

# Course Change Request

---

## New Course Proposal

Date Submitted: 10/01/19 1:10 pm

Viewing: **FRSC 450 : Casework in Forensic Anthropology**

Last edit: 10/06/19 2:22 pm

Changes proposed by: afalsett

Are you completing this form on someone else's behalf?

### In Workflow

1. **FRSC Representative**
2. **SC Curriculum Committee**
3. SC Associate Dean
4. Assoc Provost- Undergraduate
5. Registrar-Courses
6. Banner

### Approval Path

1. 10/01/19 2:00 pm  
Emily Rancourt  
(erancour):  
Approved for FRSC  
Representative
2. 10/01/19 2:03 pm  
Gregory Craft  
(gcraft): Rollback to  
FRSC  
Representative for  
SC Curriculum  
Committee
3. 10/06/19 2:22 pm  
Emily Rancourt  
(erancour):  
Approved for FRSC  
Representative

No

**Effective Term:** Fall 2020

**Subject Code:** FRSC - Forensic Science

**Course Number:**  
450

**Bundled Courses:**

Is this course replacing another course? No

**Equivalent Courses:**

**Catalog Title:** Casework in Forensic Anthropology

**Banner Title:** Casework in Forensic Anthropol

**Will section titles vary by semester?** No

**Credits:** 3

**Schedule Type:** Lecture

**Hours of Lecture or Seminar per week:** 3

**Repeatable:** May be only taken once for credit, limited to 3 attempts (N3) **Max Allowable Credits:** 9

**Default Grade Mode:** Undergraduate Regular

**Recommended Prerequisite(s):**  
At least 60 credit hours.

**Recommended Corequisite(s):**

**Required Prerequisite(s) / Corequisite(s) (Updates only):**  
Minimum grade of C or higher in FRSC 200 and 201.

**Registrar's Office Use Only - Required Prerequisite(s)/Corequisite(s):**

And/Or	(	Course/Test Code	Min Grade/Score	Academic Level	)	Concurrency?

**Registration Restrictions (Updates only):**

**Registrar's Office Use Only - Registration Restrictions:**

**Field(s) of Study:**

**Class(es):**

**Level(s):**

**Degree(s):**

**School(s):**

**Catalog**

**Description:**

This is a seminar-style course providing an overview of the foundations and history of forensic anthropology using case studies as a nexus or jumping-off point. The class will utilize a variety of forensic science literature to supplement class lectures and provide a foundation for the understanding and application of forensic anthropology. This course integrates medical, scientific, sociological and legal methodology as applied to forensic anthropology. Guest lecturers will be presented as available to speak about various disciplines adjacent to forensic anthropology to enhance the student's education.

**Justification:**

This course covers a unique specialty within forensic science that is highly desired by students and will be taught by Board Certified Forensic Anthropologists which will integrate medical, scientific, sociological and legal methodology as applied to forensic anthropology.

**Does this course cover material which crosses into another department?** No

**Learning Outcomes:**

To familiarize the student with the field of forensic anthropology and different types of cases.

- To provide the student with an overview of the various legal decisions that impact the practice of forensic anthropology.
- To expose the student to a variety of forensic science experts and topics within the field.

**Attach Syllabus**

[FRSC 450 Syllabus Fall 2020 .pdf](#)

**Additional Attachments**

**Staffing:**

Anthony B. Falsetti & Angi Christensen (Adjunct)

**Relationship to Existing Programs:**

This course will be added as an option for the Forensic Science BS majors as an Additional Science course which are upper level science courses which allow majors to tailor their degree towards their specialty of interest related to forensic science.

**Relationship to Existing Courses:**

Complimentary to a similar graduate-level forensic anthropology course FRSC 550

**Additional Comments:**

**Reviewer Comments**

**Gregory Craft (gcraft) (10/01/19 2:03 pm):** Rollback: Per Email



**GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY**  
**Casework in Forensic Anthropology – FRSC 450**  
**Fall 2020**

**Instructor:** Professor Anthony B. Falsetti, Ph.D., D-ABFA  
**Course Times:** Tuesday and Thursdays (10:00 AM – 11:30 AM)  
**Office:** Exploratory Hall Room 3407 (office hours by appointment only)  
**Email:** [afalsett@gmu.edu](mailto:afalsett@gmu.edu) (preferred method of contact)  
**Phone #:** 703-993-6091 (office)  
**Appointment:** <https://anthonyfalsetti.youcanbook.me>  
**Text:** There is no text for this course, readings will be provided via Blackboard on a weekly basis.

**Course Description:** This is a seminar style course providing an overview of the foundations and history of forensic anthropology using case studies as a nexus or jumping off point. The class will utilize a variety of forensic science literature to supplement class lecture and provide a foundation for the understanding and application of forensic anthropology. This course integrates medical, scientific, sociological and legal methodology as applied to forensic anthropology. Guest lecturers will be presented as available to speak about various disciplines adjacent to forensic anthropology to enhance the student's education.

**Course Objectives:**

- To familiarize the student with the field of forensic anthropology and different types of cases.
- To provide the student with an overview of the various legal decisions that impact the practice of forensic anthropology.
- To expose the student to a variety of forensic science experts and topics within the field.

**Student Responsibilities:** The lectures will cover complimentary topics as found in the assigned readings. It is expected that the student will read the assigned sections of the text or other assigned readings **prior** to our class activities so as to facilitate discussion and participation.

**Participation:** Participation grades will vary by format, hallway, discussion board, etc., but may be graded by either attendance, quizzes, and/or group sessions. **No make-up quizzes will be given.**

**Project Requirements:** All students will choose a topic or a criminal case to study. The topic deadline is **XXXXX** and topics will be assigned on a first come, first serve basis. You may not use the same case study or topic that you have already used in a previous forensic science course. The professors in this program do check! Topics should **not** be overly broad or generic like "Forensic DNA Analysis from Bone" or "Taphonomy". They should be specific and should address a particular area of interest with Forensic Anthropology (Microbiomes for Geolocation, UAV use to pattern Scavenging Patterns". Case studies (e.g., Casey Anthony) should include the background of the case as well as an emphasis on the forensic evidence available and application.

On **XXXXX**, all students will submit a document to Blackboard containing the following:

- ❖ student's name
- ❖ name of case study or topic
- ❖ **a list** of a minimum of 4 references

I am happy to review and comment on your selected topic **IF** you submit it to me prior to the deadline of XXXXX.

30 September 2019

## The Project:

All students will complete a project that focuses on your topic or criminal case study. Students should select one or more of the following means by which to present their topic:

- An informational website
- An informational video
- PowerPoint Presentation
- A set of brochures and/or information packet(s)
- Survey data analysis and interpretation
- Interview(s) with a professional(s) in the field
- A children's book on your scientific topic
- A podcast
- A video blog
- A game
- A traditional 5-page paper (see specific requirements below)

Podcasts, PowerPoint presentations, video blog, or recorded interviews should be at least **15 minutes** in length. This will be accomplished via video recording YouTube, WebEx, PowerPoint presentation or some other Blackboard hosting event. The purpose of the delivery method is to teach other students about your topic and highlight key points from your research. Projects, including the traditional paper if you choose that option, will be made available to your colleagues via in class beginning the 13<sup>th</sup> week of the Semester. All projects must have a minimum of **five (5) sources**. At least three (3) of these sources must be NON-internet sources. Sources found on the internet which have a print equivalent (such as a *Journal of Forensic Sciences* article which can be found both digitally and in print) may be counted as non-internet sources. The textbook for this class and classroom lectures from this or any other class may be used but **DO NOT** count towards your five required sources (i.e. these may be used as additional source materials and cited where appropriate).

Students should use standard APA style for references. Please see the rubric on Blackboard for grading guidelines.

### **Paper Requirements:**

Students selecting to write a traditional paper about their topic in order to fulfill the assigned project will type a **5-page paper** (not including the title page, abstract, key words, or reference pages) on their topic using Times New Roman, 1" margins, 12-point font and double spacing. Papers will use proper references and the APA 6th edition style of referencing. (Purdue Online Writing Lab - <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource> ). Each paper must have a minimum of **five (5) sources**, and at least three (3) of these sources must be NON-internet sources. Sources found on the internet which have a print equivalent (such as a *Journal of Forensic Sciences* article which can be found both digitally and in print) may be counted as non-internet sources. The textbook for this class and classroom lectures from this or any other class may be used but **DO NOT** count towards your five required sources (i.e. these may be used as a 6<sup>th</sup> source). A draft paper and a final paper must be submitted to SafeAssign prior to turning in the printed paper due **XXXXX**; please refer to SafeAssign instructions below.

A grade will be determined for the final project by the following factors:

- ❖ overview of case or topic
- ❖ organization of presentation and/or paper
- ❖ SafeAssign submissions (papers)
- ❖ overall presentation score
- ❖ PowerPoint quality
- ❖ Originality and creativity

**Grading:** Not only am I interested in your analytical development and how you apply critical thinking to the issues presented, I must also evaluate your intellectual efforts. To accomplish this, class participation, attendance, quizzes, group sessions, paper/presentation, a midterm exam, and a final exam will determine your grade in the course.

Specifically, your final grade will be calculated based upon the following formula:

- ❖ Participation – Attendance, Assignments, Quizzes, Group Sessions (10%)
- ❖ Final Project (30%)
- ❖ Mid-term Examination (30%)
- ❖ Final Examination (30%)

### Grading Scale:

100	A+	89-87	B+	77-79 C+	60-69 D
99-95	A	86-83	B	73-76 C	0-59 F
94-90	A-	82-80	B-	70-72 C-	

**Note:** Additional reading assignments may be added throughout the semester.

**Note:** The schedule is subject to change, please pay attention to notifications from Blackboard.

### Late/Makeup Policy:

Makeup participation points will not be given under any circumstances. Quizzes are timed and when they are timed-out you will not be allowed extra time to complete your quiz if you are late, absent or unavailable.

Projects and SafeAssign submissions are due XXXXX. Ten percent will be deducted from the final grade for each day your submissions are late.

### INSTRUCTIONS FOR SAFEASSIGN SUBMISSIONS FOR PAPERS

**What is SafeAssign?** SafeAssign compares submitted assignments against other sources to identify areas of overlap. SafeAssign is used to help prevent plagiarism and may create opportunities to help students identify how to properly attribute sources. A draft paper will be submitted prior to the paper deadline to allow students to make corrections before submitting the final paper. **Disclaimer:** Students are responsible for ensuring proper citation of all information regardless of the results of SafeAssign.

**Requirements for the Paper or Project:** Students are required to submit a draft paper AND final paper into SafeAssign prior to turning in their final printed paper into the instructor. Submission to SafeAssign will count as 5 points each (draft and final) of your overall paper/presentation grade. Please do not include your reference list for the SafeAssign submission of the draft and final papers. Students must complete the following steps.

1. Log onto Blackboard. Click on 'FRSC 415'
2. Under 'Assessments' on the left side of the screen there are two assessments:
  - ❖ SafeAssign (Draft)
  - ❖ SafeAssign (Final)
3. Click on the appropriate Assessment to upload your paper.
4. Papers may be submitted in the following formats: Word (DOC, DOCX, ODT), Plain Text (TXT), Rich Text Format (RTF), PDF, or HTML.
5. **A paper or project may only be submitted one time (draft and final).**
6. If submitted correctly, the student will see a confirmation stating the following: "SafeAssignment successfully submitted for assignment "SafeAssign (Draft/Final)"
7. SafeAssignment may take several seconds to several minutes to generate an originality report (SA report).
8. To see your SA report, go under 'Assessment', click on "SafeAssign (Draft/Final)", and click checkmark under SA report.
9. Your SA report will include the percentage of matching information and will highlight the matching information in your paper along with the source it matches.
10. For the Draft **only**, assess your results, and make any corrections that are necessary before submitting your final paper.

For example, your report may show that you have a phrase that matches another source. Therefore, you must either ensure that you properly cited this information to give credit to the original source or you must re-evaluate your wording to avoid plagiarism.

Note: Students have the option to submit their final papers to the Global Reference Database; this is voluntary. This step will help protect from students of other Universities from using your paper as their own.

**Draft Submission:** It is recommended to submit your completed paper (do not include reference list) **by week # 13** (two weeks before the final paper deadline) to allow time to make corrections. Students may submit their papers earlier than the recommended date; a paper may only be submitted one time.

**Final Submission:** Students must submit their final (corrected) paper (do not include reference list) **prior to turning in their paper due week # 14**. All corrections must have been made and the final paper must have been edited. This final paper must be printed and turned into the instructor; this paper will be used for grading purposes; ***no further corrections may be made.*** The SA report will only be viewable to the instructor.



## UNIVERSITY RESOURCES

### **GMU Honor Code:**

Standards of academic integrity as set forth by the University are strictly observed and rigorously enforced in this class. The complete Honor Code is as follows: *To promote a stronger sense of mutual responsibility, respect, trust, and fairness among all members of the George Mason University community and with the desire for greater academic and personal achievement, we, the student members of the university community, have set forth this honor code: **Student members of the George Mason University community pledge not to cheat, plagiarize, steal, or lie in matters related to academic work.***

[The University Code of Student Conduct](#) is George Mason University's statement of community values. The Code fosters a safe, secure, and fair learning environment by establishing expectations for behavior, identifying a process for resolving incidents outside the stated expectations and the results of such processes. No student or student organization shall commit an Act of Misconduct in any location. Students and student organizations found responsible under this CSC of committing Acts of Misconduct are subject to sanctions by the University. The Office of Student Conduct has authority over all non-academic disciplinary matters. Please refer to <https://studentconduct.gmu.edu/>

### **GMU Email:** <http://masonlive.gmu.edu>

Each student is responsible for activating their GMU email account and checking their account on a regular basis for University and class announcements. **All masonlive accounts must be activated.**

### **GMU Police Policy:** 703-993-2810

If you are currently employed with a law enforcement agency as a sworn officer and would like to carry a firearm on campus and into class, you must contact GMU Police Department as a courtesy.

### **GMU Students with Disabilities:** <http://ods.gmu.edu>

If you are a student with a disability and you need academic accommodations, please contact the Office of Disability Resources at 703-993-2474. All academic accommodations must be arranged through that office, your instructor is not obligated to provide accommodations without documentation from ODS.

### **Writing Center:** <http://writingcenter.gmu.edu>

For general questions and comments please contact [wcenter@gmu.edu](mailto:wcenter@gmu.edu) or call:

703-993-1200 (Robinson Hall A114, Fairfax Campus)

703-993-1824 (Enterprise Hall 076, Fairfax Campus)

All appointments are made through the online scheduling system so please do not email or call to schedule appointments. If you would like to cancel an appointment you may do so via the online scheduler, simply select your appointment and click the "Cancel appointment" box at the bottom of the reservation form and then "save."

### **University Libraries:** "Ask a Librarian" <http://library.gmu.edu/mudge/IM/IMRef.html>

**Margaret Lam, Physical Sciences Liaison Librarian;** <http://infoguides.gmu.edu/frsc>

Fenwick Library, 2207

703-993-2212

[mlam3@gmu.edu](mailto:mlam3@gmu.edu)

### **Counseling and Psychology Services (CAPS):** (703) 993-2380; <http://caps.gmu.edu>

### **University Policies:**

The University Catalog, <http://catalog.gmu.edu>, is the central resource for university policies affecting student, faculty, and staff conduct in university academic affairs. Other policies are available at <http://universitypolicy.gmu.edu/>. All members of the university community are responsible for knowing and following established policies.

### **International Students (INTO Program):**

The INTO Mason Student Services team provides support and a range of services from finding a place to live, to renewing your visa or even scheduling a doctor appointment! Visit their website for a listing of a variety of resources tailored to the specific needs of international students.

The INTO Program is located in the Mason Global Center at 4352 Mason Pond Dr, Fairfax, VA 22030.

(703) 993-4501

<http://www.intohigher.com/us/en-us/the-universities/into-mason/living/student-support.aspx>

Week 1	R- Introduction to the class/syllabus	
Week 2	T- Introduction to Forensic Anthropology R- Guest Lecture- Mr. Clyde Gibbs OCME	Read: Byers: pp. 1-12, 444-453.  Craig: "Foreword by Kathy Reichs" and "Death Comes Knocking"
Week 3	T- Human Osteology I: Bone Physiology & Structure.  R- Human Osteology II: The Human Skeleton	Read: Byers: pp. 28-30, 52-59. Craig: "Death and Decay" Read: Byers: pp. 30-51. See Osteology links on webct
Week 4	<b>T- ***Osteology Quiz***</b>  R- Human vs. Nonhuman? Contemporary vs. Old?	Read: Byers: Chapter 3
Week 5	T- PMI: Estimating Time Since Death	Read: Byers: Chapters 4 and 6 Read: Byers: Chapter 5
	R- Video: <i>Inside Story: Scene of the Crime</i>  R-Video: Body Searchers (50 min)	Craig: "Crying out for Justice" Craig: "A Single Death"
Week 6	T- Determination of Sex  R- Determination of Ancestry	Read: Byers: Chapter 8 Read: Byers: Chapter 7
Week 7	T- Determination of Age at Death Subadult and Adult	Read: Byers: Chapter 9
Week 8	<b>T- ***EXAM 1***</b>  R- Determination of Stature & Handedness	Read: Byers: Chapter 10, and Chapter 17 (pp. 417-420)
Week 9	<b>T- Antemortem Skeletal Conditions/Pathology R- Positive Identification</b>	<b>Read: Byers: Chapter 15 Read: Byers: Chapter 17, 18</b> <b>Craig: "Finding Names for the Dead"</b>
Week 10	<b>T- Video: Following Antigone</b>  <b>R- Video: - Video: Body Clues (50 min)</b>	

Week 11	<b>T- Overview of Skeletal Trauma/ Fractures R- Projectile Trauma</b>	<b>Byers Read:: Chapter 11 Read: Byers: Chapter12 Craig: "Waco"</b>
Week 12	<b>T- Blunt Force &amp; Sharp Force Trauma R-Postmortem Changes: Dismemberment, Taphonomy, Fire</b>	<b>Read: Byers: Chapters: 13 &amp; 14 Read: Byers: Chapter 16</b>
Week 13	<b>T- Human Rights R- Video: The Search for the Disappeared (58 min)</b>	<b>Webct links and articles: "Use of digital imaging..." Craig: "World Trade Center"</b>
Week 14	<b>T-Brujeria (Santeria, Palo Mayombe)</b>	<b>Craig: ""Oklahoma City Bombing"</b>
Week 15	<b>T- Video: Criminal Evidence (100 min) R- Criminal Evidence (cont.) Projects due</b>	<b>Craig: "The Sting of Death"</b>