



ANTH 414 – Human Osteology
October 20, 2008
Final Project

 Skeletal Identification 

Your final project for this course is the complete analysis of a skeleton, similar to the type that would be required of you if you were a professional osteologist or forensic anthropologist. You will each use the skeleton you were assigned at the beginning of the semester. You will of course share that burial with one other person, but this assignment is to be performed individually. There is to be no sharing of information (e.g., measurements), interpretation, or writing with anyone else in the class. Any breach of this constitutes cheating. This project is worth 20% of your final grade.

The final analysis should contain the following:

1. *Inventory* – A complete inventory of all the skeletal elements present, including cranium, postcranium, and dentition.
2. *Age and Sex* – Estimate the age and sex of your individual based on what you have learned in this course.
3. *Measurements* – Based on what you have learned in class, include measurements of the cranium and postcranium.
4. *Stature* – Estimate the stature of your individual based on the above measurements.
5. *Pathologies* – Note any pathologies that we have covered in class. These will generally be limited to notes about carious lesions, stress indicators (enamel hypoplasia), fractures, and bone apposition (osteophyte formation on vertebrae, e.g.).

Your final report, which is due no later than **December 8 by email** (or December 5 printed and handed to me), will include a typed discussion of the items listed above (review HBM pp. 355-8). Start with an introduction that summarizes the context of the remains. Provide both the results of your analysis and an explanation of how you arrived at your conclusions (age and sex estimation, pathological observations). Include your data sheets (handwritten is fine) for inventory, measurements, and other observations. You must include a bibliography of relevant sources. Photographs of interesting pathological conditions may be included if you wish.

If your assigned skeleton includes more than one individual, your report should cover whichever individual constitutes the majority. Please include, however, an additional inventory sheet for the extra skeletal elements and provide any of the above information that you can.

Collecting the data and typing the report should take anywhere from 10-15 hours. You will have at least two days' worth of class after Thanksgiving to work on your projects, in addition to any time in lab that you wish to devote to data collection. The typed portion of the report should be between 7-10 pages double-spaced (12pt font, 1" margins). Remember to spell-check and grammar-check your work. This is an upper-level course, and I expect quality writing. Points will be subtracted for shoddy work.