

Unit 4: Lessons from the Body

Estimated Topic Length: 2½ weeks

Objectives:

1. Discuss the definition of death.
2. Distinguish between the four manners of death.
3. Distinguish between cause, manner, and mechanisms of death.
4. Explain how the development of rigor, algor, and livor mortis occurs following death.
5. Use evidence of rigor, algor, and livor mortis to calculate the approximate time of death.
6. Describe the stages of decomposition of a corpse.
7. Use evidence from the autopsy's report on stomach contents to estimate the time of death.
8. Explain how time of death can be estimated using insect evidence.
9. Provide an example of the succession of different types of insects that are found on a body as it decomposes.
10. Given insect evidence, livor, rigor, and algor mortis, be able to estimate time of death.
11. Describe how various environmental factors may influence the estimated time of death.
12. Describe the characteristics of bone.
13. Distinguish between male and female skeletal remains based on skull, jaw, brow ridge, pelvis, and femur.
14. Describe how bones contain a record of injury and disease.
15. Describe how a person's approximate age could be determined by examining his or her bones.
16. Explain the differences in facial structures among different races.
17. Describe the role of mitochondrial DNA in bone identification.

Textbook Chapters:

- 11 (Death Meaning, Matter, Mechanism, & Time)
- 13 (Forensic Anthropology: What We Learn From Bones)