

Assessing Forensic Significance of Skeletal Tissues Found in Outdoor Scenes

Date: Oct 19, 2019

Co-sponsors: HD Forensics, LLC, Mercyhurst University, and Tripwire Operations Group, LLC

Location: Mercyhurst University, Erie, PA

Course Tuition: \$225 (10% discount for 2 or more courses)

Principle Instructors: Dennis C. Dirkmaat, Ph.D., D-ABFA; Leslie Fitzpatrick, Ph.D., Joe Adserias, Ph.D., D-ABFO

Participants: Coroners, Law Enforcement and Fire personnel, University students (*limited to 20 individuals*)

Course Overview

The goal of this one-day course is to familiarize professionals with: 1) the identification of human skeletal remains frequently encountered at forensic anthropological outdoor scenes and 2) the determination of forensic significance, particularly differentiating human versus animal bones. Course will also cover basics of what forensic anthropologists can do learn from bones, including the biological profile (age, sex, ancestry, and stature), skeletal trauma (blunt-force, sharp-force trauma, and ballistic trauma), and taphonomic alterations (including carnivore and rodent chewing and burned bone). The course involves hands-on opportunities with real human bone.

Saturday, Oct 19, 2019

- | | |
|--------------|--|
| 7:30 – 8:00 | Registration |
| 8:00 – 9:30 | Introduction to the Human Skeleton
Basics of the major bones of the human body, proper anatomical terms, feature names |
| 9:30 – 9:45 | Break |
| 9:45 – 12:30 | Hands-on Lab with Actual Human Bones |
| 12:30 – 1:30 | Lunch |
| 1:30 – 2:30 | Basics of Animal Osteology
Comparison of common mammals encountered in a forensic setting (white-tailed deer, cow, pig, dog, etc.), birds (chickens and turkeys, etc.), reptiles, amphibians, and fish. |
| 2:30 – 3:30 | Hands-on Laboratory with Animal Bones |
| 3:30 – 3:45 | Break |
| 3:45 – 4:45 | What the Bones Tell Us: Biological Profile
Basics of how to assess chronological age, sex, stature, and ancestry in human remains |
| 4:45 – 5:45 | What the Bones Tell Us: Skeletal Trauma and Taphonomic Alterations
Basics of how to assess sharp force, blunt force, ballistics trauma, and basics of bone modification (animal activity, staining, etc.) |
| 5:45 – 6:00 | Review and Certificates Awarded |