

## **Term Information**

Effective Term Spring 2026

## **General Information**

Course Bulletin Listing/Subject Area Anthropology  
Fiscal Unit/Academic Org Anthropology - D0711  
College/Academic Group Arts and Sciences  
Level/Career Undergraduate  
Course Number/Catalog 3233  
Course Title Medicolegal Death Investigation  
Transcript Abbreviation DeathInvestigation  
Course Description This course acts as an in-depth survey of the United States medicolegal death investigation system as well as the disciplines primarily involved in death investigations.  
Semester Credit Hours/Units Fixed: 3

## **Offering Information**

Length Of Course 14 Week  
Flexibly Scheduled Course Never  
Does any section of this course have a distance education component? No  
Grading Basis Letter Grade  
Repeatable No  
Course Components Lecture  
Grade Roster Component Lecture  
Credit Available by Exam No  
Admission Condition Course No  
Off Campus Never  
Campus of Offering Columbus

## **Prerequisites and Exclusions**

Prerequisites/Corequisites  
Exclusions  
Electronically Enforced No

## **Cross-Listings**

Cross-Listings

## **Subject/CIP Code**

Subject/CIP Code 45.0201  
Subsidy Level Baccalaureate Course  
Intended Rank Sophomore, Junior, Senior

## Requirement/Elective Designation

The course is an elective (for this or other units) or is a service course for other units

## Course Details

### Course goals or learning objectives/outcomes

- Introduce students to the medicolegal death investigation system
- Describe the process of death investigation
- Discuss the difference between the primary death investigation careers
- Explain the difference between fictional and actual death investigation procedures
- Familiarize students with: (1) the various specialists involved in death investigations, (2) basic types and goals of death investigation, (3) death investigation careers, (4) autopsy assistant as a career, and (5) how to investigate traumatic deaths

### Content Topic List

- Medicolegal system and authorities
- Causes of death
- Forensic pathology
- Autopsy
- Forensic odontology and entomology
- Mental health in forensics careers

### Sought Concurrence

No

## Attachments

- 3233 on Forensic Anth Curriculum Map.docx: Curriculum map  
*(Other Supporting Documentation. Owner: Palazzo, Sarah Rose)*
- Death Investigation Cover Letter\_dgs.docx: Cover letter  
*(Cover Letter. Owner: Palazzo, Sarah Rose)*
- MLDI Syllabus OSU DRAFT.doc: Syllabus  
*(Syllabus. Owner: Palazzo, Sarah Rose)*
- ANTHROP 3233 List of Journal Article Readings.docx: Readings  
*(Other Supporting Documentation. Owner: Palazzo, Sarah Rose)*
- Sociology\_Concurrence Anth 3233.pdf: Concurrence Sociology  
*(Concurrence. Owner: Palazzo, Sarah Rose)*

## Comments

- Please see Subcommittee feedback email sent 4/21/25. *(by Neff, Jennifer on 04/21/2025 01:26 PM)*

**COURSE REQUEST**  
3233 - Status: PENDING

Last Updated: Vankeerbergen, Bernadette  
Chantal  
05/08/2025

**Workflow Information**

Status	User(s)	Date/Time	Step
Submitted	Palazzo, Sarah Rose	04/08/2025 01:34 PM	Submitted for Approval
Approved	Guatelli-Steinberg, Debra	04/08/2025 01:51 PM	Unit Approval
Approved	Vankeerbergen, Bernadette Chantal	04/08/2025 06:08 PM	College Approval
Revision Requested	Neff, Jennifer	04/21/2025 01:26 PM	ASCCAO Approval
Submitted	Palazzo, Sarah Rose	05/08/2025 09:21 AM	Submitted for Approval
Approved	Guatelli-Steinberg, Debra	05/08/2025 03:17 PM	Unit Approval
Approved	Vankeerbergen, Bernadette Chantal	05/08/2025 04:52 PM	College Approval
Pending Approval	Jenkins, Mary Ellen Bigler Hanlin, Deborah Kay Hilty, Michael Neff, Jennifer Vankeerbergen, Bernadette Chantal Steele, Rachel Lea	05/08/2025 04:52 PM	ASCCAO Approval

## **Explanation for ANTHROP 3233 Medicolegal Death Investigation**

Dear Colleagues,

We are requesting the addition of a course: ANTHROP 3233 – *Medicolegal Death Investigation*.

In 2023, OSU's Anthropology department launched a new major in Forensic Anthropology and subsequently hired its first forensic anthropologist, Dr. Nicholas Passalacqua who is certified by the American Board of Forensic Anthropology. After starting at OSU in Autumn 2024, Dr. Passalacqua examined the forensic anthropology major and began working on a number of curriculum adjustments in order to promote student recruitment, retention, and progress through OSU's forensic anthropology major. As such, we are requesting the addition of this course: ANTHROP 3233 – *Medicolegal Death Investigation*.

Forensic anthropology is a forensic science, and forensic anthropologists work within the medicolegal death investigation system (typically at medical examiner/coroner offices). The addition of this course is intended not just to directly introduce forensic anthropology students to the United States' medicolegal death investigation system, but also to introduce students to careers that they will be well suited for with their forensic anthropology major, such as autopsy technician and medicolegal death investigator.

Currently, OSU offers *Introduction to Forensic Science* (ANTHROP 3211), which is part of the Forensic Anthropology major. However, the content of *Introduction to Forensic Science* (ANTHROP 3211) largely focuses on disciplines that fall within the broad category of

Criminalistics, excluding much of the disciplines and processes of the medicolegal death investigation system.

Within the structure of the forensic anthropology major, *Medicolegal Death Investigation* (ANTHROP 3233) would be added as an alternative Introductory Course. Currently students in the forensic anthropology major must take six credits of Introductory Courses and the only two available are: *Introduction to Forensic Science* (ANTHROP 3211) and *Introduction to Criminal Justice* (SOCIOL 2209). This proposed change would add *Medicolegal Death Investigation* (ANTHROP 3233) as an additional option so that students could now have the choice to take any two of these three courses.



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**Anthropology Department  
Course: ANTHROP 3233 - Sec 0010  
Medicolegal Death Investigation**

**Autumn 2024  
Monday/Wednesday 11:10am-12:30 pm  
4012 Smith Lab**

**Instructor Information**

Instructor: **Dr. Nicholas V. Passalacqua - "Dr. P"**

Email: **Passalacqua.19@osu.edu**

Office hours: **Monday 10:00-11:00 & Wednesday 9:00-11:00am, or by appointment**

Office: **4108 Smith lab**

(Note: when e-mailing instructor, include course number (e.g. ANTHROP 3233) at the beginning of the subject line)

**Course Information**

**Course Description:** This course acts as an in-depth survey of the United States medicolegal death investigation system as well as the disciplines primarily involved in death investigations. It is designed to expose students to different disciplines and career paths from the perspective of a medicolegal death investigator.

*Course Prerequisites: None*

**Required Textbook:**

Lunn MM. 2017. Essentials of Medicolegal death investigation. CRC Press.

**Course Objectives:**

- Introduce students to the medicolegal death investigation system
- Familiarize students with: (1) the various specialists involved in death investigations, (2) the basic types and goals of death investigation, (3) death investigation as a career, (4) autopsy assistant as a career, and (5) how to investigate traumatic deaths.

**Student Learning Outcomes:**

- Describe the process of death investigation

- Discuss the difference between the primary death investigation careers
- Explain the difference between fictional and actual death investigation procedures

## Course Assessments

### **Attendance and Participation: 100 points total.**

Regular and prompt attendance is expected of all students in accordance with OSU policy. Additionally, scholarly research has demonstrated that students that participate in class have better learning outcomes than those who do not. As such, *both attendance AND participation count towards your final grade, as you cannot participate if you do not attend class*. Every unexcused absence or day that a student does not participate will reduce their attendance/participation grade by 10 points. Absences will only be excused if you contact me and provide professional documentation (e.g., a doctor's note).

### **Article Discussions: 100 points total, 10 points each.**

Starting in the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of the semester, during the last section of the class, we will discuss 2-3 published journal articles after our lectures as an in-class exercise. Everyone must read all of the articles and submit responses to all the discussion questions for each article online in CANVAS. Each week's article discussion questions are worth 10 points. These article discussion questions will be due BEFORE class meets to ensure students have read the material and are ready to discuss it.

**Death Investigation Research Paper\*, 100 points:** There have been non-fiction accounts of many death investigations throughout history. The goal of this assignment is for you to research and discuss one of these investigations in no less than 5 pages. Discuss the circumstances of the death, the historical context, how the death investigation occurred, whether or not it was successful (did they figure out the cause and manner?), and what may have occurred differently if it happened today. You may only use scholarly sources. This paper is worth 100 points. More details are found below and on CANVAS. This paper is **due** by the end of the day via CANVAS on **15 April 2024**.

**\*Note:** Papers will be submitted via CANVAS using Safe assign.

**Examinations:** Course examinations will consist of four equally weighted exams worth **80 points each, 320 total points**.

**Exam 1: 18 September 2024**

**Exam 2: 16 October 2024**

**Exam 3: 04 December 2024**

**Final Exam: 8:30-11:00am, Friday 11 December 2024\***

**\*Note,** the final exam will be cumulative!

## Course Policies and Expectations

**Expectations of Students:** As adults attending OSU, you are paying to obtain a specialized education, an advanced degree, and to be treated as a professional in the workforce. In addition to educating students on course topics (i.e., hard skills), it is also the job of the professor to instruct you as to what it means to be a professional (i.e., soft skills). As students attending OSU you are the individuals responsible for academic success. You are expected to be



in class on time and to turn in your assignments on time. You are expected to be familiar with course policies via the course syllabus and you are expected to use CANVAS for course information, emails, updates, and materials. Before Emailing the instructor about a question, please check to make sure it hasn't already been answered in the syllabus or by a general course Email/Announcement on CANVAS. If you have any issues, confusion, etc., about course policies, material, or grades please see the instructor **during office hours** to resolve these issues.

**Spirit and Intent:** As adults and professionals, all students are expected to act towards the spirit and intent of the course and its assignments. In all aspects, quality is preferred over quantity. Behaviors such as increasing font sizes or changing page margins in order to meet minimum requirements are outside of the spirit and intent of the assignment and will be treated accordingly. Additionally, the use of AI to create course materials is prohibited. AI is a great tool, but you must first demonstrate that you are capable of performing the work, so that you can properly apply AI assistance.

**Professional Conduct:** Medicolegal Death investigation is a serious and graphic profession which necessitates a standard of behavior higher than that of other scientific disciplines. Students are expected at all times to treat human remains and case discussions with dignity and respect, and to maintain confidentiality when confidential or privileged information is disclosed, or when students are given access to information of a private or otherwise sensitive nature. Professional decorum is expected and behaviors such as posting on information/pictures online or inappropriate humor will not be tolerated. Failure to abide by these expectations may result in a failing grade in the course, as well as the imposition of discipline under the Code of Student Conduct or applicable University Policy.

**Intellectual Property - Course Materials:** All lectures and course materials, including power point presentations, exams, and similar materials are protected by copyright. I am the exclusive owner of copyright of those materials I create. You may take notes and make copies of course materials for your own use. You may not and may not allow others to reproduce or distribute lecture notes and course materials publicly whether or not a fee is charged, without my written consent. Similarly, you own copyright of your original papers and exam essays. If I am interested in sharing your answers or papers, I will ask for your written permission.

From: <https://president.umd.edu/faculty-course-materials-strategies-dealing-commercial-use>

**Make-Up Assessments/Examinations:** If you have a known conflict with an assessment or exam date, please see the instructor immediately in order to determine a solution. Students with a doctor's note or documentation of other emergency or excused absence will be allowed to make-up assessments/examinations without penalty. Otherwise, no make-ups will be given.

**Technology and Media:** Most importantly, be respectful to your instructor and your fellow students. Technology should not be disruptive to class. Laptops may be used during class to take notes, etc., cell phones and all other devices must be silenced during class. The use of recording devices is prohibited except with prior permission of the instructor.

## Institutional Policies

### Software

We will be making use of several technologies, and it will be important for you to have access to a computer that can handle the various pieces of software and file formats that will be used in this class. All these technologies are available in the OIT computer labs on all OSU campuses.

- a. **Internet Access.** First and foremost, you will need internet access, and be able to access it reliably throughout each week of the semester.
- b. **Video Formats.** There will be a number of times throughout the semester where you will need to watch videos online, either on YouTube or other sites you will be directed to. You will need to have the most up-to-date versions of Adobe Flash, Quicktime, and Realplayer. If you do not have the most up-to-date versions, certain videos will not work for you. If and when this occurs you will most likely be prompted by your browser program how and where to get updated versions.
- c. **Canvas.** Aspects of this course will take place in Canvas, Ohio State University's course management system (CMS). If you have not used Canvas before, or not very extensively, you may wish to take some time to explore it before the course begins. A basic overview of the tools we will be using within Canvas can be found in a later portion of the syllabus. Please make sure that your computer can handle the use of Canvas. To do so, please go to [carmen.osu.edu](http://carmen.osu.edu). Click the blue "Login" button. On the next page, click the "Canvas System Check" link beneath the grey "Login" button. A series of green check marks will appear if your system checks out and red marks if you need to make changes or updates. If you cannot make these changes or updates, all computers at OSU libraries and OIT computing centers should meet these requirements.
- d. **Zoom.** CarmenZoom provides faculty, students and instructional staff with all the functionality of a Zoom pro account. Reach out to me and I will set up a Zoom meeting, forward you the link via email, and send you an outlook meeting invite. Please make sure that you have access to a webcam (built-in or external) and microphone (built-in or external) for our Zoom meetings. It is also possible to call in to Zoom meetings via cell phone (audio only). CarmenZoom Instructional Guides can be found at [Instructional Guides | Teaching & Learning Resource Center \(osu.edu\)](#).
- e. **Microsoft Office.** I post files in the most recent format of Microsoft Word, and occasionally PowerPoint. You will need to be able to open and view .doc and .ppt files.

**Grading:\***

Final grades are based on a standardized scale using the total number of points available for the course. **NO EXTRA CREDIT IS OFFERED IN THIS COURSE.** For a general guide of how you are doing in the class, refer to the grade scale below.

Students experiencing distress may request an incomplete (I), however you must have completed more than 75% of the course, including attendance and assignments, in order for the request to be considered.

<b>A</b>	92.45 - 100	<b>C</b>	72.45 - 76.44
<b>A-</b>	89.45 - 92.44	<b>C-</b>	69.45 - 72.44
<b>B+</b>	86.45 - 89.44	<b>D+</b>	66.45 - 69.44
<b>B</b>	82.45 - 86.44	<b>D</b>	59.44 - 66.43
<b>B-</b>	79.45 - 82.44	<b>E</b>	Below 59
<b>C+</b>	76.45 - 79.44		

\*Please note that grades below a C- are less than satisfactory and may not meet particular program and/or course requirements.

**Statement on Audio and Video Recording and Photography**

Given the sensitive nature of the content covered in this course and the use of real case studies, audio/video recording and photography are **STRICTLY PROHIBITED**.

**Artificial Intelligence and Academic Integrity**

There has been a significant increase in the popularity and availability of a variety of generative artificial intelligence (AI) tools, including **Grammarly**, ChatGPT, Sudowrite and others. These tools will help shape the future of work, research and technology but when used in the wrong way, they can stand in conflict with academic integrity at Ohio State.

All students have important obligations under the [Code of Student Conduct](#) to complete all academic and scholarly activities with fairness and honesty. Our professional students also have the responsibility to uphold the professional and ethical standards found in their respective academic honor codes. Specifically, students are not to use unauthorized assistance in the laboratory, on field work, in scholarship or on a course assignment unless such assistance has been authorized specifically by the course instructor. In addition, students are not to submit their work without acknowledging any word-for-word use and/or paraphrasing of writing, ideas or other work that is not your own. These requirements apply to all students undergraduate, graduate, and professional.

To maintain a culture of integrity and respect, these generative AI tools should not be used in the completion of course assignments unless an instructor for a given course specifically authorizes their use. Some instructors may approve of using generative AI tools in the academic setting for specific goals. However, these tools should be used only with the explicit and clear permission of each individual instructor, and then only in the ways allowed by the instructor.

**Students with Disabilities**

The university strives to maintain a healthy and accessible environment to support student learning in and out of the classroom. If you anticipate or experience academic barriers based on your disability (including mental health, chronic, or temporary medical conditions), please let me know immediately so that we can privately discuss options. To establish reasonable accommodations, I may request that you register with Student Life Disability Services. After registration, make arrangements with me as soon as possible to discuss your accommodations so that they may be implemented in a timely fashion.

If you are ill and need to miss class, including if you are staying home and away from others while experiencing symptoms of viral infection or fever, please let me know immediately. In cases where illness interacts with an underlying medical condition, please consult with Student Life Disability Services to request reasonable accommodations. You can connect with them at [slds@osu.edu](mailto:slds@osu.edu); 614-292-3307; or [slds.osu.edu](http://slds.osu.edu).

**Mental Health Statement**

As a student you may experience a range of issues that can cause barriers to learning, such as strained relationships, increased anxiety, alcohol/drug problems, feeling down, difficulty concentrating and/or lack of motivation. These mental health concerns or stressful events may lead to diminished academic performance or reduce a student's ability to participate in daily activities. The Ohio State University offers services to assist you with addressing these and other concerns you may be experiencing.

If you or someone you know are suffering from any of the aforementioned conditions, you can learn more about the broad range of confidential mental health services available on campus via the Office of Student Life's Counseling and Consultation Service (CCS) by visiting [ccs.osu.edu](http://ccs.osu.edu) or calling 614-292-5766. CCS is located on the 4th floor of the Younkin Success Center and 10th floor of Lincoln Tower. You can reach an on-call counselor when CCS is closed at 614-292-5766 and 24-hour emergency help is also available through the 24/7 by dialing 988 to reach the Suicide and Crisis Lifeline.

**Diversity Statement**

The Ohio State University affirms the importance and value of diversity of people and ideas. We believe in creating equitable research opportunities for all students and to providing programs and curricula that allow our students to understand critical societal challenges from diverse perspectives and aspire to use research to promote sustainable solutions for all. We are committed to maintaining an inclusive community that recognizes and values the inherent worth and dignity of every person; fosters sensitivity, understanding, and mutual respect among all members; and encourages each individual to strive to reach their own potential. The Ohio State University does not discriminate on the basis of age, ancestry, color, disability, gender identity or expression, genetic information, HIV/AIDS status, military status, national origin, race, religion, sex, gender, sexual orientation, pregnancy, protected veteran status, or

any other bases under the law, in its activities, academic programs, admission, and employment.

**Religious accommodations**

Ohio State has had a longstanding practice of making reasonable academic accommodations for students' religious beliefs and practices in accordance with applicable law. In 2023, Ohio State updated its practice to align with new state legislation. Under this new provision, students must be in early communication with their instructors regarding any known accommodation requests for religious beliefs and practices, providing notice of specific dates for which they request alternative accommodations within 14 days after the first instructional day of the course. Instructors in turn shall not question the sincerity of a student's religious or spiritual belief system in reviewing such requests and shall keep requests for accommodations confidential. With sufficient notice, instructors will provide students with reasonable alternative accommodations with regard to examinations and other academic requirements with respect to students' sincerely held religious beliefs and practices by allowing up to three absences each semester for the student to attend or participate in religious activities. Examples of religious accommodations can include, but are not limited to, rescheduling an exam, altering the time of a student's presentation, allowing make-up assignments to substitute for missed class work, or flexibility in due dates or research responsibilities. If concerns arise about a requested accommodation, instructors are to consult their tenure initiating unit head for assistance.

A student's request for time off shall be provided if the students sincerely held religious belief or practice severely affects the student's ability to take an exam or meet an academic requirement and the student has notified their instructor, in writing during the first 14 days after the course begins, of the date of each absence. Although students are required to provide notice within the first 14 days after a course begins, instructors are strongly encouraged to work with the student to provide a reasonable accommodation if a request is made outside the notice period. A student may not be penalized for an absence approved under this policy.

If students have questions or disputes related to academic accommodations, they should contact their course instructor, and then their department or college office. For questions or to report discrimination or harassment based on religion, individuals should contact the [Office of Civil Rights Compliance](#).

**Academic Misconduct**

Academic integrity is essential to maintaining an environment that fosters excellence in teaching, research, and other educational and scholarly activities. Thus, The Ohio State University and the Committee on Academic Misconduct (COAM) expect that all students have read and understand the University's Code of Student Conduct, and that all students will complete all academic and scholarly assignments with fairness and honesty. Students must recognize that failure to follow the rules and guidelines established in the University's Code of Student Conduct and this syllabus may constitute Academic Misconduct.

The Ohio State University's Code of Student Conduct (Section 3335-23-04) defines academic misconduct as: Any activity that tends to compromise the academic integrity of the University or subvert the educational process. Examples of academic misconduct include (but are not limited to) plagiarism, collusion (unauthorized collaboration), copying the work of another student, and possession of unauthorized materials during an examination. Ignorance of the University's Code of Student Conduct is never considered an excuse for academic misconduct, so I recommend that you review the Code of Student Conduct and, specifically, the sections dealing with academic misconduct.

If I suspect that a student has committed academic misconduct in this course, I am obligated by University Rules to report my suspicions to the Committee on Academic Misconduct. If COAM determines that you have violated the University's Code of Student Conduct (i.e., committed academic misconduct), the sanctions for the misconduct could include a failing grade in this course and suspension or dismissal from the University.

If you have any questions about the above policy or what constitutes academic misconduct in this course, please contact me.

**Weather or Other Short-Term Closing**

Should in-person classes be canceled, I will notify you as to which alternative methods of teaching will be offered to ensure continuity of instruction for this class. Communication will be via Canvas.

**Death Investigation Research Paper – Worth 100 points**

**Goal:** The goal of this paper is to get students to **research, analyze, and reflect** upon death investigation as both a scientific and legal process which has changed over time with various scientific and cultural advances. Further, these papers function as a means of increasing student writing skills in a professional environment.

**Points:** Worth 100 points

**Assignment:** There have been non-fiction accounts of many death investigations throughout history. The goal of this assignment is for you to research and discuss one of these investigations in a paper (5 page minimum not including references). Discuss the circumstances of the death (any death, it does not have to be a murder), the historical context, how the death investigation occurred, whether or not it was successful (did they figure out the cause and manner?), and what may have occurred differently if it happened today. You may only use scholarly sources. Remember this paper is meant to focus on the forensic science-based DEATH INVESTIGATION aspects of a murder. If a historical death did not have much of an investigation, then you should pick a different case. Also, while its ok to use podcasts or documentaries, you **MUST** have at least three **SCHOLARLY** sources to support your paper.

Please don't pick Jack the Ripper, or some other very old, very speculative case, those are actually difficult to write about and boring for me to read about. Also, keep in mind the focus is on DEATH INVESTIGATION, not law enforcement's investigation. Focus on autopsy and other scientific findings, not what police learned through interviews.

**Due Date:** This paper is **due** no later than the end of the day on **15 April 2024**

**Assessment:**

*A successful paper will include the following:*

- (1) Introduction to the historical death investigation
- (2) Circumstances and specifics of the investigation (who was killed, when, how, etc.)
- (3) Which specialists were involved (roles and names, anyone famous or important? If so why are they famous/important)? What did they do?
- (4) What were the original conclusions of the investigators?
- (5) Were there any ramifications or significant changes to any laws or processes because of this death or investigation?
- (6) Have details/circumstances of the case changed over time?
- (7) How the processes or sciences of death investigation or any specializes functioned on these series in comparison to how we've discussed them in class.

*A thoughtful reflection addressing:*

- (8) Why you chose this case
- (9) A review of your prior perspectives/perception of either this case, or death investigations at the time when your case occurred.
- (10) What did you find most enlightening about from this investigation/assignment



**List of Journal Article Readings:****Week 7**

*Monday: No additional readings*

*Wednesday: Motor vehicle-related deaths*

Chatzaraki, Vasiliki; Thali, Michael J; Ampanozi, Garyfalia; Schweitzer, Wolf (2018). Fatal Road Traffic Vehicle Collisions With Pedestrian Victims. American Journal of Forensic Medicine and Pathology, 39(2):130-140.

**Week 8**

*Monday: Substance abuse*

Davis GG. Recommendations for the investigation, diagnosis, and certification of deaths related to opioid drugs. Academic Forensic Pathology 2013 3 (1): 62-76

*Wednesday: No additional readings*

**Week 9**

*Monday: No additional readings*

*Wednesday: No additional readings*

**Week 10**

*Monday: Blunt Force Injuries*

Jansen JO, et al. Investigation of blunt abdominal trauma. BMJ. 2008;136:938-942.

*Wednesday: Sharp Injuries*

Love JC. Sharp force trauma analysis in bone and cartilage: A literature review. Forensic Science International. 2019; 299:119-127

**Week 11**

*Monday: Asphyxiation*

Fonseca CA, et al. The forensic investigation of propane gas asphyxiation. American Journal of Forensic Medicine and Pathology. 2002;23(2):167-169.

*and*

Berzlanovich A, et al. Foreign body asphyxiation: An autopsy study. American Journal of Medicine. 1999;107:351–355.

*Wednesday: Drowning deaths*

Haupt G. Drowning Investigations. FBI Law Enforcement Bulletin. 2006;75(2):14-22.

**Week 12**

*Monday: Infant Deaths*

Hymel KP. Distinguishing sudden infant death syndrome from child abuse fatalities. PEDIATRICS. 2006;118(1):421-427

*Wednesday: Firearm Injuries*

Druid H. Site of entrance wound and direction of bullet path in firearm fatalities as indicators of homicide versus suicide. *Forensic Science International*. 1997;88:147-162

**Week 13**

*Monday: No additional readings*

*Wednesday: Common natural deaths*

Traill Z. The role of computed tomography and magnetic resonance imaging in the investigation of natural death. *Diagnostic Histopathology*. 2010;16:12:560-564.

**Week 14**

*Monday: Pandemics and the death investigation system*

*Wednesday: Mass fatalities as death scenes*

Merrill JA, et al. Are we ready for mass fatality incidents? Preparedness of the US mass fatality infrastructure. *Disaster Medicine and Public Health Preparedness* 2015:1-11

Gershon RRM, et al. Mass fatality preparedness among medical examiners/coroners in the United States: A cross-sectional study. *BMC Public Health*. 2014;1-15.

**ANTHROP 3233 Schedule****Autumn 2024*****Subject to Change***

<b>Monday</b>	<b>Tues</b>	<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Thurs</b>	<b>Friday</b>
<b>Week 1 -</b>				
<b>Aug. 19</b>		<b>Aug. 21</b> Topic: Intro to the Course  Reading: None		
<b>Week 2 -</b>				
<b>Aug. 26</b> Topic: The Medicolegal System & Intro ME Death Investigations  Reading: Chapter 1 & Chapter 3		<b>Aug. 28</b> Topic: Medicolegal authorities (Coroner/Medical Examiners) & Forensic Pathology  Reading: Chapter 1		
<b>Week 3</b>				
<b>Sept. 2 – Labor Day!</b> <b>NO CLASS</b>		<b>Sept. 4</b> Topic: Frontline Documentary: CORONERS & Last Week tonight – Death Investigations <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hnoMsftQPY8&amp;feature=emb_imp_woyt">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hnoMsftQPY8&amp;feature=emb_imp_woyt</a>  Reading: None		
<b>Week 4 -</b>				
<b>Sept. 9</b> Topic: Forensic Odontology & Forensic Entomology  Reading: None		<b>Sept. 11</b> Topic: Death Investigators & Death Investigations  Reading: None		<b>Sept 13.</b> <b>Last day to drop without a W</b>
<b>Week 5 – Exam #1</b>				
<b>Sept. 16</b> Topic: Review  Reading: None		<b>Sept. 18</b> <b>Exam #1</b>		
<b>Week 6</b>				
<b>Sept. 23</b> Topic: Cause and Manner of death & Autopsy protocol  Reading: Chapter 3		<b>Sept. 25</b> Topic: Death Investigation – Homicidal deaths & Death Investigation – Suicidal deaths  Reading: Chapter 3		

Week 7				
<b>Sept. 30</b> Topic: Stress and mental health of death investigators  Reading: None		<b>Oct. 2</b> Topic: Motor vehicle-related deaths  Reading: Articles for discussion		
Week 8				
<b>Oct. 7</b> Topic: Substance abuse  Reading: Chapter 9 & Articles for discussion		<b>Oct. 9</b> Documentary Day! <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hn0MsftQP8">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hn0MsftQP8</a>		
Week 9 – Exam #2				
<b>Oct. 14</b> Topic: Review for Exam #2		<b>Oct. 16</b> Exam #2		
Week 10 -				
<b>Oct. 21</b> Topic: Blunt Force Injuries  Reading: Chapter 6 & Articles for discussion		<b>Oct. 23</b> Topic: Sharp Injuries  Reading: Chapter 7 & Articles for discussion		
Week 11 -				
<b>Oct. 28</b> Topic: Asphyxiation  Reading: Chapter 5 & Articles for discussion		<b>Oct. 30</b> Topic: Drowning deaths  Reading: Chapter 10 & Articles for discussion		
Week 12				
<b>Nov. 4</b> Topic: Infant Deaths  Reading: Chapter 10 & Articles for discussion <b>**Research Paper Due**</b>	Election Day	<b>Nov. 6</b> Topic: Firearm Injuries  Reading: Chapter 8 & Articles for discussion		
Week 13 -				
<b>Nov. 11 – Veteran’s Day!</b> <b>NO CLASS</b>		<b>Nov. 13</b> Topic: Common natural deaths  Reading: Chapter 4 & Articles for discussion		
Week 14 – Paper Due!				
<b>Nov. 18</b> Topic: Pandemics and the death investigation system  Reading: Articles for discussion		<b>Nov. 20</b> Topic: Mass fatalities as death scenes  Reading: Articles for discussion		
Week 15 - Thanksgiving Break				
<b>Nov. 25</b> Topic: Documentary Day! <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i5T7kw15ehY">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i5T7kw15ehY</a>		<b>Nov. 27*Thanksgiving Break</b> <b>NO CLASS</b>		

<b>Week 16 – Exam #3</b>				
<b>Dec 2</b> Topic: Review For Exam #3		<b>Dec 4</b> Topic: Exam #3		<b>Dec 6 *Last</b> <b>Day of</b> <b>Classes</b>
<b>Week 17 – FINALS WEEK</b>				
<b>Final Exam Week</b> <b>Optional Final Exam available on CANVAS Wednesday 11 December 2024 10:00am-11:45am</b>				

## **List of Journal Article Readings:**

### **Week 7**

*Monday: No additional readings*

*Wednesday: Motor vehicle-related deaths*

Chatzaraki, Vasiliki; Thali, Michael J; Ampanozi, Garyfalia; Schweitzer, Wolf (2018). Fatal Road Traffic Vehicle Collisions With Pedestrian Victims. American Journal of Forensic Medicine and Pathology, 39(2):130-140.

### **Week 8**

*Monday: Substance abuse*

Davis GG. Recommendations for the investigation, diagnosis, and certification of deaths related to opioid drugs. Academic Forensic Pathology 2013 3 (1): 62-76

*Wednesday: No additional readings*

### **Week 9**

*Monday: No additional readings*

*Wednesday: No additional readings*

### **Week 10**

*Monday: Blunt Force Injuries*

Jansen JO, et al. Investigation of blunt abdominal trauma. BMJ. 2008;136:938-942.

*Wednesday: Sharp Injuries*

Love JC. Sharp force trauma analysis in bone and cartilage: A literature review. Forensic Science International. 2019; 299:119-127

### **Week 11**

*Monday: Asphyxiation*

Fonseca CA, et al. The forensic investigation of propane gas asphyxiation. American Journal of Forensic Medicine and Pathology. 2002;23(2):167-169.

*and*

Berzlanovich A, et al. Foreign body asphyxiation: An autopsy study. American Journal of Medicine. 1999;107:351–355.

*Wednesday: Drowning deaths*

Haupt G. Drowning Investigations. FBI Law Enforcement Bulletin. 2006;75(2):14-22.

### **Week 12**

*Monday: Infant Deaths*

Hymel KP. Distinguishing sudden infant death syndrome from child abuse fatalities. PEDIATRICS. 2006;118(1):421-427

*Wednesday: Firearm Injuries*

Druid H. Site of entrance wound and direction of bullet path in firearm fatalities as indicators of homicide versus suicide. *Forensic Science International*. 1997;88:147-162

### **Week 13**

*Monday: No additional readings*

*Wednesday: Common natural deaths*

Traill Z. The role of computed tomography and magnetic resonance imaging in the investigation of natural death. *Diagnostic Histopathology*. 2010;16:12:560-564.

### **Week 14**

*Monday: Pandemics and the death investigation system*

*Wednesday: Mass fatalities as death scenes*

Merrill JA, et al. Are we ready for mass fatality incidents? Preparedness of the US mass fatality infrastructure. *Disaster Medicine and Public Health Preparedness* 2015:1-11

Gershon RRM, et al. Mass fatality preparedness among medical examiners/coroners in the United States: A cross-sectional study. *BMC Public Health*. 2014;1-15.

**From:** [Colen, Cynthia](#)  
**To:** [Palazzo, Sarah](#)  
**Cc:** [Shank, Travis](#); [Passalacqua, Nicholas](#); [Zejdlik, Katie](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Seeking concurrence  
**Date:** Monday, April 28, 2025 2:45:43 PM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)

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Hi Sarah,

The Department of Sociology grants concurrence.

Best,  
Cindy



**Cynthia Colen, PhD, MPH**

*she/her/hers*

Professor and Interim Chair

Department of Sociology, College of Arts & Sciences

Division of Health Behavior & Health Promotion, College of Public Health

Research Affiliate, Institute for Population Research

[colen.3@osu.edu](mailto:colen.3@osu.edu)

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**From:** Palazzo, Sarah <[palazzo.66@osu.edu](mailto:palazzo.66@osu.edu)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 23, 2025 2:05 PM  
**To:** Colen, Cynthia <[colen.3@osu.edu](mailto:colen.3@osu.edu)>  
**Cc:** Shank, Travis <[shank.65@osu.edu](mailto:shank.65@osu.edu)>; Passalacqua, Nicholas <[passalacqua.19@osu.edu](mailto:passalacqua.19@osu.edu)>; Zejdlik, Katie <[zejdlik.1@osu.edu](mailto:zejdlik.1@osu.edu)>  
**Subject:** Seeking concurrence

Hi Cynthia,

I'm reaching out on behalf of the Anthropology department to request concurrence for a new UG course being developed by two new faculty members in forensic anthropology:

**Medicolegal Death Investigation.**

Attached is a syllabus for your review. Please let me know if your department supports this course. Feel free to reach out with any questions or concerns.

Best,

**Sarah Palazzo**

Graduate Program Coordinator

College of Arts & Sciences | **Anthropology**



(614) 247-7764 | palazzo.66

She/her