

 Research Paper Topic 

As noted on your syllabus, 25% of your final grade will be determined by a research paper on a topic relevant to bioarchaeology that is **due no later than April 27**. So that you can start thinking about your topic now, I have listed below two general topics that you can address, as well as my expectations for content and format. If you would prefer to do research on a different topic, you **must** clear it with me first.

General Formatting Guidelines:

- 10 to 15 pages (not including figures, tables, etc.), double-spaced
- 10- to 12-point font, 1" margins
- spell-checked and grammar-checked (do **not** use contractions, etc.)
- make sure you have a thesis statement, information to back up your thesis, and conclusions
- AJPA bibliography and parenthetical citation style:  
<http://www3.interscience.wiley.com/cgi-bin/jabout/28130/ForAuthors.html>
- **Note:** The most recent literature in bioarchaeology *almost always* comes from scholarly journals rather than monographs. It will be in your best interest to do a literature search in specific journals or in anthropology article databases such as the following:
  - *Major journals* (most of which are available through e-Journals): [American Journal of Physical Anthropology](#); [International Journal of Osteoarchaeology](#); [American Antiquity](#); [Current Anthropology](#); [Paleopathology Newsletter](#); [Journal of Human Evolution](#)
  - *Article databases* (all of which are available at [www.lib.unc.edu](http://www.lib.unc.edu)): [Anthropology Plus](#); [AnthroSource](#); [International Bibliography of the Social Sciences](#); [Arts & Humanities Citation Index](#)

Paper Prompts and Specific Formatting: (Choose one of the following two topics)

1. **Palaeopathology** – In class, you saw how certain diseases can affect the human skeleton, particularly in periods before modern medicine. Choose a disease that manifests on bone (e.g., leprosy, syphilis, cancer, caries) and research its origin, history, treatment, and spread within a particular culture/context (e.g., the Old World, Native Americans, China). A good paper will have all of the following sections in addition to a thesis and a conclusion: etiology of the disease from both a biological and cultural perspective; history of the spread of the disease through time in a particular culture/context, including art and literature if applicable; the effect that the disease has on bone; and past and current bioarchaeological literature on the disease.
2. **Literature Review** – Bioarchaeology is only a 30-year-old practice and is largely done by American and British researchers today on populations from North America and Roman Europe. However, in recent years archaeologists in numerous other countries have begun to investigate the health, diet, migration patterns, and death of past people. For this option, you should choose a particular time period and area of the world in which you are interested (e.g., Neolithic Germany, Imperial Rome, Late Woodland North Carolina, Ming Dynasty China, 19<sup>th</sup> century sub-Saharan Africa) and undertake a review of approximately the last 10 years' worth of scholarly research into the bioarchaeology of this time and place. A good paper will have all of the following sections in addition to a thesis and a conclusion: summary of the history of physical anthropology in the area; methods used and questions asked by bioarchaeologists; a characterization of mortuary patterns at this time, noting anomalous or changing burial patterns (e.g., a move towards cremation, or a change from ossuary burial to inhumation); insight into future questions that bioarchaeologists could ask and methods they could use.

Any other topics should be cleared with me before you begin researching and writing your paper. If you wish to turn in a rough draft of your paper, please e-mail it to me or leave a copy in my box in AL 301 by **April 13** so that I can get comments back to you in a timely manner.