UNIVERSITY of BRADFORD

Module Descriptor

Module Details	
Module Title	Recent Advances in the Analysis of Human Remains
Module Code	ARC6034-B
Academic Year	2021/2
Credits	20
School	School of Archaeological and Forensic Sciences
FHEQ Level	FHEQ Level 6

Contact Hours	
Type	Hours
Online Lecture (Synchronous)	12
Seminars	20
Supervised time in studio/workshop	9
Directed Study	147

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

Module Aims

Explore the application of biomolecular approaches to the study of skeletal remains in forensic and archaeological contexts through the evaluation of current published research.
To critically evaluate methods used for: dating skeletal material; for determining positive identification; for distinguishing human from animal bone and for investigating diet, health and mobility.
To understand the principles of biomolecular preservation and to evaluate how the state of preservation may affect the reliability and interpretation of biomolecular data.

Outline Syllabus

Through a combination of lectures, workshops and seminars we will use real case studies to explore the application of a range of biomolecular approaches used to investigate skeletal remains within forensic and archaeological contexts. This will include approaches such as DNA analyses, proteomics, isotopes and radiocarbon dating.
The module will cover key topics such as identification, distinguishing animal from human bone, determining if remains are modern or ancient and evaluating preservation and decay.
It will also look at the history and development of these approaches and at the main biomolecules recovered from skeletal material and discuss how and why then survive.
Finally the module will evaluate the reliability of biomolecular data in light of differential preservation; contamination and experimental accuracy.

Learning Outcomes

Outcome Number	Description
01	Critically discuss the contribution that biomolecular analyses can make to the study of skeletal remains within forensic and archaeological contexts.
02	Critically review the principles of key biomolecular approaches to the study of skeletal material
03	Interpret and critically evaluate published work.
04	Apply enhanced analytical and problem-solving skills gained through the evaluation and synthesis of recently published research.
05	Evaluate how the state of preservation may affect the reliability and interpretation of biomolecular data.

Learning, Teaching and Assessment Strategy

Lectures will introduce key principles which will then be explored further with discussion of case studies within seminars and workshops. This will include group discussion, critical evaluation of current research articles and student-led seminars.
Detailed informal feedback will be given during seminar sessions and formal electronic feedback will be made available for each piece of assessment. There will also be the opportunity to obtain further feedback on assignments through individual meetings arranged by appointment.
Lecutres and seminars planned for online delivery.
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 the presentation and critical review; revise material from formal taught sessions; and undertake specific elements of reading as directed prior to seminars.
The emphasis on evaluating current research will be demonstrated by the assessments, which will comprise a critical review of recently published research, a short individual presentation and a group work exercise centred around a forensic case scenario.

Mode of Assessment			
Type	Method	Description	Weighting
Summative	Coursework - Written	Critical review of a journal article	70%
Summative	Presentation	Critically evaluate a research paper on a given topic and present the results to the group using powerpoint (15 mins)	30%
Formative	Presentation	Critically evaluate a research paper on a given topic and present the results to the group using powerpoint (or similar) during a seminar session	N/A

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.

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