

Taphonomy and Trauma Analysis

Module Information

2022.01, Approved

Summary Information

Module Code	7105NATSCI
Formal Module Title	Taphonomy and Trauma Analysis
Owning School	Biological and Environmental Sciences
Career	Postgraduate Taught
Credits	20
Academic level	FHEQ Level 7
Grading Schema	50

Teaching Responsibility

LJMU Schools involved in Delivery
Biological and Environmental Sciences

Learning Methods

Learning Method Type	Hours
Lecture	18
Seminar	12
Workshop	10

Module Offering(s)

Display Name	Location	Start Month	Duration Number Duration Unit
JAN-CTY	CTY	January	12 Weeks

Aims and Outcomes

Aims	The aims of this module are: to provide students with an extensive understanding of the human bones' biomechanics and the bones reaction to forces and different kinds of environments for a taphonomic history of the remains. It provides the student with a broad appreciation of different types of weapons to reconstruct the dynamic of a traumatic event by the skeletal evidence. In addition the student will learn how to cast bones and evidence of trauma for disposal both in museums and in courtroom.
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After completing the module the student should be able to:

Learning Outcomes

Code	Number	Description
MLO1	1	Demonstrate an in-depth understanding of taphonomic syndromes and undertake a critical evaluation of changes to bones as a result of interactions with the environment
MLO2	2	Demonstrate a critical understanding of the role of the grave's structure in the final disposal of the bones after a complete decomposition
MLO3	3	Demonstrate a critical understanding of the biomechanics of the human skeleton and its reaction to forces.
MLO4	4	Demonstrate an ability to recognize different kinds of wounds and critically analyse and interpret the effects of trauma

Module Content

Outline Syllabus	- Decomposition- Laws of depositional Taphonomy- Reconstructing the grave shape and post-mortem treatments of the body by the analysis of the bones position.- Laws of Contextual Taphonomy- How the environment affects by macroscopic alterations the surfaces of human skeletal remains.- Blunt force trauma and human bones biomechanics- Sharp force trauma- Gunshot wounds- Child abuse trauma
Module Overview	In this module, you will examine decomposition processes and trauma analysis.
Additional Information	The students will deeply analyse trauma and pseudo trauma on human skeletal material. The course will provide an extensive analysis of the human bones' biomechanics, taphonomic laws, different kind of weapons and wounds.

Assessments

Assignment Category	Assessment Name	Weight	Exam/Test Length (hours)	Module Learning Outcome Mapping
Presentation	Oral presentation 1	40	0	MLO1, MLO2
Presentation	Oral presentation 2	60	0	MLO3, MLO4

Module Contacts

Module Leader

Contact Name	Applies to all offerings	Offerings
Matteo Borrini	Yes	N/A

Partner Module Team

Contact Name	Applies to all offerings	Offerings
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