

## **ST-Paleopathology**

Archaeology 332

Section: D100

Term: 2003 Fall

Instructor: Professor Mark Skinner

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Afternoon course at Burnaby campus

**Discussion Topics:** This Special Topics course is a non-technical introduction to paleopathology, which is the recognition and interpretation of "dis-ease" in ancient populations including animals and humans based mostly on hard tissue (bones and teeth) evidence. The instructor will impart some basic osteology and terminology using lectures and assigned readings from the text. The emphasis of the course will be on exploring the innate fascination of the discipline rather than on formal recognition of osseous lesions. The instructor wants the students to be exposed as well to collateral issues such as principles of the patterns of disease in populations (epidemiology), traditional healing systems, biocultural interactions, and tropical medical ecology. Also the course will include material on paleopathology in animals (particularly domesticates) as well as fossil hominids. This is a Group IV topical course.

**Lecture Topics** (sequence and emphases may vary)

1. Introduction to Paleopathology
2. History and Definition of Paleopathology
3. Basic Epidemiology, Immunology
4. Darwinian Medicine and Evolution of Virulence
5. Cultural Relativism and "Sick Societies"
6. Medical Anthropology
7. Osteo-paleopathology and the osteological paradox
8. Dental paleopathology
9. Animal paleopathology
10. Zoonoses and host switches (Brucellosis, AIDS, Falciparum malaria)
11. Impact of Introduced Diseases in the Americas

**Grading:** The class meets three hours per week for formal lecture. There will be great reliance on images to impart information. There will be assigned readings, weekly, with short discussion afterwards. In addition to attendance at lectures the students will be required to write a one hour mid-term exam (35%), a three hour final exam (35%) and a paper (30%) on an approved topic. The final exam will cover materials tested in the mid-term. The final exam is on Saturday, December 6th from 15:30 - 18:30. Both exams will be constructed from short essays, define or match terms, and true/false. All exams will cover materials from the text and assigned readings (whether or not discussed in class).

**Required Texts:** The Archaeology of Disease (Second edition) by Roberts, Charlotte and Keith Manchester. 1995 Ithaca: Cornell University

**Recommended Texts:** none

**Materials/Supplies:** none

**Prerequisite/Corequisite:** none

**Notes:** All assignments must be completed on time; failure to meet a deadline requires a written explanation as well as letter of explanation from a doctor. Extensions and deferrals may be given in cases of genuine hardship.

Deferred grades will be given only on the basis of authenticated medical disability.

This outline is derived from a course outline repository database that was maintained by SFU

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Student Services and the University's IT Services Department. The database was retired in 2014 and the data migrated to SFU Archives in 2015.