Module Definition Form (MDF)

Module code: MOD005795	**Version:** 4 **Date Amended:** 12/Jul/2023

1. Module Title
Forensic Anthropology

2a. Module Leader
Samantha Tipper

2b. School
School of Life Sciences

2c. Faculty
Faculty of Science and Engineering

3a. Level
6

3b. Module Type
Standard (fine graded)

4a. Credits
15

4b. Study Hours
150

5. Restrictions			
Type	**Module Code**	**Module Name**	**Condition**
Pre-requisites:	None		
Co-requisites:	None		
Exclusions:	None		
Courses to which this module is restricted:	BSc (Hons) Forensic Science - ARU Cambridge BSc (Hons) Forensic Science (sandwich) - ARU Cambridge BSc (Hons) Forensic Science (extended) - ARU Cambridge BSC (Hons) Crime and Investigative studies - ARU Cambridge and UCP Peterborough) BSC (Hons) Crime and Investigative studies – (sandwich) - ARU Cambridge BSC (Hons) Crime and Investigative studies (Extended) – ARU Cambridge		

LEARNING, TEACHING AND ASSESSMENT INFORMATION

6a. Module Description

This module is an introductory course on the study of human remains and its importance in both forensic and archaeological investigations. In this module, you will study the basics of human osteology, human variation and how to identify human versus non-human bone. We will discuss the difference in population affinity and the techniques used in creating an osteological profile and how this helps in the identification of human remains. You will get hands-on practical sessions to practice the various techniques which will help develop your skills and understanding.

This module will also discuss the history and ethical considerations of working with human remains. This is a current discussion in the field of anthropology, and it is important to understand, and to be aware of, the fact that human remains must always be treated with respect and dignity. As the field of forensic anthropology grows, new technologies and methods are being developed and this course will cover some of the new modern analytical techniques such as DNA and Isotopic analysis and their role in identification. Finally, the application of forensic anthropology in both forensics (criminal and humanitarian) and archaeology will be presented through examples of casework and current research.

6b. Outline Content

* The history of forensic anthropology will be discussed including the ethical treatment of skeletal collections.

* Bone growth and a review of basic bone structure will be provided including how to distinguish between human and non-human skeletal remains.

* How to score and record the preservation and fragmentation of human bones.

* Basic human osteology covering the axial and appendicular skeleton.

* How to estimate the minimum number of individuals in an assemblage.

* Methods used to estimate sex, age, stature and population affinity.

* Human variation and non-metric traits.

* Advances in analytical techniques such as DNA and Stable isotopes.

* Forensic and archaeological casework and current research will be included throughout

6c. Key Texts/Literature

The reading list to support this module is available at: https://readinglists.aru.ac.uk/

6d. Specialist Learning Resources

Human Bones

Animal Bones

Anatomical and skeletal teaching aids

Anthropology teaching aids

7. Learning Outcomes (threshold standards)

No.	Type	On successful completion of this module the student will be expected to be able to:
1	Knowledge and Understanding	Analyse and critically review the role of the forensic anthropologist, both at scene and in the mortuary and laboratory, and in relation to other forensic experts
2	Knowledge and Understanding	Examine the methodologies required to locate, recover and record human remains within a forensic context
3	Intellectual, practical, affective and transferrable skills	Carry out and assess practical techniques used in the identification of human remains within the forensic context
4	Intellectual, practical, affective and transferrable skills	Critically evaluate the application of anthropology to building a biological profile

8a. Module Occurrence to which this MDF Refers				
Year	**Occurrence**	**Period**	**Location**	**Mode of Delivery**
2026/7	ZZF	Template For Face To Face Learning Delivery		Face to Face

8b. Learning Activities for the above Module Occurrence			
Learning Activities	**Hours**	**Learning Outcomes**	**Details of Duration, frequency and other comments**
Lectures	12	1-4	12 x 1 hr lectures
Other teacher managed learning	24	1-4	Practicals (8 x 2 hrs); Seminars (3 x 2hrs); In class test 2hrs
Student managed learning	114	1-4	Background reading, online activities, preparation for lectures and practicals, and completion of assessments
TOTAL:	150		

9. Assessment for the above Module Occurrence

The assessment for some modules includes a presentation (see below for details on how this particular module is assessed). We recognise that presenting, especially to a large group, can cause significant anxiety or distress for some students. If this may affect you, please contact your Module Leader or the Disability and Neurodiversity Service as early as possible. We will work with you to consider appropriate reasonable adjustments. Depending on your individual needs, these might include, for example, presenting to a smaller group or presenting only to a member of academic staff.

Assessment No.	Assessment Method	Learning Outcomes	Weighting (%)	Fine Grade or Pass/Fail	Qualifying Mark (%)
010	Practical	2,3,4	50 (%)	Fine Grade	30 (%)
Human bone practical test – 1 hour					

Assessment No.	Assessment Method	Learning Outcomes	Weighting (%)	Fine Grade or Pass/Fail	Qualifying Mark (%)
011	Coursework	1,2,4	50 (%)	Fine Grade	30 (%)
In class test 1.5 hours					

In order to pass this module, students are required to achieve an overall mark of 40% (for modules at levels 3, 4, 5 and 6) or 50% (for modules at level 7*).

In addition, students are required to:
(a) achieve the qualifying mark for each element of fine graded assessment as specified above
(b) pass any pass/fail elements

[* the pass mark of 50% applies for all module occurrences from the academic year 2024/25 – see Section 3a of this MDF to check the level of the module and Section 8a of this MDF to check the academic year]