

Second Mid-Term Exam
Anthropology 463L/Forensic Anthropology
Miller/Winter 1999

1. Discuss the potential use and abuse of facial reconstruction in personal identification work, citing case examples when possible (10 pts.).
2. Anthropologists as a rule agree that there are no biological races. The American Association of Physical Anthropologists has even issued a formal statement to that effect. Given this statement, and the general agreement among physical anthropologists, discuss why forensic anthropologists continue to attempt to distinguish skeletal races. Use information from lecture and your readings. (25 pts.).
3. Choose one of the following scenarios and give detailed information on how you would survey and excavate the area.. DO NOT choose the scenario your group discussed in class! DO NOT detail how you would identify the remains -- focus on the actual recovery. (20 pts.)
 - A. During the riots in LA, many buildings were burned to the ground. You are a working forensic anthropologist called in only days after the rioting stopped. The LAPD has been given information that one building was not empty when it burned; that a family of four (adult female, adult male, and twin infants) was squatting in the basement of the building. The building was a four-story brick building.
 - B. A serial killer has been caught and confessed to burying a multitude of bodies in his back yard and under his basement floor. The confessed that all of the bodies are those of young adult males. The floor of his basement is concrete. The yard is landscaped, with a large grassy area, a vegetable garden, and a rose garden. The basement measures 25'x20'. The entire back yard measures 50'x150'.
 - C. Hikers in the Angeles forest have stumbled across a human skull at the bottom of a hill. The skull was sitting in the middle of the path. Law enforcement officials would like you to find the body. The path runs through a clearing. The hill is heavily forested at the top, and ground cover consists of thick grasses interspersed with creosote bushes in areas not covered with trees. The hill is steep from the top down about 100m, then flattens out to a gentle slope for the next 500m. The top 100m are forested.
4. Briefly discuss California burial laws, especially concerning when the Coroner must be called, disposal of human remains, and when a forensic anthropologist must be called in Los Angeles County. (15 pts).