



Short Course

Introduction to Human Osteology

Course Convenors



**Associate Professor
Soren Blau**

Senior Forensic Anthropologist,
Victorian Institute of Forensic Medicine



Dr Samantha Rowbotham

Forensic Anthropologist,
Victorian Institute of Forensic Medicine

How to Register

For more information or to
register, please contact:
short.courses@vifm.org

Monday 8th July - Thursday 11th July 2019

Course Description

This four-day course offers an in-depth study of the human skeleton through informative lectures and interactive hands-on practical sessions using real human skeletal remains from the Victorian Institute of Forensic Medicine's (VIFM) reference skeletal collection. The course will provide participants with a comprehensive understanding of human skeletal and dental anatomy, and give participants the opportunity to learn how to identify and side each skeletal element (including major anatomical landmarks) and classify dental remains both complete and fragmentary. Participants will also be introduced to the osteological principles of differentiating human from non-human bone and creating a biological profile (i.e., estimating age, sex, ancestry and stature).

This course is beneficial for archaeologists, museum curators and heritage offices who may work with skeletal remains; students who are interested in pursuing studies/careers in biological archaeology or forensic anthropology, and medical professionals (e.g., forensic pathologists and doctors) who are required to undertake anthropological examinations of skeletal remains. No prior knowledge of human osteology is required for this course. Lectures will be delivered by discipline specific experts from the VIFM and external organisations.

Course Convenors

Associate Professor Soren Blau

Associate Professor Soren Blau is the senior course convenor and has extensive international experience in the recovery and analysis of human remains in archaeological and forensic contexts. Soren is the Senior Forensic Anthropologist at the Victorian Institute of Forensic Medicine. She is an Adjunct Associate Professor in the Department of Forensic Medicine at Monash University and Founding Fellow Faculty of Science, The Royal College of Pathologists of Australasia, and has delivered training to forensic practitioners and related stakeholders in Australia and overseas. Soren undertakes domestic forensic anthropology casework as well as consultancies for the International Criminal Court (ICC) and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).

Dr Samantha Rowbotham

Dr Samantha Rowbotham is a Forensic Anthropologist with the Victorian Institute of Forensic Medicine; an Adjunct Research Fellow with the Department of Forensic Medicine, Monash University, and a Forensic Anthropology Trainee (Faculty of Science) with the Royal College of Pathologists of Australasia. Her research interests focus on strengthening the evidence base for the analysis and interpretation of skeletal trauma in medico-legal contexts. From 2009 to 2014 she was involved with archaeological excavations, osteology research and bioarchaeology teaching projects in Asia, Europe, Central America and Australia. Since 2018 she has undertaken domestic forensic anthropology casework.

Course Objectives

At the end of the course participants will be able to:

- Understand the basic principles of bone biology and skeletal growth;
- Understand the basic principles of human variation;
- Identify the major anatomical landmarks and key features of each bone;
- Correctly identify each skeletal element in the human body;
- Correctly side each bone in the human body;
- Distinguish human bones from some of the most common animal bones, and
- Identify the main bone features that are used to provide a biological profile (sex, age, ancestry and stature).

Cost

Registration fee is \$2,200 for professionals and \$1,800 for students (includes GST).

Cost includes: course manual, copy of the textbook 'The Human Bone Manual' by White and Folkens; morning and afternoon tea, lunch, and certificate of completion.

Location

The course will be delivered at the Victorian Institute of Forensic Medicine
65 Kavanagh Street,
Southbank VIC 3006

There is no on-site parking available. Please visit our website to find nearby parking and accommodation:
<https://www.vifm.org/contact>

Day 1 - Monday 8th July 2019

Introduction to the human skeleton

Bone biology

Anatomical terminology

Identification of the bones of the skull

Identification of dentition (deciduous and permanent)

Day 2 - Tuesday 9th July 2019

Identification of the bones of the spine

Identification of the bones of the rib cage

Identification of the bones of the shoulder girdle

Identification of the bones of the forearm and hand

Identification of the bones of the pelvic girdle

Identification of the bones of the leg

Identification of the bones of the foot

Day 3 - Wednesday 10th July 2019

Juvenile Osteology

Biological profile (i): age and sex

Biological profile (ii): ancestry and stature

Identification of human fragments

Day 4 - Thursday 11th July 2019

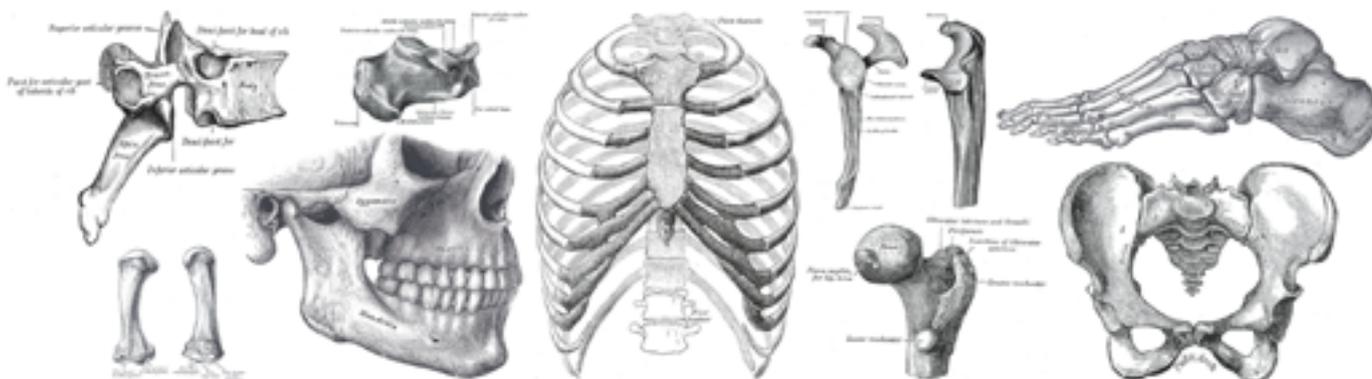
Identification of human from non-human

Documentation of the skeleton

Practical (i): osteological analysis

Practical (ii): presentations / discussions

Summary and conclusion of course



Gray H. 1918. *Anatomy of the Human Body*. Lea and Febiger.