Forensics, Skeletal Pathology and Biometrics: Students in this course will learn human osteology in a laboratory setting, with PowerPoint presentations accompanying hands-on access to a wide variety of human skeletal materials cast from real-life forensic cases. Topics include bone biology; a survey of the major bones of the human skeleton and their features; bone growth, development and maturation; and anomalies and pathologies due to nutritional deficiencies and excesses, genetic and congenital conditions, infectious disease, as well as trauma and healing. The role of biometrics in forensics will be addressed. Working either independently or with a partner, students will research a topic of their choosing within the framework of bone pathology—disease and or trauma—analyzing and reporting on the etiology/causes, skeletal manifestation, demographic affected, prognosis, and other intriguing details they will discover. For students interested in contextualizing osteology within forensic science, the skeletal pathology research topics may encompass blunt force, sharp force, and gunshot trauma. The research project culminates in a professional-style symposium to include an oral presentation and discussion session at the end of the course.

Instructors: Dr. A. Midori Albert; Mrs. Gwendolyn Abraham.