearly stated in the catalog. If you require an **accommodation based on a disability**, please inform me as soon as possible! The Office for Students with Disabilities is located in UH 102. **Student support services** are available through the Office of Student Success Programs at 817-272-6107. If you bring pagers or cell phones to class, please put their alerts on inaudible settings to avoid disturbing the class during lectures.

**The instructor reserves the right to make necessary changes to this document and our course schedule/outline (subject to needs-based adjustment) with appropriate notice given to the students. Spring break is not counted in the weeks: March 15-19.**

**BASIC COURSE OUTLINE:**

**Weeks, Text Chapters in Class, Supplies to Bring:**

Overview of Forensic Art  
(how used, examples, history;  
discuss term paper prospectus, supplies  
and syllabus)

1<sup>st</sup> week, Taylor: Chapters 1 & 2,  
Textbook, note and drawing supplies  
*Hint: This book is an easy read. Go ahead and read  
the whole text and start practicing your drawing.*

Faces  
anatomy / landmarks  
  
head types / features

2<sup>nd</sup> week, Taylor: Chapters 3 & 4,  
Textbook, note, drawing supplies, and  
map pencils  
*Hint: At every available moment, during lectures and*

dentition ethnicity male / female expressions	<i>while watching videos, for example, your hands should be moving, either taking notes or sketching. Practice drawing shapes and spaces between shapes. Don't worry if it looks like anything!</i>
Drawing materials / tools styles lighting proportions / anatomical features & anomalies accessories drawing skills	3 <sup>rd</sup> week, Taylor: Chapter 4 Textbook, note and drawing supplies
Skulls construction	4 <sup>th</sup> , 5 <sup>th</sup> , 6 <sup>th</sup> , & 7 <sup>th</sup> weeks Taylor: Chapt 3 & 11 Textbook, clay and tools, aluminum foil, skull stand for each student & skull model (several can share model at this time to copy model in clay)
Interviewing / Ethics / Composite Imagery / Computer Discussion <b>Term paper prospectus due.</b>	8 <sup>th</sup> week, Taylor: Chapt 5 & 6 Textbook, note and drawing supplies for composite drawing exercises
Age Progression craniofacial growth / aging image assessment/modification	9 <sup>th</sup> week, Taylor: Chapt 7, 8 & 9 Textbook, note and drawing supplies
Postmortem Drawing peri/postmortem changes animals trauma clues from postcrania working with forensic anthropologists	10 <sup>th</sup> week, Taylor: Chapt 10 & 12 Textbook, note and drawing supplies
Skulls reconstruction measurement of markers / landmarks 2D vs 3D / clay	11 <sup>th</sup> , 12 <sup>th</sup> , 13 <sup>th</sup> , & 14 <sup>th</sup> weeks Taylor, Chapt 11 & 13 Textbook and clay supplies, skull stand & skull model for each

Discuss: Superimposition/ Review of Ethics and  
Technology/ Broadcast Media / and  
Legal Responsibilities.  
Work on 2D reconstruction drawing.

15<sup>th</sup> week, Taylor: Chaps 14, 15, 16, 17&18  
Textbook, note and drawing supplies

Final Exam Week: Term papers & projects due.  
**May 10**

16<sup>th</sup> week: Finish projects & turn in  
papers & portfolios.

**\*\*Term Papers (basic): Should be 5 – 10 pages concerning any case in forensic investigations, criminal activity, disappearances, accidents, natural deaths, historical or archaeological contexts that includes or included any type of forensic art during its process. Pick something that interests you very much and turn in to me a written prospectus (your plan for your paper) for approval by the week of March 8.**

**When you turn in your original term paper, you should include (1) a cover sheet, (2) your prospectus, (3) your paper with reference citations (any academic format), (4) your bibliography, and (5) appropriate exhibits, illustrations and/or photographs. Absence of any of these items will result in point reductions. A clever report on an interesting case and an excellent presentation of your work will be appreciated. If you have any questions or need help deciding on a topic, please ask me.**

**\*Portfolio List (basic):**

(Include your portfolio list in your portfolio as a table of contents. You may be creative in your final presentation to me of your work for the semester. Various formats are acceptable. If you have questions about possibilities for the presentation of this portfolio, please ask me.)

1. Labeling and coloring of bones and muscles
2. Practicing shapes, faces, features and expressions
3. Constructing skull from clay (photos of your work in progress and completed)
  - a. build stand (You will use stand for facial reconstruction, also.)
  - b. measure and reproduce skull
4. Adding muscles on clay skull (photos of your work)
5. Interviewing and composite drawing of example cases
  - a. as artist and interviewer
  - b. as victim and interviewee
6. Age progression: drawing progressive aging of example case photos
7. Age progression: evolution of a face from childhood to adulthood (Observation exercise, use photos of your own face as you grew up or the face of someone else.)
8. Completing an example case face
  - a. reconstruct one side of face
  - b. put together to make a whole face
  - c. compare to photo
9. Postmortem drawings from our examples of cases
10. Facial reconstruction on skull model (photos of your work in progress and completed)
  - a. attach tissue depth markers
  - b. add clay
  - c. face and features
  - d. neck and shoulders
  - e. hair
  - f. clothes and other clues
11. 2D reconstruction of example case
  - a. frontal view
  - b. profile
12. Additional practices and items of interest

## Supply List for Forensic Art ANTH 4322.001

**Plastic skull model, life-size**

**X-Acto type knife to cut tissue depth markers**

**Small metal (or plastic) millimeter ruler (NOT sections of an inch!)**

**Calipers that will measure millimeters**

**Spreading calipers that will extend open about a foot**

**Items below are for making skull stand and can differ, as long as it works:**

**Piece of pipe:  $\frac{3}{4}$ " nipple, 10" long**

**$\frac{3}{4}$ " flange with  $\frac{3}{4}$ " wood screws**

**Metal lazy susan to fasten under board**

**~12" wooden board for skull stand** (The pipe, flange, lazy susan, and board will form your base for your skull model stand; Sizes can be flexible as long as foramen magnum can fit over pipe and there is enough room on the pipe to make a neck)

**Aluminum or net wire hardware cloth, bendable, but sturdy, to help form neck/shoulders**

**Small amount of course sand paper to press onto clay face and simulate pores**

**Modeling clay** (for example, Klean Klay or Dick Blick), regular or medium firmness in tan, neutral, brown or gray will do, about 8-12 pounds per person; has an oil base, somewhat like Vaseline, and doesn't harden. **(Dr. Smith has purchased your clay (grey) for you!)**

**Basic, inexpensive tools to work with modeling clay** (Not the same as ceramic clay tools, though some have a cross application; popsicle sticks and any item that can be used to prod and shape clay will work, too. Lightweight plastic tools break easily.)

**Large dowel or rolling pin to roll out clay**

**Drawing pencils for 2D work in composite drawing, age progressions, and reconstructions**

(My favorite is 2H Sanford to use on white bond paper, but you should try several densities of drawing pencils.) And inexpensive **map pencils, crayons or markers** to color pictures of skulls

**Small stumps** (cheap little sticks of rolled up paper) **and tissues for blending pencil marks**

**Small hand-held pencil sharpener**

**"pencil pointer with handle"** (aka, small block of sandpaper for sharpening pencil point)

**Eraser shield** (thin piece of flat metal with holes in it of various sizes and shapes to help you erase out highlights exactly where you want them.)

**Kneaded eraser** (So called because you can knead it like bread or clay; very soft and pliable; lifts out mistakes and highlights.)

**Pink Pearl or White** (e.g., Magic Rub by Sanford) **Eraser** (soft and effective as eraser, but not kneadable and doesn't lift out highlights in the same way as a kneaded eraser.)

**Plastic eraser holder** (You can use one of your eraser strips in this holder for precise erasing, especially with the eraser shield.)

**Eraser strips, for example, box of Sanford machine eraser strips in white vinyl** (needed to make the tissue depth markers for the skull model)

**Glue** for plastic models or hot glue (Super glue is hard to remove from your model.)

**White paper sketch pad for pencil drawings** (9"x12", inexpensive bond)

**Transparent tracing, vellum, or layout paper** (9"x12", inexpensive type)

**Transparent plastic T-square to fit your paper size**

**Masking tape**

**Spray Fixative** (optional, for pencil drawings)

**Alcohol pads**

**Aluminum Foil to use as armature for clay skulls**

**Americans With Disabilities Act:**

The University of Texas at Arlington is on record as being committed to both the spirit and letter of federal equal opportunity legislation; reference Public Law 92-112 - The Rehabilitation Act of 1973 as amended. With the passage of federal legislation entitled *Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)*, pursuant to section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, there is renewed focus on providing this population with the same opportunities enjoyed by all citizens.

As a faculty member, I am required by law to provide "reasonable accommodations" to students with disabilities, so as not to discriminate on the basis of that disability. Student responsibility primarily rests with informing faculty of their need for accommodation and in providing authorized documentation through designated administrative channels. Information regarding specific diagnostic criteria and policies for obtaining academic accommodations can be found at [www.uta.edu/disability](http://www.uta.edu/disability). Also, you may visit the Office for Students with Disabilities in room 102 of University Hall or call them at (817) 272-3364.

**Academic Integrity:**

It is the philosophy of The University of Texas at Arlington that academic dishonesty is a completely unacceptable mode of conduct and will not be tolerated in any form. All persons involved in academic dishonesty will be disciplined in accordance with University regulations and procedures. Discipline may include suspension or expulsion from the University. "Scholastic dishonesty includes but is not limited to cheating, plagiarism, collusion, the submission for credit of any work or materials that are attributable in whole or in part to another person, taking an examination for another person, any act designed to give unfair advantage to a student or the attempt to commit such acts." (Regents' Rules and Regulations, Series 50101, Section 2.2)

**Student Support Services Available:**

The University of Texas at Arlington supports a variety of student success programs to help you connect with the University and achieve academic success. These programs include learning assistance, developmental education, advising and mentoring, admission and transition, and federally funded programs. Students requiring assistance academically, personally, or socially should contact the Office of Student Success Programs at 817-272-6107 for more information and appropriate referrals.

**Electronic Communication Policy:**

The University of Texas at Arlington has adopted the University "MavMail" address as the sole official means of communication with students. MavMail is used to remind students of important deadlines, advertise events and activities, and permit the University to conduct official transactions exclusively by electronic means. For example, important information concerning registration, financial aid, payment of bills, and graduation are now sent to students through the MavMail system.

All students are assigned a MavMail account. ***Students are responsible for checking their MavMail regularly.*** Information about activating and using MavMail is available at <http://www.uta.edu/oit/email/>. There is no additional charge to students for using this account, and it remains active even after they graduate from UT Arlington.

Students are welcome to communicate via my email address at [sbaldon@uta.edu](mailto:sbaldon@uta.edu). I live in Waco and will be on campus at UTA on Monday afternoons for office hours and class. Also, you may call my cell phone at 254-230-3595.