NATS 3023 FORENSIC ANTHROPOLOGY

Credit Points 10

Legacy Code 301120

Coordinator Hayley Green (https://directory.westernsydney.edu.au/search/name/Hayley Green/)

Description The objectives of this unit are to gain an understanding of the changes to the human body from death to discovery and how we can use the biological variability of humans to assist in the identification of human remains. Students will learn the fundamentals of detection, excavation and identification of human and non-human remains and learn how to prepare their findings for court. Students will be required to apply the knowledge gained during lectures to a practical based excavation, analysis and preparation of a case file.

School Science

Discipline Forensic Science

Student Contribution Band HECS Band 2 10cp

Check your HECS Band contribution amount via the Fees (https://www.westernsydney.edu.au/currentstudents/current_students/fees/) page.

Level Undergraduate Level 3 subject

Pre-requisite(s) NATS 1008 AND
NATS 1013 OR
NATS 1001 AND
NATS 2010 OR
NATS 2015

Equivalent Subjects NATS 3025 - Forensic Archaeology NATS 3024 - Forensic Archaeology

Restrictions

Successful completion of 60 credit points at Level 1 and 40 credit points at Level 2.

Assumed Knowledge

Knowledge of the general aspects of contemporaneous note taking, crime scene documentation and crime scene photography.

Learning Outcomes

On successful completion of this subject, students should be able to:

1. Explain how the major processes of decomposition and taphonomic change can affect the outcomes of a forensic investigation.
2. Explain the scientific and ethical role of the forensic archaeologist and forensic anthropologist in the gathering and analysis of forensic evidence in an Australian context.
3. Conduct archaeological investigations safely and ethically in the field using methodologies to obtain valid scientific evidence and explain the significance and relevance of data.
4. Conduct an anthropological investigation of human and non-human skeletal remains and create a biological profile.
5. Communicate findings correctly in written and/ or oral form, accessing the scientific literature to place findings in context.

Subject Content

1. Detection and recovery of human and non-human remains.
2. Analysis of crime scenes using the principles of archaeology to preserve forensically meaningful evidence.
3. Preservation of evidence continuity and integrity from the site of recovery through to the conclusion of all laboratory analyses.
4. Theoretical and practical knowledge of anatomy and forensic anthropology required to distinguish between human and non-human skeletal remains and subsequently produce a biological profile of human skeletal remains.
5. Theoretical knowledge of multidisciplinary approaches to the identification of human skeletal remains.

Assessment

The following table summarises the standard assessment tasks for this subject. Please note this is a guide only. Assessment tasks are regularly updated, where there is a difference your Learning Guide takes precedence.

Item	Length	Percent	Threshold	Individual/ Group Task
Quiz	30 minutes	10	N	Individual
Practical Exam	40 minutes	25	N	Individual
Report	Part 1 (Groupwork 10%)- Contemporaneous case file notes (2000 words); Part 2 (5%)- Group contribution	15	N	Group
Report	1500 words	10	N	Individual
Final Exam	2 hours	40	N	Individual

Teaching Periods

Autumn
Hawkesbury
Day
Subject Contact Hayley Green (https://directory.westernsydney.edu.au/search/name/Hayley Green/)

View timetable (https://classregistration.westernsydney.edu.au/even/timetable/?subject_code=NATS3023_22-AUT_HW_D#subjects)