

Module Details	
Module Title	Comparative Osteology
Module Code	ARC5030-B
Academic Year	2021/2
Credits	20
School	School of Archaeological and Forensic Sciences
FHEQ Level	FHEQ Level 5

Contact Hours	
Type	Hours
Directed Study	155
Seminars	6
Lectures	14
Practical Classes or Workshops	25

Availability	
Occurrence	Location / Period
BDA	University of Bradford / Semester 2

Module Aims
To provide an overview of the analysis of human and faunal remains within a forensic context and to acquire basic skills in the identification of such remains.

Outline Syllabus
Lectures: Lectures: Introduction; Human bone structure and development; Sex assessment of human skeletons; Adult age estimation of human skeletons; Animal bone identification (anatomy and taphonomy); Faunal bone modification (butchery, bone working, burning and diagenesis); Taphonomic processes; Animal and human bone microstructure; Cremation. Laboratories (online): Human bone identification 1; Human bone identification 2; Sex assessment of human skeletons; Adult age estimation of human skeletons; Animal bone identification and ageing; Comparative osteology; Comingled remains; Bone histology; and Cremated remains.

Learning Outcomes	
Outcome Number	Description
1	Assess critically the theoretical and practical issues surrounding the preservation, recovery, analysis and interpretation of biological materials that are commonly encountered within forensic contexts.
2	Diagnose human and faunal remains recovered from forensic scenes. This will include identification to element of a selection of more robust and common remains from a selected human and faunal assemblages.
3	Integrate evidence drawn from diverse sources to assess forensic contexts.
4	Defend conclusions based on biological data.

Learning, Teaching and Assessment Strategy
Context information and the foundations of diagnostic and identification skills for biological remains will be delivered in lectures. The appreciation of ecofactual evidence will be taught and trained in practical sessions. During Directed Study hours students are expected to undertake reading to consolidate and expand on the content of formal taught sessions; research and prepare for assessments and undertake specific elements of reading as directed. Assessment forms a portfolio of work (2 submissions) carried out during and after practical classes and will probe identification and diagnostic skills. Informal feedback is provided during practical classes.

Mode of Assessment			
Type	Method	Description	Weighting
Summative	Coursework	Portfolio of practical work (Faunal Remains)	50%
Summative	Coursework	Portfolio of practical work (Human Remains)	50%

Reading List
To access the reading list for this module, please visit https://bradford.rl.talis.com/index.html

Please note:

This module descriptor has been published in advance of the academic year to which it applies. Every effort has been made to ensure that the information is accurate at the time of publication, but minor changes may occur given the interval between publishing and commencement of teaching. Upon commencement of the module, students will receive a handbook with further detail about the module and any changes will be discussed and/or communicated at this point.