This Special Topics Lab Course is a mildly 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 in weekly labs using lectures and assigned readings from the text. The emphasis of the course will be on exploring the innate fascination of the discipline as well as formal recognition of basic 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 hominines. While there is no prerequisite, it would be preferable for both the student and instructor that the student has taken osteology.

Grading

Mid Term 25%
Labs Assignments 25%
Paper 25%
Final Exam 25%

Required texts


Optional texts

none

Pre requisite

corequisite

Notes